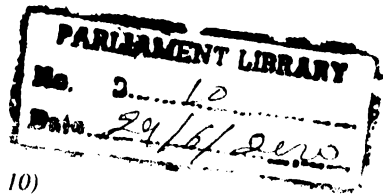


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 3, 1998/Agrahayana 12, 1920 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen

*61. † SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of ex-servicemen in the country as on date, State-wise with particular reference to Maharashtra;

(b) the amount provided for rehabilitation of the ex-servicemen during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the amount for rehabilitation of ex-servicemen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

As on 30.06.98, a total number of 14,53,013 ex-Servicemen were registered with Zila Sainik Boards in various States/Union Territories in the country. State-wise details of the registered ex-Servicemen are given in Annexure-I. The district-wise details of the ex-Servicemen registered with various Zila Sainik Boards in Maharashtra are given in Annexure-II.

There is no separate/specific budget allocation for the rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen.

However, ex-Servicemen are provided financial assistance under the self-employment schemes. The amount of financial assistance provided to the ex-Servicemen under three self-employment schemes (SEMFEX) during last three years is given in Annexure-III.

The Central Government schemes and programmes for rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen are applicable to the ex-Servicemen residing in all the States including the State of Maharashtra. These rehabilitation schemes/programmes are as under:

(i) Reservation of vacancies for ex-Servicemen in Central Government, Central Public Sector Undertakings/Banks and the State Government of Maharashtra.

Central Government	Percentage of Reservation
Group 'C' posts	10%
Group 'D' posts	20%
Asstt. Commandant in Para-military Forces	10%
Defence Security Corps	10%

Central Government PSU/Banks

Group 'C' posts	14.5%
Group 'D' posts	24.5%

State Government of Maharashtra

Group 'C' posts	15%
Group 'D' posts	15%

(ii) Other concessions provided to ex-Servicemen:

(a) **Re-employment:** Ex-Servicemen are provided relaxations in age and educational qualifications for employment in Government jobs. Training programmes are also arranged for improving the employability of ex-Servicemen in Government jobs and for taking up self-employment schemes after retirement.

(b) **Self-Employment:**

(i) Loan facilities are provided to ex-Servicemen under Semfex-I, II and III schemes for setting up self-employment ventures.

(ii) Eight percent of petroleum product agencies are reserved for allotment to the widows/dependants of posthumous Gallantry Award winners, war-disabled, war widows etc.

ANNEXURE-I

*Number of Ex-servicemen Registered
with Zila Sainik Boards in various States
and Union Territories as on 30.6.98.*

Sl. No.	ZSBs	No. of Ex-servicemen
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54,995
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	204
3.	Assam	14,969
4.	Bihar	56,456
5.	Goa	1,443
6.	Gujarat	11,402
7.	Himachal Pradesh	73,981
8.	Haryana	1,46,155
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	45,479
10.	Karnataka	42,712
11.	Kerala	1,21,965
12.	Madhya Pradesh	26,845
13.	Maharashtra	1,30,397
14.	Manipur	3,337

1	2	3
15.	Meghalaya	1,705
16.	Mizoram	3,930
17.	Nagaland	1,976
18.	Orissa	14,148
19.	Punjab	1,80,539
20.	Rajasthan	94,460
21.	Sikkim	1,095
22.	Tamil Nadu	99,746
23.	Tripura	1,528
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2,53,644
25.	West Bengal	34,497
26.	A & N Islands	425
27.	Chandigarh	5,291
28.	Delhi	28,501
29.	Pondicherry	1,188
		14,53,013

ANNEXURE-II

*Number of Ex-Servicemen Registered
with Various Zila Sainik Boards in
Maharashtra As On 30.6.98.*

Sl. No.	ZSB	No. of Ex-servicemen
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednagar	5244
2.	Akola	1742
3.	Amravati	2440
4.	Aurangabad	2057
5.	Beed	1808
6.*	Bhandara	683
7.	Buldhana	3116
8.	Chandrapur	952
9.	Dhule	995
10.*	Gadghiroli	72
11.	Jalgaon	2126
12.	Jalna	644
13.	Kolhapur	8068
14.	Latur	1731
15.	Mumbai City	17043

1	2	3
16.	Mumbai Upnagar	2468
17.	Nagpur	4311
18.	Nanded	550
19.	Nasik	3739
20.	Osmanabad	2369
21.*	Parbhani	665
22.	Pune	12240
23.	Raigadh (Alibag)	3145
24.	Ratnagiri	4298
25.	Sangli	13519
26.	Satara	16918
27.	Sholapur	4816
28.	Sindhudurg	3440
29.	Thane	7128
30.*	Wardha	1342
31.	Yeotmal	728
		130397

*There are no Zila Sainik Boards in these districts: The work is being looked after by the respective Collectorates.

ANNEXURE-III

Statement Indicating State-wise Details of Loan/
Financial Assistance Disbursed to Ex-servicemen
Under SEMFEX Schemes

(Rs. in lakhs)			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
	1	2	3

1. Andhra Pradesh

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	0.50	1.18	—
SEMFEX-III	—	0.12	—

2. Arunachal Pradesh

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	—	—	—
SEMFEX-III	—	—	—

3. Assam

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	1.11	—	—
SEMFEX-III	—	—	—

4. Bihar

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	0.25	—	—
SEMFEX-III	—	—	—

	1	2	3
--	---	---	---

5. Goa

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	—	—	—
SEMFEX-III	—	—	—

6. Gujarat

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	2.20	—	—
SEMFEX-III	0.44	0.83	—

7. Himachal Pradesh

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	6.50	—	—
SEMFEX-III	—	—	—

8. Haryana

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	37.72	47.80	16.36
SEMFEX-III	—	—	—

9. Jammu & Kashmir

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	1.35	0.20	—
SEMFEX-III	2.47	4.35	—

	1	2	3		1	2	3
10. Karnataka				15. Meghalaya			
SEMFEK-I	—	—	—	SEMFEK-I	—	—	—
SEMFEK-II	20.19	11.56	1.50	SEMFEK-II	—	0.25	0.41
SEMFEK-III	4.85	—	—	SEMFEK-III	0.34	0.08	—
11. Kerala				16. Mizoram			
SEMFEK-I	—	—	—	SEMFEK-I	—	—	—
SEMFEK-II	1.25	—	—	SEMFEK-II	6.57	3.82	2.30
SEMFEK-III	2.16	—	—	SEMFEK-III	—	—	—
12. Madhya Pradesh				17. Nagaland			
SEMFEK-I	—	—	—	SEMFEK-I	—	—	—
SEMFEK-II	3.05	0.82	1.00	SEMFEK-II	—	—	—
SEMFEK-III	0.18	—	—	SEMFEK-III	—	—	—
13. Maharashtra				18. Orissa			
SEMFEK-I	0.39	0.26	0.33	SEMFEK-I	—	—	—
SEMFEK-II	45.20	56.32	20.04	SEMFEK-II	—	—	—
SEMFEK-III	1.40	82.89	2.04	SEMFEK-III	—	—	—
14. Manipur				19. Punjab			
SEMFEK-I	—	—	—	SEMFEK-I	—	—	—
SEMFEK-II	—	—	—	SEMFEK-II	—	—	—
SEMFEK-III	2.60	—	25.33	SEMFEK-III	—	—	—

	1	2	3
20. Rajasthan			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	10.91	9.53	47.73
SEMFEI-III	2.64	7.50	—
21. Sikkim			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	—	—	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
22. Tamil Nadu			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	40.92	11.23	8.38
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
23. Tripura			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	—	0.53	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
24. Uttar Pradesh			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	177.89	48.49	73.32
SEMFEI-III	15.86	3.99	5.50

	1	2	3
25. West Bengal			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	0.18	1.12	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
26. A & N Islands			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	—	—	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
27. Chandigarh			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	—	—	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
28. Delhi			
SEMFEI-I	1.0	0.50	0.50
SEMFEI-II	—	—	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
29. Pondicherry			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	—	—	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply given to my question that there are approximately 14 lakh and 53 thousand Ex-servicemen. In part B of the question I had asked the Statewise amount provided for the rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen, the Minister in reply told that any separate or specific budget allocation has not been made for the rehabilitation of the Ex-servicemen. There are 14 lakh and 53 thousand Ex-servicemen, which is a huge number. These soldiers, fight with the enemies, for the protection of the borders, they fight with the terrorists and sometimes they get injured and sometimes become disabled. I was surprised after reading the answer that there are 14 lakhs Ex-servicemen, but the Government neither made any scheme for their rehabilitation nor allocated any amount for their rehabilitation. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether it is the responsibility of the Government to rehabilitate these Ex-servicemen who guard our borders and due to which we take sound sleep at our homes. If so, whether the Government intend to allocate a particular amount for the purpose?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is necessary to explain the things said by the Hon. Member in response to the question. The Central Government as well as the State Governments are responsible for the rehabilitation and re-settlement of Ex-servicemen. It is not true that we are not doing anything for them. The question of Hon. Member was whether any separate budget allocation has been made for them or not? No separate allocation is made for it in the budget. Welfare work for them is done on many levels. It will be better to provide such information in writing, but I would like to present it in details. The first thing is that as the Hon. Member has said that there are more than 14 lakh Ex-servicemen. They are of different age groups and having different calibre or abilities and efforts are made to provide them some other employment on the basis of age and ability.

Several programmes have been adopted for this purpose. The very first thing is that now the practice of providing training to them before the retirement, keeping in view their ability has been started, earlier it was not there. After that the process of placing them in any employment begins. First of all they have got the reservation in the Government jobs. Here reservation does not apply in the normal sense as per the constitution but in group C and group D categories of the Government jobs they got 10 and 20 percent reservation respectively whereas in the Public Sector undertakings and in Nationalised Banks, they have got 14.5 percent and 24.5 percent reservation respectively in all the posts of Group

C and Group D. Apart from that they have got 10 percent reservation in the posts of Assistant Commandant in paramilitary forces. There is a Defence Security core in the Department of Defence and the security of all the offices, institutions, etc. related to the Ministry of Defence as well as Department of Defence is in their hands. There the Ex-servicemen got their salaries etc. at par with the armed forces and cent-percent posts of the Defence Security core are exclusively reserved for Ex-servicemen. Apart from that the State Governments have also given some reservations to these Ex-servicemen in their own ways, although there is no symmetry in this regard in each State.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of self-employment is concerned there are several such schemes in which full support is extended to the Ex-servicemen for the self-employment or to create any other means of livelihood. Apart from that assistance is provided through the Directorate General of Rehabilitation for setting up security-agencies. There are 400 such institutions at present, which are functioning at 1100 places. Thousands of persons are employed there. Our Ministry, its Directorate General of Rehabilitation and State Governments work together to perform these tasks. There are Sainik Boards in each district, every State. This responsibility is shouldered by them.

There may be difficulties in doing this work with required speed because the recruitment is possible only when there are jobs. But whatever is possible, is being done. So, the doubt of hon'ble Member that the ex-servicemen are being completely neglected, is baseless.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, you must put a brief supplementary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply, hon'ble Minister has stated that for Ex-servicemen there is 10 percent reservation in group C posts and 20 percent reservation in Group 'D' posts and there is 14.5 percent reservation in group 'C' and 24.5 percent in group 'D' posts in public undertakings of the Union Government and Banks. There is 15 percent reservation in group 'c' and 'd' posts of Maharashtra Government. All this reservation is for Ex-servicemen.

I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Ex-servicemen are getting jobs as per the reservation announced and whether his Ministry has conducted any

enquiry in this regard and if not, whether the Government would conduct an enquiry in this regard now?

I want to say that many facilities are provided to Ex-servicemen, but the information of these facilities does not reach to the Ex-servicemen. The common jawan do not have this information. Does the Ministry of Defence propose to publish any booklet which could provide information about the schemes for the rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It is not correct to say that the Ex-servicemen do not have the information about it, because when a soldier retires from the service, he gets his name registered in Central Directorate and other places for the job.

Secondly, the institution at state and district levels undertake the work in their own ways and the Ministry takes the required initiative in it. Now the question has been asked whether we monitor the reservation in this regard? Yes, Sir, monitoring is done and as far as the reservation in Central Government services is concerned, I would like to tell that the Ex-servicemen have got 50 percent group 'D' jobs and 56.60 percent group 'C' vacancies have been filled last year. Therefore, the monitoring is being done. But there is a problem that some years ago, a Government order was issued that the security agencies set up by Ex-servicemen should be provided security work in all public sector undertakings. Now almost one year back, in November-December last year, the said order was withdrawn. It was withdrawn on the basis that now there is open market and there should be no restriction of this kind in open market. However we are trying and having talks with various Public Sector undertaking, to re-employ the Ex-servicemen for security purpose there.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the details given by the hon. Defence Minister. If you see the third column of his reply, State-wise figures of disbursement of loan have been given. If you see the figures of 1997-98, you can find that the amount disbursed to all these people seems to be very much negligible. It does mean that the Government is not that much serious to look after the welfare of all these Ex-servicemen. Wherever we go, we come across a number of Ex-servicemen with petitions and complaints regarding their deputation, etc. Therefore, my question to the Government is whether the Government is really serious to look after the welfare of all the Ex-servicemen. If it is so, what is the percentage

of various kinds of jobs provided to the Ex-servicemen? Are these respected Ex-servicemen getting any facility from the respective Governments in the reservation of tickets in air, rail and bus services wherever they go?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has furnished the datas about Self Employment Scheme. So, as far as Self Employment is concerned, we have three kind of schemes in this regard. The matter of disbursement would arise only when the schemes are availed by the Ex-servicemen. Therefore it is not possible to reach at any conclusion in this regard.

As far as the employment is concerned I will not be able to provide datas as to how many people have got jobs now because all this work is done in different states. We have got the datas with regard to the number of the people who have got jobs in the departments of Central Government. But I do not have datas with regard to the jobs provided in private sector, public sector or banks and in various departments of State-Governments in the entire country. It is a substantive point that they are insulted and not only these Ex-servicemen but soldiers who are in service are also meted out the same ill-treatment. You just talked of railway, they have complaints in this regard also. Recently a survey was conducted in which large number of Military men complained that they face difficulties in getting reservation. We have taken many steps to redress this complaint. But with it, they also complain that they are meted out such ill-treatment as of they want to keep them away. They complain it orally. But the Ministry has its own limits in this regard. We have to learn to respect the jawans of the army in the entire country and the Ex-servicemen who have served in the army. All of us will have to make efforts in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Pilot.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I am happy ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling only those Members who belonged to the service.

[Translation]

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Mr. Speaker, Sir I want to say one thing that I am a soldier and as a soldier, I should also get an opportunity to speak in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call your name, after Shri Rajesh Pilot. Your name is there with me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised today as to whoever sits on these benches, starts speaking that same language. Those were the days when Mr. George's speeches about the Ex-servicemen used to be fiery. Shri Madan Lal Khurana who never sat and on his legs always, now sits there silently. This is because of these benches ... (Interruptions) We are on our legs. I agree with the hon'ble Minister and the figures given by him that the Government have definitely made efforts to resettle Ex-servicemen during the last 8-10 years. But my point to the hon'ble Minister is that a high-powered Committee was constituted during the years 1980-82 when Smt. Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister. That Committee had given about 50-60 recommendations, out of which some recommendations were accepted and some were not accepted. Then, some recommendations out of them were accepted and rest remained pending. We had given a suggestion that the persons discharged at the age of 30-32 years from the Infantry, have no future. We wanted that some percentage should be reserved in the para-military forces so that they could get direct entry from 15 to 20 percent in the para-military forces from Infantry. This way the money to be spent by the Central Government on their training could be saved and they would get safe career. What is the view point of the Government in this regard?

My second question is stand of the Government about the reservation for S.C., S.T. and other sections of the society which we carry forward in some public sector undertakings or other institutions. Whether Government propose to carry forward the reservation for Ex-servicemen. As the public-sector we visit the same excuse is made that they could not get the person during the one year and the reservation gets lapsed after one year. So, percentage fixed therefor also becomes meaningless. What steps Government are taking in this regard?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my last question is whether Shri George Fernandes had made commitment before the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate that if they came to power, they would make provision for one rank one pension. You have made some efforts in this regard but half-heartedly. By the grace of God you are the defence minister. At that time you did not have the charge of defence. Would you now be able to provide one rank one pension?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You have referred to one of the decisions of the High Powered Committee. Although there is provision for recruitment in the para-military forces now but the response is not so good. As you have stated that a person who is discharged from the services hesitates to join para-military forces that is somewhat embracing the same job. I do not know, but that is our experience. Before saying so, we have interacted the people at various levels. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You are not giving the seniority in that. That is why they are hesitant. If the seniority is continued, they are ready to come.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : There are some problems like the problems of the recruits of the para-military forces came to fore. Some problems of this nature are there. In addition to that we have felt that jawans are not ready. They are of the opinion that they have just completed 15-17 years of service in the defence services and do not want to join that type of service again. They want job nearby their residences so that they can live with their families. This type of desire grips them. But there is no vacancy for them where they can get job.

You have just talked about one rank one pension. This is true that we have raised this point not once but several times. Several political parties have given their opinion on this matter. Our cabinet note is ready for one rank one Pension. It would be issued within a few days. Thirdly you have talked about carry over. That is also good. There should be no objection to that.

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion on Ex-servicemen is being held here. There are two types of soldiers. But discussion is held on one type of soldiers only. Second type of soldiers is like me. Who is a soldier of Indian National Army I was shot in my leg in 1944 in Burma, I have given in writing that whatever I have done, that was my duty towards my mother land. That is why I never sought 10 acres of land and pension. I have been elected for the fourth time to this House. Just now hon'ble minister was saying that such people are respected I do not want respect but I want to say that there are so many people of this category. Have you sought any figures about them. If not when will you ask for that. I am 77 years old, my colleagues may die in a year or two. I just want to say that such category of soldiers, is still there who shed their blood on the behest of Netaji. They are not being given due respect.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has told his problems what response should I give. We share his concern but what more does he expect, I am not able to understand.

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : I have just said that they are given respect but I did not hear about giving them due respect so far.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now hon'ble minister has told about several schemes for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen. If any Ex-serviceman expires before the implementation of these rehabilitation scheme, his family has to face a lot of problems. I want to know from the Hon'ble minister as to what schemes they have for such of the families of those Ex-servicemen who die before implementation of these schemes and what effective steps they are going to take for them?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The schemes which are meant for Ex-servicemen would be solely applicable to his wife or his heir.

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Sir, in our country, about 60,000 ex-servicemen retire every year out of which about 12.5 lakh ex-servicemen are registered with the Kendriya Sainik Boards. These Kendriya Sainik Boards were raised during the British Raj some time in 1917.

They are not able to do any meaningful monitoring. For the ex-servicemen, the hon. Minister has brought out a lot of schemes but most of the schemes are only on ground. The first part of my question is this. The Army Headquarters and the Air Headquarters have sent a proposal to have a separate Ministry. I know that the hon. Minister may not be able to part with his Ministry but at least they should have a separate dedicated Department which should monitor only the problems of this matter. This proposal is with you.

The Kendriya Sainik Boards were raised in 1917. Nobody listens to them. They do not have any monitoring power. Can you give some statutory powers or some sort of a thing so that they can be very effective in implementing whatever schemes that you have brought out?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this involves figure. You had mentioned about 12 lakh soldiers, in fact, total number of 14,53,013 soldiers are registered in the various Sainik Bqards at the district level. Besides, the war widows—the wife of the soldier who died, or the soldier who died after his retirement the issue you just raised here, they are also registered with the Sainik Boards and their number is 2,74,632. This figure is upto June, 1998. At present, a total of 17,27,645 soldiers are registered with these Boards.

The hon'ble Member has asked about the functions of these Boards. This is a fact that there are lot of responsibilities on the district level and state level Sainik Board and these responsibilities are not being discharged by them in the manner they should be. Few months back, I wrote to all the Chief Ministers regarding the problems being faced by the soldiers and requested them to take concrete steps to mitigate their woes. One of the Chief Minister has responded and assured me action on one or two issues but no other Chief Minister has taken any pains to write back to me except acknowledgments of my letters in this regard. I think almost four months have already been over. Therefore, there are problems. Besides, there are rules also that the Chairman of the Sainik Board at the district level should be an ex-army officer but in most of the cases, they are not ex-army officer. Normally, political civil persons have been appointed there therefore, nothing is moving. In fact, between the soldier and such chairmen, no relationship is forged and nor do they take interest in the welfare of soldiers as they have not gone through that experience. Therefore, there are problems. It is not possible to carry out this job without the cooperation of the State Governments because the only half of the total expenditure incurred on the district Sainik Boards and the State Sainik Board is met by the Ministry of Defence. However, the desired results are not being achieved. If I am able to get the cooperation of all the Members I do hope, that I shall be able to sort out several of the problems being faced by us at present.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : You yourself are saying that you are helpless, no Chief Minister is writing back.

[English]

Why do you not bring a Constitutional Amendment Bill for this purpose? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, this is not a satisfactory answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The question is not about this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

If it would have been possible for the Ministry of Defence to take steps in this regard or there would have been some scope for the ministry in this regard then, we would have no objections. But the powers of the Central Sainik Board are very limited and for monitoring purpose only. The State Governments have to take steps on their level in this regard.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We have expectation from you.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : But it is not possible for me to fulfil your expectations going beyond rules. ...*(Interruptions)* If you all allow then we shall come up with amended rules in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : We want the same. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We will all support you...*(Interruptions)*

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : We will all support you ...*(Interruptions)* The whole House is supporting you.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : O.K. I shall come with amended rules in this regard.

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : The whole House is supporting you.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government of India has given any instruction to the State Governments to recruit ex-servicemen in educational institutions.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, this issue has not come up keeping in view the specific qualifications in educational institutions therefore no such order has been issued about the educational institutions.

[English]

Draft Legislation on Security of Airports

*62. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a draft legislation on security of the airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey on the security arrangements at various airports in the world has been made;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the proposed legislation on airport security is likely to be brought before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a), (b) and (e) A proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Inspection of the security arrangements at various airports in the world is done as required from time to time.

(d) During, the last 4 years airports at Tokyo, Hong Kong, Osaka, Paris, Frankfurt, Geneva, Rome, Kathmandu, New York, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Tel Aviv have been inspected.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know the difference between the airports in our country and that of the other countries as the airports in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Osaka, Paris, Hithro, Geneva, Rome, Kathmandu, Newyork, Singapore and Colombo as these were inspected by you. How the airports in those countries are maintained and how these are maintained in our country? We have seen that there are such airports in our country where stray buffaloes could be seen, we have many times seen such scenes at the Nagpur airport. What is the difference between the airports in our country and other countries from the safety point of view, will the hon. Minister tell us about that?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : The Commissioner of Civil Aviation, Bureau of Security has made an inspection of all the mentioned airports during the last four years. Our security measures are on par with the international standards. In the country, we have 120 airports in which 55 are functional, others are quasi-functional. Even in these airports, we have made three different categories—33 are sensitive airports, 14 are hypersensitive airports and 19 are normal airports and whatever security measures we are taking for these airports are more than adequate.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : In view of the increased terrorism all over the world, strict security measures have been adopted by various countries to protect their international airports. I would like to know from the Government as to when the proposed legislation is likely to be brought before the Parliament.

[Translation]

You had said that the Government would look into it. Then when are you bringing it, in this session or the next session? Kindly tell us.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : The Government of India is very much concerned about the security of the international and domestic airports and also about the anti-terrorist measures. Many Acts are already in vogue and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security is taking very strict measures according to these various Acts and enabling laws. But I entirely agree with the hon. Member, Shri Datta Meghe that the new Civil Aviation Act is on the anvil. It has been the view of the Government of India that there should be one chapter regarding protection of Civil Aviation against acts of unlawful interference in this comprehensive Act. Therefore, it is on the anvil. As soon as it takes the final shape, we will be bringing it before the House.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : But tell us how much time will it take?

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : We will expedite the whole process.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. minister have mentioned the names of about twelve countries, airports of which were inspected by him. I want to know whether there is any country in the world which has allowed the construction of slaughter-house near its airport? Whereas during the regime of the previous Governments slaughter-houses were allowed to be constructed near many airports and as a result of which many a aeroplanes crashed due to bird-hit. In our country the fever of secularism is so high that allowing construction of slaughter-house is considered from the view-point of secularism. Depicting the Sarswati as nude, is considered secular in our country but reciting of Sarswati Vandana is considered as communal. Whether the

Government have conducted any study of these abattoirs which were constructed out of the feeling of secularism and what steps are you going to take for the safety of airports?

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I share the concern of the hon. Member, Prof. Rita Verma regarding the security of the airports especially, the safety of the aircraft because of the possible and probable bird-hits. We have not yet undertaken any study of the slaughter houses beside the airports in the various countries of the world. As of now, I do not have the list of the airports where slaughter houses are situated beside the airports. I also feel that they may constitute an amount of safety risk, if not security risk to aviation because safety is entirely different from the security. Safety is affected because of the bird-hits.

Therefore, I assure her that we will make a study about this.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : I have a question about the future security of the airports. We all know that at the end of this century all the computers will break down because of the millennium bug or Y2K bug. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation is going to have any programme to tackle this because all the flying programmes will be in danger. But at this moment I would like to ask the Minister whether the security of the airports will be affected. All of us are aware that it would be affected. I want to know whether they have any back-up programme or if they have taken any preventive measures so that when the computers break down, our security is not hampered. Time is very short; Only one year. I would like to have an answer to this.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : About one and a half months back we, under the auspices of the Airports Authority of India and ICAO had a seminar regard this Y2K problem which will hit the entire aspect of the software, not only Civil Aviation, the air traffic management system, our Airports Authority, the various software related systems but all our navigation systems which will definitely create some security and safety problems. I assure the hon. Member that we have taken remedial steps and that our officers are working round the clock to see that by the advent of 2000 AD, this Y2K bug will be dealt with. There will be no problem in the Airports Authority of India and the Civil Aviation Ministry.

SHRI T. GOVINDAM : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation towards the statement made by the Secretary, Civil Aviation

regarding the relevance and importance of an airport at Cannanore. I think the Kerala Government have completed almost all the land acquisition process and there are several reports regarding the relevance and importance of an airport at Cannanore. I request the hon. Minister to examine the matter and ensure that the Cannanore airport materialises immediately.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : This supplementary does not pertain to the main question.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, indeed there can be no compromise as far as the security measures are concerned.

It is heartening to find that the hon. Minister is alive to this particular fact. But, Sir, while security must be tightened, at the same time, it should not result in harassment of the passengers. Only one point I would like to place before you and that is, that even on major airports when passengers proceed for security check, they find only one gate open and other gates deserted because of the lack of police force. When we take up the matter with the Airport authorities, they say that the police force has to be provided by the States and they are quite helpless. So, will the hon. Minister look into this question of prevailing upon the State Governments to see that adequate police force is provided so that the various gates that are there for security checks are really functional and operational and do not result in inconvenience to the passengers? At the same time, at the security check posts, there are screening machines. Often only one works; the others do not work. So, there is a greater necessity for paying attention to this particular fact.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary. You do not have to elaborate.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Another point that arises is that in the airports, the security personnel are not under the control of the Airports Authority. They are having their control outside the police force but then, they should be on the airport. The security measures demand that these police personnel who are at the airports must be under the authority of the airports so that there is no lapse with respect to security matters. How is the Government going to react to these points?

MR. SPEAKER : Please give a very brief answer.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by the senior Parliamentarian, Shri Banatwalla is well-appreciated and well-taken. I entirely

agree with him that we lack the personnel for the sake of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. Actually we have to take the personnel from the various State Governments. Various State Police Departments and Home Departments have to provide us personnel in the various airports throughout the country to maintain security and vigil. We do not have our own security force. I feel that there is a need to raise our own security personnel to undertake this very important function. And once we do that, I think, the other things like having the X-ray machines and having one or two more gates for the security purposes will follow.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Now-a-days, it seems we have to sing *Yema Vandana* before we take off and land in our airports. The passenger safety system is worst. In fact, in Delhi, the Raytheon Limited has established a forewarning system but it has failed in all respects. I want to know whether the forewarning system established by the Raytheon Limited is functioning properly or not. Also about the Chennai Airport, I want to know whether the forewarning system is working there or not.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : This question pertains to the security of the airports. Whatever the hon. Member is asking is about the safety and various radar systems. On another occasion, I will be answering that.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Are you not aware of these things?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am aware of them. But this does not pertain to this question.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : This question pertains to the same question ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, the security of the airports is a very specialised affair. There is a Bureau of Civil Aviation Security which does not have any manpower under it. At present it is working only as a policy setting body.

As has been brought out by earlier questions and replies, the personnel manning the security positions are obtained from the State Governments. This is not a very priced posting for the State police. They just pass the time for two or three years and then they are posted elsewhere. By the time they are trained, they are pushed back. So, my question is, will the hon. Minister consider creating a special police force for Airports' security? There are two-three aspects involved. One is the immigration aspect, the other is the anti-hijacking aspect, then there is the aspect of physical security of the airports also. So, will the hon. Minister consider creating a special security force on the lines of the Central Industrial Security Force,

and not depend on the State Governments' police personnel to man the international civil airports?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I entirely share the concern of the hon. Member. I feel that we require separate trained personnel for the purpose of civil aviation security.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : What will you do about it?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : We will consider it positively.

[Translation]

Indira Awas Yojana

+
*63. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA :
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons allotted houses under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) during the Eighth Five Year Plan and target fixed for the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred on construction of houses under IAY during the Eighth Five Year Plan and during 1996-97 and 1997-98, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct houses under the scheme during the current financial year;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to extend assistance for construction of more houses in Bihar and U.P. where heavy damage was caused due to flood and heavy rainfall; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) During 8th Five Year Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97), 26.25 lakh houses were constructed under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) (*Annexure-I*), State-wise target for construction of houses in 1997-98 and 1998-99 of the Ninth Plan Period is at *Annexure-II*.

(b) The expenditure incurred on the construction of houses under IAY during the Eighth Plan Period and 1997-98 State-wise is at *Annexure-III*.

(c) and (d) During 1998-99, a target of construction of 9.87 lakh houses has been fixed under IAY as per State-wise details given in *Annexure-II*.

(e) and (f) As per Indira Awas Yojana guidelines, there is no provision for extending assistance for construction of houses under IAY in the event of destruction due to natural calamities. However, during 1998-99 Rs. 274.20 crore has been allocated for Bihar under IAY as against last year's central allocation of Rs. 175.57 crore. Similarly, central allocation under IAY for UP in 1998-99 is Rs. 301.77 crore as against Rs. 280.36 crore in 1997-98.

ANNEXURE-I

Number of Houses constructed under IAY during Eighth Five Year Plan

(Numbers)

Name of the State	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	10961	44897	57483	69086	46181	228608
Arunachal Pradesh	218	120	219	420	387	1364
Assam	1037	4304	6862	24871	13401	50475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bihar	28189	88960	59216	114506	133244	424115
Goa	55	358	329	967	466	2175
Gujarat	4889	7117	7895	31770	30481	82152
Haryana	1002	1552	3536	9024	6153	21267
Himachal Pradesh	351	629	853	1727	2373	5933
Jammu & Kashmir	425	390	1697	3554	10197	16263
Karnataka	7197	8820	13831	37460	45503	112811
Kerala	4100	16999	18549	29368	23202	92218
Madhya Pradesh	47156	48108	48967	125757	87371	357359
Maharashtra	8778	18870	22812	66648	58244	175352
Manipur	213	208	197	784	715	2117
Meghalaya	432	353	283	207	646	1921
Mizoram	224	240	368	569	369	1770
Nagaland	1603	1536	895	470	3691	8195
Orissa	11305	10588	13297	51033	54612	140835
Punjab	3359	2739	3849	1121	1709	12777
Rajasthan	10541	19958	28934	41756	46682	147871
Sikkim	140	142	108	1065	760	2215

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tamil Nadu	14409	33758	33176	56885	63959	202187
Tripura	343	636	567	1348	983	3877
Uttar Pradesh	22218	47722	50908	159073	139801	419722
West Bengal	13300	13389	15526	34278	34722	111215
A & N Islands	20	21	21	21	78	161
D & N Haveli	52	60	59	13	50	234
Daman & Diu	21	13	45	62	92	233
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	10	105	115
Pondicherry	47	48	0	36	113	244
Total	192585	372535	390482	863889	806290	2625781

ANNEXURE-II

*Statewise Target for Construction of houses
during 1997-98 and 1998-99*

Name of the State	1997-98	1998-99	1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	56065	73645	Gujarat	20581	19692
Arunachal Pradesh	459	1046	Haryana	4943	10690
Assam	18455	28576	Himachal Pradesh	1572	4879
Bihar	109982	171378	Jammu & Kashmir	3197	7699
Goa	548	130	Karnataka	37653	39505
			Kerala	12454	17726
			Madhya Pradesh	71054	103652

1	2	3	1	2	3
Maharashtra	61123	78092	Tamil Nadu	50689	46258
Manipur	590	1911	Tripura	766	4519
Meghalaya	688	2409	Uttar Pradesh	136645	188051
Mizoram	288	472	West Bengal	50249	74594
Nagaland	734	2050	A & N Islands	236	202
Orissa	45486	67684	D & N Haveli	127	309
Punjab	3517	5630	Daman & Diu	75	10
Rajasthan	29524	35599	Lakshadweep	121	17
Sikkim	269	784	Pondicherry	236	257
			Total	718326	987466

ANNEXURE-III*Expenditure Incurred Under Indira-Awaas Yojana.*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	Eighth Five Year Plan					
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1264.00	5956.77	6610.08	6317.95	8213.28	14792.02
Arunachal Pradesh	37.13	26.88	26.16	58.00	72.55	210.49
Assam	130.76	573.08	934.47	3381.70	2680.20	4174.96
Bihar	3271.50	13664.86	7121.09	19168.71	19507.79	21755.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Goa	3.65	32.22	30.07	31.51	65.33	85.87
Gujarat	638.94	937.63	1137.37	3669.26	4396.14	4354.57
Haryana	120.58	217.55	507.68	1233.81	1107.24	976.51
Himachal Pradesh	52.08	84.37	126.24	244.55	428.19	452.00
Jammu & Kashmir	38.03	45.02	245.74	543.04	1176.78	968.16
Karnataka	803.70	1221.87	2060.4	5812.80	8484.85	9206.40
Kerala	527.98	2349.73	2687.74	4864.14	2817.36	2975.78
Madhya Pradesh	2631.94	2931.17	3246.09	11807.75	11384.56	17020.99
Maharashtra	1180.91	3189.84	3219.14	10606.35	15589.12	16856.95
Manipur	22.15	24.15	32.13	141.18	81.60	229.78
Meghalaya	61.31	44.2	39.59	30.01	113.55	58.88
Mizoram	32.11	33.21	48.01	87.68	76.73	66.54
Nagaland	232.44	222.72	141.41	74.26	137.53	802.12
Orissa	1402.39	1434.83	1942.02	7494.88	9012.73	8844.81
Punjab	790.98	704.33	527.34	96.50	347.78	829.90
Rajasthan	1128.73	2287.96	2989.27	4701.44	6317.99	5874.66
Sikkim	20.73	20.37	19.81	163.76	188.24	86.52
Tamil Nadu	4810.54	4526.95	7619.52	14398.41	15892.90	20881.44

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tripura	33.00	108.42	95.65	144.77	211.58	266.55
Uttar Pradesh	2933.01	5585.68	6412.97	17039.77	24616.18	19859.83
West Bengal	1695.48	1843.68	2170.54	4468.87	5545.87	7832.57
A & N Islands	4.96	15.57	15.98	15.98	54.79	20.28
D & N Haveli	7.01	8.6	8.64	1.19	17.58	14.18
Daman & Diu	1.31	1.64	5.06	9.25	15.10	6.86
Lakshadweep	0.00	0	0	5.18	11.94	12.52
Pondicherry	6.16	6.65	18.17	25.74	26.94	125.96
TOTAL	23883.51	48099.95	50038.38	116636.44	138592.42	159643.70

[*Translation*]

SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indira Awas Yojana was introduced in 1985-86. Later on, all the Chief-Ministers of the Country had held a meeting and decided that by the end of 2000 A.D. that housing facilities will be made available to all those who are homeless in the country. On 30th July 1998, the BJP announced a National Rehabilitation Scheme and decided that the Govt. will provide houses to everybody. Whether the Government are aware of the fact that about 15 crores people who had migrated from their villages are staying in urban slums. When they have not been given water-electricity facilities in towns. Then providing them houses is a farthest thought. I would like to mention that there is a scheme for constructing ten thousand houses in Haryana during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nagra, you have to ask the question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Sir, there are 7,000 villages in Haryana. One house will be constructed in one village and that house will also be constructed for those who are living below the poverty-line, but, as a matter of fact, these names donot appear in the list ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri, Nagra, Please ask the question. Otherwise, I will disallow your question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : This list is prepared by the Sarpanch and Sarpanch put the names of his favoured ones. Those who are actually living below poverty line do not get listed and those who are well-to-do, they get themselves listed. I have many such data, the Government should think over it. Those who are totally unemployed or homeless should get this benefit.

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, the action plan for addressing construction of additional 13.2 lakh houses has been prepared by the Planning Commission. For 1998-99, 20.78 lakh houses, for 1999-2000, 25.33 lakh houses, for 2000-2001, 25.56 lakh houses, and for 2001-2002, 25.56 lakh houses are to be constructed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central): Sir, please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas, you must know the procedure also. There is another Member also.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Mr. Speaker Sir, during the recent floods many kuchcha houses have been collapsed and slums have been totally destroyed. Whether the Government are considering it, the information in this regard should be provided?

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, there is no provision for extending financial assistance for construction of houses for people affected by natural calamities.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Ram Chandra Dome.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Indira Awas Yojana is a good scheme. But we see from the statement that at the completion of the Eighth Five Year Plan period, the overall achievement made by the country in this scheme is not at all satisfactory. There are crores of homeless, particularly, those who are living below the poverty line, the SCs, the STs, the destitutes, and the economically backward people. Moreover, recently the cost of construction material has gone up and inflation is too much. Therefore, the State Governments are facing many problems in coping up with the construction of houses. In view of that, part (a) of my supplementary through you to the hon. Minister is this. In view of huge increase in the cost of construction material alongwith increased labour cost and high inflation, I would like to know whether the Central Government is thinking of increasing the amount of allocation per unit and whether it would make a provision for providing electricity connection and separate toilet facilities for the individual units within this scheme. And part (b) of my question is this. What is the amount? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No part (b) please. You can ask only part (a). Yes please take your seat. Mr. Minister.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, unit cost has been raised from Rs. 14,600 to Rs. 20,000 for plain area and Rs. 22,000 for hilly area and for provision of latrine, infrastructure the *chola* and other facilities, Rs. 2,500 per unit have been provided under the scheme.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : This is a Central Government Scheme. In the last Budget Session, about 350 Members of Parliament, from all the sides, submitted a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister requesting that the local Members of Parliament should be taken into confidence at the time of selection of beneficiaries. Has the Government applied its mind on this?

SHRI AJIT JOGI : The Prime Minister has assured us. So, you have to concede, and we will support you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Nobody cares about M.Ps.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Except you ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajo Singh, please take your seat. The Minister is answering the question.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, Gram Sabhas are identifying the beneficiaries.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : I have written letters to all the State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Please involve the Members of Parliament. The Centre is giving this money. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, I respect the concern of the hon. Members. I will consider it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA : There is no need for consideration. It was already considered because the Prime Minister has agreed to it.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : I have written letters to all the State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is giving the reply. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. What is this? The Minister is giving the reply.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : I have written letters thrice to the State Governments saying that they should honour the recommendations. Sir, I will consider it.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, just now, the hon. Minister has replied saying that he has written letters thrice to the respective State Governments, but there is no impact of it. It is a very serious matter and, I think, the time has come when the Government of India should take some definite decision and give a sort of direction to the respective State Governments to take into confidence the local Members of Parliament.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : I will consider it. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AKBAR AHMAD : Sir, I am a Member of Parliament, but I have never been taken into confidence. Only the local Corporator from Lucknow was taken into confidence. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Now, Shri Krishnamraju.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat. I have called Shri Krishnamraju.

SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, as you are aware, the coastal districts were affected badly because of frequent rains and cyclones. Many houses in rural areas have been damaged, many people died and property worth of Rs. 1520 crore was destroyed. The hon. Prime Minister who visited these districts having moved by the devastating scene instantly announced that the Centre would give an advance of Rs. 200 crore. On behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, I thank the hon. Prime Minister for the same.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Rural Development what is the additional amount given to the

State of Andhra Pradesh under the Indira Awas Yojana for construction of houses. I would also like to know what was the allocation to the State last year and what was the performance. Can other funds be diverted for this?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : If the State Government sends a report regarding the natural calamity and about the destruction of houses, and if there is a saving, then we can consider diverting the money.

If there are savings then we could consider diverting the funds ... (Interruptions) If there are savings, then after December we can consider diverting the money for such natural calamities ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dumpy, please take your seat first. I have called Shri C. Gopal.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI C. GOPAL : Sir, from the Statement given by the hon. Minister it is seen that during the year 1996-97, in Tamil Nadu the allotment of houses under this Scheme was 63,959 ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, the time for Question Hour is over.

SHRI C. GOPAL : Now this allotment has been reduced ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Gopal, please conclude, there is no time now.

SHRI C. GOPAL : What is the reason for this reduction in allotment of Houses for Tamil Nadu?

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time now. Please conclude.

SHRI C. GOPAL : Is it because of the poor performance of the State Government of Tamil Nadu? I would like to have an answer from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time now. Mr. Minister, you can send him the reply.

The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]***Seizure of Pilotless Aircraft in Rajouri**

*64. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security forces in J & K have recently seized two microlight pilotless aircraft from the border areas of Rajouri;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted to know as to how the pilotless aircraft entered our territory;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the responsibility fixed in this regard and the steps taken to strengthen our borders to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) There is no report of recovery of any micro-light pilotless aircraft in J&K. Two aero-models are, however, reported to have been recovered by J&K police in Rajouri district on 5th Nov., 98. Details of the aero-models recovered are as under:—

- (a) Made of Balsa wood from Taiwan, with a Japanese engine.
- (b) Length of the model is six feet with a wing span of six feet.
- (c) Radio control set with four channels.
- (d) Total weight is 4.5 kg with a payload of 500 g to one kg.
- (e) Capable of achieving speeds of 80-100 kmph and fly upto 4000' to 5000' above ground level.
- (f) Can be manoeuvred by a handler within a radius of 1 to 1.5 km based on line of sight and fly up to 20 to 30 minutes at a stretch.

The investigation is being carried out by the local police. The Security Forces are maintaining constant vigil on the borders.

*[Translation]***Pak Firing on Indo-Pak Border Areas**

*65. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of firing incidents from Pak side on the Indo-Pak border areas during the last six months date-wise and place-wise;

(b) the total number of civilians and soldiers killed and injured on both sides in such clashes and the quantum of property damaged, incident-wise; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to protect the lives and property of the people living in these border areas and the extent of compensation paid to the wards of the affected villagers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The number of incidents of exchanges of fire on the Indo-Pak border in J&K in the last six months (May to October 98) are as follows:—

(a) Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL)	176
(b) Line of Control (LOC)	1751
(c) International Border (IB)	174

Details of casualties for last six months are as under (May to Oct. 98):—

	Security Personnel		Civilian		Pak
	Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded	Killed/ Wounded
AGPL	15	30	—	—	230
LOC	52	232	31	98	319
IB	01	11	02	17	25

Details of civilian property damaged/destroyed during the period are as under:—

- (a) Pak — Not known
 (b) Own — 9 Civilian houses damaged.

2. In so far as the border in Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat is concerned, there has been no firing from Pakistan Army during this period. However, Pakistan Rangers resorted to unprovoked firing on Rajasthan border on two occasions in September & October 1998. As a result, one BSF personnel was killed and two were wounded.

3. Constant vigil is maintained by our troops to frustrate Pak attempts of firing and appropriate response is given by our troops to Pak unprovoked firing. Border Security Force deployed along International Border in J&K are providing necessary protection to the farmers in their agricultural pursuits along the international border.

4. In the case of affected families of Jammu and Kathua districts of J&K, the State Government has announced free ration at the rate of five kilos per head for one month, which period can be increased after assessing the extent of loss. Apart from this, Rs. 1 lakh is paid in case of loss of life to the next-of-kin of the deceased, Rs. 75,000 in case of permanent disability, Rs. 5000 for serious injury and Rs. 500 to 1,000 in various cases of minor injuries.

[English]

Grounding of Combat Aircraft

*66. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAF aircraft not fit for combat at present;

(b) the period since when these combat planes are lying grounded and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to make the IAF grounded aircraft operational?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The IAF has a large inventory of aircraft and equipment of diverse types and sources. Their serviceability is satisfactory. The number of aircraft under maintenance keeps varying from day to day.

(c) A well planned and effective regime of snag rectification, maintenance, and overhaul is carried out to make grounded aircraft operational in the shortest time possible.

Hike in Fares by Indian Airlines

*67. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :
 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recent hike in fares by Indian Airlines;

(b) whether the hike is in accordance with the corresponding fares being charged by the private airlines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the North-Eastern States were exempted from this hike;

(e) if so, whether the Government have received proposal from the Government of J&K, various organisations and members of Parliament to include the Leh sector of J&K in the exemption list of fare hike; and

(f) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(a) to (d) Indian Airlines increased its fares on domestic sectors, except North-Eastern sectors, by 11.2% w.e.f. 1st October, 1998. Subsequently, fares on other Category-II routes were rolled back to the pre-revised levels w.e.f. 13th October, 1998. Private Operators have also made corresponding increase in the air fares.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Fares on Indian Airlines services to/from J&K, including Leh, have been rolled back to the pre-revised levels with effect from 13.10.98.

Pilferage of Goods

*68. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of pilferage of goods in the railway yards during the loading and unloading process have increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the value of goods pilfered, year/zone-wise;

(c) the number of persons found responsible therefor;
and

(d) the action taken against those persons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a statement showing the number of cases of pilferage of goods(booked consignments), value of property stolen,

value of property recovered and number of persons arrested during the last three financial years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 zone-wise is placed as statement-I

(c) and (d) Number of persons found responsible and details of action taken against them during the last three financial years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 zone-wise is placed as statement-II

Statement-I

Comparative Statement Showing the cases of theft/pilferage of Booked Consignments over Indian Railways during the Financial years 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98

Railway	Fin. Years	No of cases Registered	Value of property (In Rs.)		Arrest made
			Stolen	Recovered	
1	2	3	4	5	6
CR	1995-96	485	35,17,802	10,51,524	225
	1996-97	400	39,09,950	11,24,920	285
	1997-98	299	51,41,030	41,91,850	216
ER	1995-96	2709	1,16,78,491	17,86,707	438
	1996-97	2223	1,07,76,841	16,31,553	434
	1997-98	2039	97,19,260	11,01,935	272
NR	1995-96	946	54,69,532	21,28,783	351
	1996-97	686	45,85,504	22,43,259	394
	1997-98	559	30,46,574	18,00,281	359
NE	1995-96	593	22,90,571	3,86,546	81
	1996-97	519	21,64,300	2,20,035	94
	1997-98	347	27,46,167	6,37,959	94

1	2	3	4	5	6
NF	1995-96	1124	56,71,375	1,44,561	63
	1996-97	1055	68,80,370	3,58,551	126
	1997-98	943	68,13,422	1,80,457	89
SR	1995-96	611	27,73,436	3,96,653	90
	1996-97	365	12,82,968	89,860	64
	1997-98	238	8,76,985	1,72,760	47
SC	1995-96	207	5,68,915	5,29,828	55
	1996-97	216	11,66,370	5,38,129	89
	1997-98	239	14,02,819	6,75,472	121
SE	1995-96	900	45,85,232	7,50,017	282
	1996-97	690	45,06,837	7,01,358	193
	1997-98	393	21,33,746	4,82,491	193
WR	1995-96	662	30,49,465	4,24,995	179
	1996-97	515	29,50,577	13,70,675	193
	1997-98	275	16,23,987	5,23,629	139
Total	1995-96	8237	3,96,04,819	71,22,714	1764
	1996-97	6669	3,82,23,717	82,78,340	1872
	1997-98	5332	3,35,03,990	97,66,834	1530

Statement-II***Details of Action Taken Against the Persons Found Responsible
During 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98***

Rlys.	Years	Persons arrested	Prosecuted	Deptt. Action	Convicted	Acquitted	Pending Trial
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CR	1995-96	225	225	—	87	7	131
	1996-97	285	285	—	59	6	220
	1997-98	216	216	—	19	3	194
ER	1995-96	438	438	—	—	—	438
	1996-97	434	434	—	—	—	434
	1997-98	272	272	—	—	—	272
NR	1995-96	351	351	9	95	4	243
	1996-97	394	394	1	81	—	312
	1997-98	359	359	2	78	—	279
NE	1995-96	81	80	1	20	—	60
	1996-97	94	94	—	9	—	85
	1997-98	94	94	—	10	—	84
NF	1995-96	63	63	—	—	—	63
	1996-97	126	126	—	—	—	126
	1997-98	89	89	—	—	—	89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SR	1995-96	90	90	—	—	—	90
	1996-97	64	64	—	—	—	64
	1997-98	47	47	—	—	—	47
SC	1995-96	55	55	—	37	8	10
	1996-97	89	89	—	24	3	62
	1997-98	121	121	—	34	2	85
SE	1995-96	282	282	—	—	—	282
	1996-97	193	193	—	—	—	193
	1997-98	193	193	—	—	—	193
WR	1995-96	179	179	—	82	1	96
	1996-97	193	193	—	46	—	147
	1997-98	139	139	—	46	—	93
Tot.	1995-96	1764	1764	10	321	20	1413
	1996-97	1872	1872	1	219	9	1643
	1997-98	1530	1530	2	187	5	1336

[*Translation*]

Tata Project

*69. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Tata Ne Airlines Prastav Vapas Liya" published in 'Dainik Jagran' dated September 2, 1998;

(b) if so, the complete details of the case mentioned therein;

(c) whether the proposal has been lying pending with the Union Government for the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it would give a wrong signal to the investors;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to have a fresh look into the matter; and

(g) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In February, 1995, M/s Tata Industries had submitted a proposal for 40% foreign equity participation by M/s Singapore Airlines to operate scheduled air transport services. The proposal was not approved as it was not within the policy on foreign equity participation in the domestic air transport services which prohibited equity investment by foreign airlines, directly or indirectly.

Again in December, 1997 the Company had submitted a proposal for foreign equity of 40% in M/s Tata Airlines Pvt. Ltd. by issue and allotment of shares upto a maximum of Rupee equivalent of US\$ 83.00 million (about Rs. 332 crores) to Foreign Institutional Investors. The proposal also involved technical collaboration by M/s Singapore Airlines and envisaged a fleet of 18 aircraft in 5 years. The Technical Services Agreement Fee amounted to US\$ 49.25 million (about Rs. 197 crores) to be paid over 5 years. While the proposal was under consideration, on 1st September, 1998 the Company withdrew the proposal.

(e) to (g) The Government has not rejected the proposal. M/s Tata Industries have withdrawn the proposal on their own. Unless a proposal is again submitted by the Company, the question of having fresh look does not arise.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Air India

*70. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restrict Government's equity in the Air India to sixty per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the companies to whom the remaining equity is likely to be given and the details of norms and basis to be followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Disinvestment Commission in its VIIIth Report has recommended restructuring/disinvestment in Air India. The main recommendations of the Commission are as under:—

(i) Infusion of Government equity of Rs. 1000 crores and finally bringing down the Government share holding in Air India to 40%.

(ii) Induction of a strategic partner holding 40% equity on the basis of global bids.

(iii) 10% equity to be offered to the domestic institutional investors and 10% to retail investors and employees.

The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Transparency

*71. SHRI K.S. RAO :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided in principle to permit public to see files in his Ministry;

(b) if so, whether the above decision has been kept in abeyance by the Cabinet;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in order to bring transparency in deeds Government propose to permit public to see files in all Departments/Ministries; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Minister for Urban Affairs and Employment had decided in principle, on 10th October, 1998 to permit public to see files in this Ministry.

(b) to (e) The Government has decided that implementation of the above decision may be kept in abeyance till a uniform policy applicable to all the Ministries and Departments is evolved.

Uneconomic Units of SAIL

*72. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI has recommended closure of uneconomic units of SAIL;

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

(c) whether SAIL has approached the Government for financial restructuring of the company; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) have, in their report, inter-alia, concluded that Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) should consider business solutions as a long-term strategy for improving operations and enhancing returns such as rationalisation/divestment of idle or non-core assets, divestment from unrelated/non-core operations and of loss making units etc.

(c) and (d) Based on IDBI's recommendations on financial restructuring, SAIL has approached the Government for its financial restructuring which primarily envisages relief from Steel Development Fund (SDF) loan/ Government of India loan towards writing down of fixed assets to the extent of interest capitalized, writing-off of loans and advances given by SAIL to IISCO, etc. The proposal is under consideration.

[*Translation*]

Mining Plans for Small Mines

*73. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments are authorised to approve mining plans for small mines;

(b) whether the Union Government are considering to simplify the procedure for submitting mining plans for such mines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Mineral Concessions are granted under the provisions of

the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules framed thereunder. Section 5(2) (b) of the Act, inter-alia, provides that no mining lease shall be granted by the State Government unless it is satisfied that there is a mining plan duly approved by the Central Government for the development of mineral deposits in the area concerned. The State Governments are not authorised to approve any mining plan for major minerals (minerals other than minor minerals notified under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

Simplified format and guidelines for preparation of mining plan for small mines are already in vogue.

Investment of Foreign Companies in Mining

*74. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals received from foreign companies for investment in the mining sector;

(b) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has sanctioned some proposals in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the mineral-wise and metal-wise areas selected in this regard;

(d) the amount of investment likely to be made under each to these proposals; and

(e) the details of foreign companies which have started mining work by November, 1998, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) From September, 1992 to November, 1998, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), in consultation with the Department of Mines, has approved 50 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment in the Mining/Metallurgical sector. The likely investment in these cases will be about Rs. 3149 crores. Most of these proposals speak only about their investment plans and do not specify the minerals or the area where it would like to operate. It is not mandatory for an applicant company to specify the mineral or area/State where they would like to operate. The approval granted by FIPB is only for foreign equity participation in a Company incorporated in India and does not in any way confer a right on the company to begin prospecting/mining operations. After obtaining FIPB approval these companies are required to apply to the concerned State Governments, which are the owners of

minerals in their respective territorial jurisdictions, for mineral concessions under the Mines & Minerals [Regulation & Development] Act, 1957. Prior approval of the Central Government is required only in respect of Minerals in the First Schedule to this Act and in cases of aerial prospecting. In accordance with section 5(1) (a) of the Act, only an Indian national or a Company as defined in sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956, can undertake mining operations in the country.

[English]

Konkan Rail Service

*75 SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the highly unsatisfactory nature of the Konkan rail service from Mumbai to Kerala because of considerable delays, outdated and insufficient number of coaches etc.;

(b) if so, the facts and reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) It is a fact that the punctuality of trains running between Mumbai and Kerala over the Konkan Railway has not been satisfactory. On the Konkan Railway the trains have been consistently losing time in both the directions. The delay in running and consequent loss of punctuality is primarily due to a large number of geo-technical problems being encountered as a result of the just concluded heavy monsoon. Konkan Railway is taking necessary steps to remove the restrictions which had to be put in force to ensure safety, after completing the necessary works. These problems are expected to be resolved shortly and restrictions on this account would be removed and the punctuality of trains on this sector is expected to improve thereafter.

The coaches forming the trains running on Konkan Railway are exactly the same as at present plying on the Indian Railways system and all the coaches are well within their economic life. Trains passing through Konkan Railway also serve other States of the country. On Konkan Railway a maximum number of 18 coaches can be run with a WDM-2 loco. The normal train composition is 16 coaches which is increased to 18 in the peak season.

All the long distance Mail/Express trains on the section serving Kerala except Netravati Express and Kurla-Mangalore Express have pantry cars. On Netravati Express also pantry car will be introduced shortly.

Passengers' Amenities Committee

*76. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELA :
SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has re-constituted the Passengers' Amenities Committee at the national level;

(b) if so, the objectives of the above said Committee;

(c) whether the said Committee has presented any report; and

(d) if so, the main suggestions of the Committee and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of setting up of the Committee is to check the passenger amenities provided at railway stations and on trains with special reference to the following aspects:—

(i) General cleanliness and environmental conditions.

(ii) Drinking water arrangements.

(iii) Facilities provided for dissemination of information to the passengers, like, Enquiry offices, public address system, indicator boards, etc.

(iv) Provision of lights, fans and other electrical amenities.

(v) Provision and maintenance of public conveniences like public lavatories, bathrooms, retiring rooms and waiting halls.

(vi) Provision of such conveniences as benches on platforms, wheel chairs, stretchers, luggage trolleys, etc.

(vii) Reservation and booking for passengers.

(viii) Security of passengers in carriages and at station premises.

- (ix) Losses in railway revenues.
- (x) Ensuring courtesy to passengers.
- (xi) Catering services.

(c) and (d) The Committee, after inspecting some stations, have sent inspection reports indicating the deficiencies noticed in the existing amenities and have made suggestions regarding running of Ladies Specials, improvement in drinking water arrangements, construction of retiring rooms, etc. The observations and suggestions of the Committee have been forwarded to the zonal railways concerned for taking remedial action.

[*Translation*]

**Sale of contaminated mineral water at
Railway Stations**

*77. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules under which the contracts for the supply of mineral water to passengers at railway stations and in trains and the period for which these contracts are given;

(b) whether the mineral water being sold at railway stations and in trains is tested regularly;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints in regard to supply of contaminated mineral water during the last two years;

(e) if so, the detail thereof;

(f) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(g) if so, the outcome of the inquiry and the action taken against the guilty persons/firms in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) As per the extant guidelines, contracts for supply of mineral water are awarded by each zonal railway following a process of tendering through press notifications. A committee of three senior officers finalise the contract which is normally for a year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. During the last two years, 28 complaints were received on all Indian Railways viz. 2 complaints each on Central, Eastern and one each on North Eastern and Northeast Frontier and 22 complaints on Northern Railway.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) On the basis of inquiry conducted the supply of four brands of mineral water has been discontinued and their contracts terminated. Besides fines were also imposed on the firms on the basis of complaints received.

Breakdown of Computer in 2000

*78. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the computers will breakdown at the end of the century because of the Millenium bug or Y2 bug and thus the Civil Aviation programme will completely collapse and flying will become extremely dangerous; and

(b) if so, the preventive measures or back-ups the Civil Aviation Ministry has taken or proposes to take?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Necessary remedial measures are being taken by the concerned civil aviation organizations to make the systems Y2K-compliant and to keep a Contingency Plan in readiness to ensure continuity of Air Transport Operations during the millenium change-over.

Sales Tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel

*79. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI S.S. OWAISSI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sent proposal to the State Governments to abolish or reduce 'Sales Tax' on aviation turbine fuel to reduce the financial burden on domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States that have accepted this proposal and the reasons for not accepting the proposal by rest of the States?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 26th September, 1997, a letter was sent to the Chief Secretaries of all the

State Governments and Union Territories Administration, inter-alia, requesting for considering abolition of Sales Tax (ST) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

(c) Reply has been received from 13 State Governments and one Union Territory Administration which is summarised below:—

State Govt./U.T. Admn.	Reply	
1	2	3
01. Andhra Pradesh :	Has exempted from payment of ST on ATF for airlines having passenger capacity of less than 50 and touching any airport other than Hyderabad in that State;	
02. Maharashtra :	Has exempted all the domestic airlines from payment of ST on ATF for operating to places other than Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad in that State for the period 1.6.1996 to 31.1.2001 and Span Aviation (M) Pvt. Ltd. for operating to any place in the State other than Mumbai for the period of 1.4.1997 to 31.3.2002.	
03. Madhya Pradesh :	Has exempted only air taxi operators;	
04. Mizoram :	Has not started imposition of ST on ATF;	
05. Nagaland :	Has no objection to abolish ST on ATF;	
06. West Bengal :	Is not in favour of abolition of ST on ATF but is considering waiver of Sales Tax for M/s Bengal Air Services Ltd;	
07. Andaman & Nicobar Island Admn :	Has not levied ST on ATF.	
08. Assam :] Have not agreed to abolish ST on ATF mainly	
09. Delhi :		
10. Haryana :		

1	2	3
11. Manipur :] on account of resource crunch.	
12. Rajasthan :		
13. Tamil Nadu :		
14. Tripura :		

Water Shed Development

*80. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPOLYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to merge existing three watershed programme presently being run by different departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether States are demanding regularisation of Central earmarking norms for watershed developments; and

(d) if so, the action proposed by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Committee constituted to consider the merger of various schemes under the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment regarding watershed development has submitted its report recommending:—

(i) Combined Watershed Development Programme by merging Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Projects (IWDP) and entrusting to the Department of Wastelands Development for implementation.

(ii) Funds earmarked for DPAP, DDP and IWDP scheme should be transferred to the common pool for combined Watershed Development Programme.

(iii) Rupees 100 crores should be transferred out of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) fund under Central Share to the combined watershed development programme.

(c) and (d) The Government of Madhya Pradesh desired that the cost of a Watershed Project in both the Eco-Systems viz. Semi Arid and Dry Sub-Humid Areas

under DPAP should be the same i.e. Rs. 20.00 lakhs instead of the present cost of Rs. 15.00 lakhs in case of Dry-Humid Areas and Rs. 20.00 lakhs in Semi Arid Areas. The proposal has not been accepted as differential cost norms have been fixed in DPAP for different Eco-systems based on the extent of moisture stress, vegetation cover, problems of soil erosion and receding ground water.

The Government of Rajasthan proposed that there should be no separate funding of projects exclusively for Sand Dune Stabilisation and Shelter Belt Plantation as these activities do not fit into the present strategy of developing small watersheds of 500 hectares. The proposal has been accepted and in ten districts of the State which are facing the problem of shifting Sand Dunes, 50% funds allocated under DDP to the districts will now be exclusively utilised on projects for Sand Dunes Stabilisation and Shelter Belt Plantation.

Land Reclamation

691. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of principles and guidelines considered at present by the Union Government for land reform in the country;

(b) the details of present land-man relation in the rural area; and

(c) the guidelines issued from the Centre in 1950s and 1960s to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The policy and principle of management of land including controlling the rights in or over land, land tenure including the relation of landlord and the tenant and the collection of rent, transfer and alienation of agricultural land, land improvement, colonization etc. being subject matter under exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments as per Entry No. 18 of List II, VIIth Schedule of the Constitution, the Central Government has only played advisory and coordinating role in the matter of land reforms since Independence. In 1950s and 1960s, the Planning Commission in its Document specified certain objectives to be achieved through various legislative and administrative measures to be taken by the State Governments. As a matter of national consensus, the programme of reclamation of interim rights and introduction of family ceiling on agricultural holdings were introduced during 1950s and 1960s. However, the quantum of land allowed to be retained and treatment

towards the tenants/sharecroppers remained different in different parts of the country. It has always been left to the best judgement of the States to decide on the relation of tenant and landlord, ceiling on agricultural holdings of different categories of land and even the legal approach towards alienation of tribal land. Therefore, the present land-man relation in rural areas is different in different parts of the country.

Air Intrusion

692. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of Pakistan Military aircraft violating international air space norms along the Indo-Pakistan border has been increasing;

(b) if so, the number of times the Pakistan violated this norm during this year, month-wise; and

(c) the action initiated from Indian side thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The IAF has observed that there has been no appreciable change in number of violations of Indian air space by the Pakistan Military Aircraft. However, there has been increase in committing breaches of the bilateral agreement of Prevention of Air Space Violations by Pakistan. The month-wise details are attached as statement.

(c) These incidents are taking up with the Pakistan Government conveying our deep concern and impressing upon it the need to take steps to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

Statement

Month-wise Details of Breach of Air Agreement by Pak Aircraft

Sl. No.	Month	No. of Incident
1	2	3
1.	January 98	15
2.	February 98	09
3.	March 98	08
4.	April 98	03

1	2	3
5.	May 98	07
6.	June 98	05
7.	July 98	09
8.	August 98	03
9.	September 98	04
10.	October 98	08
11.	November 98 (upto 26 Nov. 98)	04

Violations of Indian Airspace by Pak Aircraft

Sl. No.	Month	No. of Incident
1.	January 98	01
2.	March 98	01
3.	May 98	01
4.	July 98	01
5.	August 98	01

Note : By and large, the above violations have been of very minor nature.

Construction of Staff Quarters

693. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office building and the staff quarters of the East Coast Railway zonal head quarter at Bhubaneshwar have not been constructed so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Adequate land for office buildings and staff quarters has not yet been made available at Bhubaneshwar.

(c) The Target for construction will depend upon availability of land from the State Government and the resource position.

[Translation]

Fund Utilised for Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission

694. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 60 percent of the amount of rural development is utilised for the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission;

(b) if so, the district in Bihar where this mission is functioning; and

(c) the amount allocated for projects under this mission to each State during the year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Rural Water Supply is the State subject. State Governments have been implementing Rural Water Supply Programmes under State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government through Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Rural Water Supply schemes are being implemented in all districts of Bihar.

(c) A statement giving amounts allocated to each State under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is attached.

Statement*Amount Allocated to States Under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)*

(Rs. in Crores)

State/UT	Allocation		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	60.270	66.180	79.640
Arunachal Pradesh	10.920	12.000	14.440
Assam	18.450	20.260	24.380
Bihar	70.990	77.950	93.800
Goa	1.700	1.890	2.270
Gujarat	38.500	41.970	49.870
Haryana	23.120	24.410	27.360
Himachal Pradesh	12.150	13.310	15.960
Jammu & Kashmir	33.620	36.880	44.310
Karnataka	55.440	60.870	73.250
Kerala	28.190	30.950	37.240
Madhya Pradesh	66.730	73.270	88.170
Maharashtra	80.230	88.100	106.020
Manipur	4.010	4.400	5.290
Meghalaya	4.300	4.720	5.680

1	2	3	4
Mizoram	3.070	3.370	4.060
Nagaland	4.220	4.220	4.220
Orissa	31.590	34.680	41.730
Punjab	10.060	11.050	13.300
Rajasthan	97.390	103.870	118.630
Sikkim	3.720	3.720	3.720
Tamil Nadu	47.790	52.470	63.140
Tripura	3.800	4.180	5.030
Uttar Pradesh	111.820	122.780	147.750
West Bengal	43.170	47.400	57.040
A & N Islands	0.440	0.250	0.125
D & N Haveli	0.250	0.150	0.125
Delhi	0.290	0.300	0.050
Lakshadweep	0.120	0.000	0.125
Pondicherry	0.300	0.200	0.150
Daman & Diu	0.150	0.100	0.125
Total	366.800	945.900	1126.900

[English]

Upgradation of Guwahati Airport

695. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work to upgrade the Guwahati Airport into an International Airport is not progressing as per the schedule as mentioned in the news appeared in 'N.F. Times' dated September 20, 1998; and

(b) if so, the reason for the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Initially the expansion/modification of the domestic terminal building was planned as Model Airport. There was delay in the execution of this work. This work was awarded in April, 1993 and was scheduled to be completed in May, 1995. The work could not be completed due to the unsatisfactory progress shown by the previous contractor and the work has rescinded in March, 1996. The balance work was awarded in November, 1996. The revised scheduled date for expansion and modification of the construction of an international terminal building and extension/strengthening of runway will be taken up during the year 1999-2000.

The delay was mainly due to following reasons:

- Non availability of construction material due to ban imposed by Supreme Court for quarrying from the forest area;
- Disturbed condition in the region; and
- Inclement climatic conditions.

Enforcement of Code of Disciplines on the Contractors

696. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contractors of CPWD generally leave their raw/waste material at roads after the completion of work causing traffic inconvenience and major accidents;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any code of discipline in this regard to ensure smooth and safe traffic; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against such contractors/persons found guilty for such act of negligence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) CPWD Contractors generally remove the raw/waste material after completion of work.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, clause 8 of Standard Form of Contract and CPWD Safety Code which are part of CPWD Contracts, are attached as statement which enjoin the contractors for site clearance after completion of work to protect the public from inconvenience and accidents. Where site conditions so demand, additional conditions are provided in the contract for that work for ensuring smooth and safe traffic. In case of violation of contract conditions, action against the contractor is taken in terms of contract.

Statement

Standard Form of Contract

Clause 8

Completion Certificate and Completion Plans:

With ten days of the completion of the work, the contractor shall give notice of such completion to the Engineer-in-Charge and within thirty days of the receipt of such notice the Engineer-in-Charge shall inspect the work and if there is no defect in the work shall furnish the contractor with a final certificate of completion, otherwise a provisional certificate of physical completion indicating defects (a) to be rectified by the contractor and/or (b) for which payment will be made at reduced rates, shall be issued. But no final certificate of completion shall be issued, nor shall the work be considered to be complete until the contractor shall have removed from the premises on which the work shall be executed all scaffolding, surplus materials, rubbish and all huts and sanitary arrangements required for his/their work people on the site in connection with the execution of the works as shall have been erected or constructed by the contractor(s) and cleaned off the dirt from all wood work, doors, windows, walls, floor or other part of the building, in upon, or about which the work is to be executed or of which he may have had possession for the purpose of the execution thereof, and not until the work shall have been measured by the Engineer-in-Charge. If the contractor shall fail to comply with the requirements of this Clause as to removal of scaffolding, surplus materials and rubbish and all huts and sanitary arrangements as aforesaid and cleaning off dirt on or before the date fixed for the completion of work, the Engineer-in-Charge may at the expense of the contractor remove such scaffolding, surplus materials and rubbish etc., and dispose of the same as he thinks fit and clean off such dirt as aforesaid, and the contractor shall have no claim in respect of scaffolding or surplus materials as aforesaid except for any sum actually realised by the sale thereof.

CPWD Safety code

1. Suitable scaffolds should be provided for workmen for all works that cannot safely be done from the ground, or from solid construction except such short period work as can be done safely from ladders. When a ladder is used an extra mazdoor shall be engaged for holding the ladder and if the ladder is used for carrying materials as well suitable footholds and hand-hold shall be provided on the ladder and the ladder shall be given an inclination not steeper than one fourth to one (.25 horizontal and 1 vertical.).

2. Scaffolding of staging more than 3.6 m (12ft.) above the ground or floor, swung or suspended from an overhead support or erected with stationary support shall have a guard rail properly attached or bolted, braced and otherwise secured at least 90 cm. (3 ft. high above the floor or platform of such scaffolding or staging and extending along the entire length of the outside and ends there of with only such opening as may be necessary for the delivery of materials. Such scaffolding or staging shall be so fastened as to prevent it from swaying from the building or structure.

3. Working platforms, gangways and stairways should be so constructed that they should not sag unduly or unequally, and if the height of the platform or the gangway or the stairway is more than 3.6 m (12 ft.) above ground level or floor level, they should be closely boarded should have adequate width and should be suitably fastened as described in (2) above.

4. Every opening in the floor of a building or in a working platform shall be provided with suitable means to prevent the fall of person or materials by providing suitable fencing or railing whose minimum height shall be 90 cm. (3 ft.).

5. Safe means of access shall be provided to all working platforms and other working places. Every ladder shall be security fixed. No portable single ladder shall be over 9 m. (30 ft.) in length while the width between side rails in rung ladder shall in no case be less than 29 cm. (11 1/2") for ladder upto and including 3 m. (10 ft.) in length. For longer ladders this width should be increased at least 1/4" for each additional 30 cm. (1 foot) of length, Uniforms step spacing of not more than 30 cm shall be kept. Adequate precautions shall be taken to prevent danger from electrical equipment. No materials on any of the sites or works shall be so stacked or placed as to cause danger or inconvenience to any person or the public. The contractor shall provide all necessary fencing and lights to protect the public from accident and shall be bound to bear the expenses of defence of every suit,

action or other proceedings at law that may be brought by any person for injury sustained owing to neglect of the above precautions and to pay any damages and cost which may be awarded in any such suit, action or proceedings to any such person which may, with the consent of the contractor, be paid to compensate any claim by and such person.

6. Excavation and Trenching—All trenches 1.2 m. (4 ft.) or more in depth, shall at all times be supplied with at least one ladder for each 30 m. (100 ft) in length or fraction thereof ladder shall extend from bottom of the trench to at least 90 cm. (3 ft) above the surface of the ground. The side of the trenches which are 1.5 m. (5 ft) or more in depth shall be stepped back to give suitable slope or securely held by timber bracing, so as to avoid the danger of sides collapsing. The excavated materials shall not be placed within 1.5 m. (5 ft) of the edges of the trench or half of the depth of the trench whichever is more. Cutting shall be done from top to bottom. Under no circumstances undermining or undercutting shall be done.

7. Demolition—Before any demolition work is commenced and also during the progress of the work.

- (i) All roads and open areas adjacent to the work site shall either be closed or suitably protected.
- (ii) No electric cable or apparatus which is liable to be a source of danger or a cable or apparatus used by the operator shall remain electrically charged.
- (iii) All practical steps shall be taken to prevent danger to persons employed from risk of fire or explosion or flooding. No floor, roof or other part of the building shall be so overloaded with debris or materials as to render it unsafe.

8. All necessary personal safety equipment as considered adequate by the Engineer-in-Charge should be kept available for the use of the person employed on the site and maintained in a condition suitable for immediate use, and the contractor should take adequate steps to ensure proper use of equipment by those concerned. The following safety equipment shall invariably be provided.

- (i) Workers employed on mixing asphaltic materials, cement and lime mortars shall be provided with protective footwear and protective goggles.
- (ii) Those engaged in white washing and mixing or stacking of cement bags of any material which is injurious to the eyes shall be provided with protective goggles.

- (iii) Those engaged in welding works shall be provided with welders protective eyeshields.
- (iv) Stone breaker shall be provided with protective goggles and protective clothing and seated at sufficiently safe intervals.
- (v) When workers are employed in sewers and manholes, which are inactive use; the contractors shall ensure that the manhole covers are opened and ventilated atleast for an hour before the workers are allowed to got into the manholes, and the manholes so opened shall be cordoned off with suitable railing and provided with warning signals or boards to prevent accident to the public. In addition, the contractor shall ensure that the following safety measure are adhered to:
- (a) Entry for workers into line shall not be allowed except under supervision of the JE or any other higher officer.
- (b) At least 5 to 6 manholes upstream and downstream should be kept open for at least 2 to 3 hours before any man is allowed to enter into the manhole for working inside.
- (c) Before entry presence of Toxic gases should be tested by inserting wet lead acetate paper which changes colour in the presence of such gases and gives indication of their presence.
- (d) Presence of Oxygen should be verified by lowering a detector lamp into the manhole. In case, no Oxygen is found inside the sewer line, workers should be sent only with Oxygen kit.
- (e) Safety belt with rope should be provided to the workers. When working inside the manholes such rope should be handled by two men standing outside to enable him to be pulled out during emergency.
- (f) The area should be barricaded or cordoned off by suitable means to avoid mishaps of any kind. Proper warning signs should be displayed for the safety of the public whenever cleaning works are undertaken during night or day.
- (g) No smoking or open flames shall be allowed near the blocked manhole being cleaned.
- (h) The malba obtained on account of cleaning of blocked manholes any sewer lines should be immediately removed to avoid accidents on account of slippery nature of the malba.
- (i) Workers should not be allowed to work inside the manhole continuously. He should be given rest intermittently. The Engineer-in-Charge may decide the time upto which a worker may be allowed to work continuously inside the manhole.
- (j) Gas masks with Oxygen Cylinder should be kept at site for use in emergency.
- (k) Air-blowers should be used for flow of fresh air through the manholes. Whenever called for portable air blowers are recommended for ventilating the manholes. The Motors for these shall be vapour proof and of totally enclosed type. Non sparking gas engines also could be used but they should be placed at least 2 metres away from the opening and on the leeward side protected from wind so that they will not be a source of friction on any inflammable gas that might be present.
- (l) The workers engaged for cleaning the manholes/sewer should be properly trained before allowing to work in the manhole.
- (m) The workers shall be provided with Gumboots or non sparking shoes bump helmets and gloves non sparking tools safety lights and gas masks and portable air blowers (when necessary). They must be supplied with barrier cream for anointing the limbs before working inside the sewer lines.
- (n) Workmen descending a manhole shall try each ladder stop or rung carefully before putting his full weight on it to guard against insecure fastening due to corrosion of the rung fixed to manhole well.

- (o) If a man has received a physical injury, he should be brought out of the sewer immediately and adequate medical aid should be provided to him.
- (p) The extent to which those precautions are to be taken depend on individual situation but the decision of the Engineer-in-Charge regarding the steps to be taken in this regard in an individual cases will be final.
- (vi) The Contractor shall not employ men and women below the age of 18 years on the work of painting with products containing lead in any form. Wherever men above the age of 18 are employed on the work of lead painting, the following precaution should be taken:
- (a) No paint containing lead or lead products shall be used except in the forms of paste or ready made paint.
- (b) Suitable face masks should be supplied for use by the workers when paint is applied in the form of spray or a surface having lead paint is dry rubbed and scraped.
- (c) Overalls shall be supplied by the contractors to the workmen and adequate facilities shall be provided to enable the working painters to wash during and on the cessation of work.
9. An additional clause (viii) (i) of Central Public Works Department Safety Code (iv) the Contractor shall not employ women and men below the age of 18 on the work of painting with product containing lead in any form. Wherever men above the age of 18 are employed on the work of lead painting the following principles must be observed for such use:
- (i) white lead, sulphate of lead or product containing these pigment, shall not be used in painting operation except in the form of pastes or paint ready for use.
- (ii) Measures shall be taken, wherever required in order to prevent danger arising from the application of a paint in the form of spray.
- (iii) Measures shall be taken, wherever practicable, to prevent danger arising out of from dust caused by dry rubbing down and scraping.
- (iv) Adequate facilities shall be provided to enable working painters to wash during and on cessation of work.
- (v) Overall shall be worn by working painters during the whole of working period.
- (vi) Suitable arrangement shall be made to prevent clothing put off during working hours being spoiled by painting materials.
- (vii) Cases of lead poisoning and suspected lead poisoning shall be notified man shall be subsequently varified by medical man appointed by competent authority of CPWD/PWD (DA).
- (viii) CPWD/PWD (DA) may require, when necessary medical examination of workers.
- (ix) Instructions with regard to special hygienic precautions to be taken in the painting trade shall be distributed to working painters.
10. When the work is done near any place where there is risk of drowning, all necessary equipments should be provided and kept ready for use and all necessary steps taken for prompt rescue of any person in danger and adequate provision, should be made for prompt first aid treatment of all injuries likely to be obtained during the course of the work.
11. Use of hoisting machines and tackle including their attachments, anchorage and supports shall conform to the following standards or conditions:
- (i) (a) These shall be good mechanical construction, sound materials and adequate strength and free from patent defects and shall be kept repaired and in good working order.
- (b) Every rope used in hoisting or lowering materials or as a means of suspension shall be of durable quality and adequate strength, and free from patent defects.
- (ii) Every crane driver or hoisting appliance operator, shall be properly qualified and no person under the age of 21 years should be in charge of any hoisting machine including any scaffolding winch or give signals to operator.
- (iii) In case of every hoisting machine and of every chain ring hook, shackle swivel and pulley block used in hoisting or as means of suspension the safe working load shall be ascertained by

adequate means. Every hoisting machine and all gear referred to above shall be plainly marked with the safe working load. In case of a hoisting machine having a variable safe working load each safe working load and the condition under which it is applicable shall be clearly indicated. No part of any machine or any gear referred to above in this paragraph shall be loaded beyond the safe working load except for the purpose of testing.

- (iv) In case of departmental machines, the safe working load shall be notified by the Electrical Engineer-in-Charge. As regards contractors machines the contractors shall notify the safe working load of the machine to the Engineer-in-Charge whenever he brings any machinery to site of work and get it verified by the Electrical Engineer concerned.

12. Motors, gearing, transmission, electric wiring and other dangerous parts of hoisting appliances should be provided with efficient safeguards. Hoisting appliances should be provided with such means as will reduce to the minimum the risk of accidental descent of the load. Adequate precautions should be taken to reduce to the minimum the risk of accidental descent of part of a suspended load becoming accidentally displaced. When workers are employed on electrical installations which are already energised, insulating mats, wearing apparel, such as gloves, sleeves and boots as may be necessary should be provided. The worker should not wear any rings, watches and carry keys or other materials which are good conductors of electricity.

13. All scaffolds, ladders and other safety devices mentioned or described herein shall be maintained in safe condition and no scaffold, ladder or equipment shall be altered or removed while it is in use adequate washing facilities should be provided at or near places of work.

14. These safety provisions should be brought to the notice of all concerned by display on a notice board at a prominent place at work spot. The person responsible for compliance of the safety code shall be named therein by the contractor.

15. To ensure effective enforcement of the rules and regulations relating to safety precautions the arrangements made by the contractor shall be open to inspection by the Labour Officer or Engineer-in-Charge of the department or their representatives.

16. Notwithstanding the above clauses from (1) to (15) there is nothing in these to exempt the contractor from the operations of any other Act or Rule in force in the Republic of India.

Closure of Ukhali Railway Station

697. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close Ukhali Railway Station in Gangakhed of District Parbhani under South Central Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any requests have been received by the Government against this decision; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ukhali halt station was closed w.e.f. 15.9.1998 due to poor patronage.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The representation has been considered and reopening of this halt has not been found justified.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Level Crossings

698. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of level crossing at Ramghat road in Aligrah (U.P.) has been started for which the necessary sanction had already been accorded;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) An interlocked level crossing No. 109A already exists on east end of Aligarh Station.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Rail Bus Accident at Level Crossings

699. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an engine of a goods train hit the rear portion of Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation bus at an unmanned level-crossing at Bothalapalem in Nalgonda district on September 25, 1998;

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

(c) the number of persons killed/injured therein;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome therefrom; and

(f) the steps being taken to control the unmanned level-crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 25.9.1998, at about 8.05 hrs., Diesel Light Engine collided with one bus at unmanned level crossing between Vishnupuram and Miryalaguda stations of Vijayawada Division, South Central Railway. This accident occurred due to negligence on the part of bus driver.

(c) In this accident 19 persons were killed and 35 injured.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Enquiry Committee has concluded that this accident occurred due to failure on the part of bus driver to take precaution as laid down under section 131 of the Motor Vehicle Act before negotiating the level crossing.

(f) Following steps have been taken to control the unmanned level-crossing accidents:

(i) Warning Boards are provided on both the sides at unmanned level crossing to warn road users.

(ii) Whistle Boards are provided on both the sides alongside the track to enable the train driver to whistle, and in this case, the engine driver sounded the whistle/horn continuously while crossing the level crossing.

(iii) The visibility of level crossing is kept clear.

(iv) Ambush checks at all unmanned level crossings conducted periodically.

(v) Wide publicity given through print media, television, display of slides in cinema halls, issuing of posters and holding meetings with local bodies to create awareness among the road users.

Frequency of Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express

700. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests to make Rajdhani Express running between Nizamuddin and Trivandrum, daily; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Some representations have been received in this regard. These were examined. Increase in the frequency of the Trivandrum Rajdhani Express is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints at present.

Demolition of Govt. Quarters at Aliganj, New Delhi

701. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to demolish the Government quarters at Aliganj;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to shift the allottees of such quarters to other Government colonies before demolishing the Quarters;

(d) whether the quarters lying vacant in Aliganj have become the den of anti-social elements; and

(e) if so, the steps likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 822 Type I quarters at Aliganj are being demolished in phases under the re-development scheme. Under this proposal new quarters will be constructed after demolition of the old ones subject to availability of resources.

(c) Quarters will be demolished on their vacation by the allottees.

(d) 90 quarters are reported to have come under unauthorised encroachment.

(e) Police authorities have been requested to get unauthorised quarters vacated.

[*Translation*]

War Museum in Delhi

702. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to set up a 'War Museum' in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the era from which the history of defence is likely to be exhibited there;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed and the estimated cost thereof;

(e) whether the work has already been started; and

(f) if not, the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) 1. There is a proposal to set up a National War Museum on 32 acres of land at Dhaulta Kuan.

2. Necessary clearance for the construction of National War Museum at the said land is being obtained from the Delhi Development Authority. After the clearance is obtained, conceptual and architectural design will be prepared. The cost of the project and the time frame for

the completion of the project will be worked out only after the preparation of conceptual and architectural design.

Drinking Water Schemes

703. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes of drinking water have been sent by the State Government of Bihar to the Union Government for approval; and

(b) if so, the details of the decisions taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Powers to sanction and implement individual rural water supply schemes have been delegated to the State Governments. As such no proposal has been sent by Government of Bihar for the approval of the Union Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Implementation of Traditional Professions

704. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are implementing any centrally sponsored scheme for promoting traditional professions such as Fishery, Tannery, Pottery and other rural professions in Rajasthan and making these professions commercially viable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to implement long-term programme in collaboration with the State Government for such profession; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment implements two Schemes for the benefit of the rural poor viz., Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). Both these schemes are being implemented in the entire country including the State of Rajasthan. SITRA covers all the traditional rural artisans

below the poverty line including potters and cobblers but other than weavers, tailors, needle workers and beedi-workers. Fishermen can be covered under IRDP.

(b) Under the scheme of SITRA rural artisans below poverty line are provided improved toolkits with the objective to enable rural artisans to enhance the quality of their products, increase their production and income with the use of improved tools. The average cost of a toolkit is Rs. 2,000/- for hand-driven tools and Rs. 4,500/- for power-driven tools. The unit cost is to be fixed by the respective DRDA. 90% of the cost of toolkit is subsidy from the Government of India and remaining 10% is contributed by the beneficiary.

Under IRDP rural poor are provided with productive assets in the shape of term credit and Government subsidy to have sustainable income generation.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

SC/ST Employees in Air India

705. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of staff of Air India and strength of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees among them;

(b) whether there is any backlog of reserved vacancies for SCs/STs;

(c) if so, the details thereof, post-wise;

(d) whether the Air India propose to fill up these posts through special recruitment drive; and

(e) if so, the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) As on 31st March, 1998, the total strength of Air India is 18751 including 4164 SCs and 1096 STs.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Details are as under:

Group	SC	ST
A	18	14
B	17	31
C	01	05
D	02	47

(d) and (e) Presently, there is a freeze on recruitment in non-operational categories in Air India. Necessary steps are taken by Air India to fill up reserved vacancies, whenever recruitment is to be made in operational categories.

[Translation]

Urbanisation of Villages

706. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages in Delhi urbanised by the Government so far; and

(b) the number of villages proposed to be urbanised in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The total number of urbanised villages in Delhi as reported by MCD, Delhi Cantonment Board and NDMC are as under :—

MCD	—	135 villages
Delhi Cantt. Board	—	6 villages
NDMC	—	1 village

(b) MCD and DDA have reported that 15 and 68 villages respectively are proposed to be urbanised.

Policy for Foreign Companies for Domestic Operator

707. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Union Government in regard to operating domestic air services by the foreign companies; and

(b) the details of foreign companies with whom an agreement has been signed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) In accordance with the existing policy 100% NRI/OCB equity and 40% foreign equity participation in the domestic air transport service is permissible. However, equity from foreign airlines, directly or indirectly, is prohibited.

(b) The Government has not signed any agreement with any foreign company in this regard.

[English]

Air India Staff at Foreign Stations

708. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH :
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign countries and foreign stations vis-a-vis the Air India officers/staff posted from India;

(b) whether Air India has a policy of such foreign postings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) : According to the policy guidelines, officers/staff are considered for foreign posting mainly in the order of their seniority and keeping in view their job experience and consistently good service record.

List of stations/regions where officers/staff of Air India have been posted is attached as statement.

Statement-I

Details of the Station/Region

Station	Region
1	2
New York	USA/Canada
Chicago	
Washington	
Los Angeles	
London	United Kingdom
Manchester	

1	2
Amsterdam	Europe
Copenhagen	
Frankfurt	
Rome	
Milan	
Paris	
Brussel	
Prague	
Johannesburg	Africa
Dar-es-Salaam	
Nairobi	
Lagos	
Lusaka	
Entebbe	
Mauritius	
Dubai	Gulf & Middle East
Abu Dhabi	
Bahrain	
Dhahran	
Doha	

1	2
Jeddah	
Kuwait	
Muscat	
Riyadh	
Hong Kong	Far East
Bangkok	
Osaka	
Tokyo	
Jakarta	South East Asia
Kuala Lumpur	
Singapore	
Sydney	Australia
Auckland	
Moscow	Russia
Tel Aviv	Israel

Staff Strength of Indian Airlines

709. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees in Indian Airlines during the financial years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1997-98, cadre-wise; and

(b) the total percentage of wage expenditure and allowances in relation to the operating expenses incurred

by Indian Airlines separately during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION : (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The details of total number of employees, category-wise, as on 31st March, 1995, 31st March, 1996 and 31st March, 1998 are attached as statement.

(b) The percentage of Expenditure on Pay & Allowances including PF & Gratuity to the total expenses for the financial years ending 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1997-98 are as under:—

Year	1994-95	1995-96	1997-98
Percentage(%)	13.1	18.3	21.6

Statement

S. No.	Category	31.03.1995	31.03.1996	31.03.1998
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Executives			
	(i) Pilots	119	107	92
	(ii) Engineers	192	252	263
	(iii) Flight Engineer	7	3	3
	(iv) General Officers	150	191	232
2.	Line Pilots	348	310	311
3.	Flight Engineer	31	32	35
4.	Ground Instructors	22	20	17
5.	Cabin Crew	1028	999	978
6.	Aircraft Engineer	756	693	661

1	2	3	4	5
7.	General Officers	1558	1501	1417
8.	Technicians	3205	3233	3060
9.	Non-technical	7979	7786	7572
10.	Others (Grade 1/2)	6574	6436	6359
Total		21969	21563	21000

NERAMAC

710. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC), a Central Public Undertaking, has been declared sick;

(b) whether the corporation has submitted any revival plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (d) The details are being collected from Ministry of Food Processing Industries and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indo-Pak Discussion

711. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan have held discussions in Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, the subjects discussed therein and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) A meeting between Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan was held in New Delhi on 6th Nov. 98 to resolve the Siachen issue. In the meeting, discussions were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. The two sides stated their respective positions on the issue. It was agreed to continue discussions on the issue during the next round of the dialogue process.

Appointment to Former Boxing Champion in Railways

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that a former Bengal champion had represented Eastern Railway in the 43rd Inter Railway Boxing Championship in 1987 on the assurance of getting employment in Railways;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that the Central Administrative Tribunal in 1993 in its judgement directed Eastern Railway to consider the former Bengal Champion's application immediately and grant him suitable job from the sports quota; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in providing him appointment inspite of the judgement of CAT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) One non-Railway Boxer, Shri Biswajit Paul, was allowed to participate on behalf of Eastern Railway in the Inter-Railway Boxing Championship at Chennai in 1987-88 only to adjudge his performance.

(b) and (c) Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Calcutta in their orders dated 19.2.1996 & 18.3.1997 had directed Railways to consider the above said Boxer for appointment against sports quota, if found suitable. Accordingly, his case was examined and it has been decided to appoint him in a Group 'D' post after the necessary medical examination.

[Translation]

National Social Financial Assistance Scheme

713. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced any scheme named as National Social Financial Assistance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount made available to different State Governments under the said scheme;

(d) whether all the State Governments have not implemented this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister in his broadcast to the Nation on 28th July, 1995 announced that National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) with its three components i.e. (i) National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), (ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and (iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) would come into effect from 15th August, 1995.

(b) The NSAP is a Centrally sponsored programme under which 100% Central assistance is provided to the States/U.Ts. The objective of the programme is to give financial assistance to old persons having little or no regular means of subsistence, to households below the poverty line in case of death of the primary breadwinner and to pregnant women of households living below the poverty line up to first two live births.

Benefit given under the NOAPS is Rs. 75/- per month per beneficiary. The age of the applicant (male or female) should be 65 years or higher. The applicant must be a destitute in the sense of having little or no regular means of subsistence from his/her own sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources.

Under the NFBS, Rs. 10,000/- is paid to the bereaved family in case of death of the primary breadwinner. The primary breadwinner (male or female) has been defined for the purpose of the Scheme, as a member whose earnings constitute substantially to the total household income. The death of such a primary breadwinner should have occurred when he or she is in the age group of 18 to 64 years. The bereaved household should be living below the poverty line.

The rate of benefit under the NMBS is Rs. 500/- per pregnancy up to the first two live births. The applicant should be 19 years of age and above. The beneficiary should belong to a household living below the poverty line.

The NSAP is implemented through the assistance of the Panchayats and Municipalities all throughout the country.

(c) The total amount made available so far by the Central Government to the different States for the NSAP Schemes is given in the Statement.

(d) All the State Governments have been implementing the NSAP Scheme.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Statement on Availability of fund for the NSAP Schemes

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No	States/UTs	National Old Age Pension Scheme				National Family Benefit Scheme				National Maternity Benefit Scheme			
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	2593.74	4315.02	4327.75	2214.89	1334.93	2238.12	2211.43	1911.54	746.75	1205.32	1191.30	984.60
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4.68	2.02	15.26	1.94	1.71	2.03	5.52	1.06	1.95	0.06	1.72	0.78
3	Assam	195.83	340.17	333.25	193.79	188.21	212.30	309.62	123.09	87.79	145.47	99.64	23.28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
4.	Bihar	2109.72	4275.06	4766.66	4599.49	1090.36	583.17	1114.26	584.84	572.00	679.55	490.54	236.43
5.	Goa	6.09	9.94	7.73	12.87	3.37	10.19	5.72	6.50	2.60	0.08	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	441.19	828.57	369.99	286.92	222.33	7.26	0.00	20.89	118.25	3.74	3.48	4.26
7.	Haryana	208.75	349.48	274.96	205.13	45.72	36.62	53.92	21.28	35.72	64.14	61.33	13.04
8.	Himachal Pradesh	64.56	85.55	97.79	67.28	11.95	11.57	20.67	10.15	13.42	8.00	23.36	2.65
9.	J&K	147.86	225.45	138.24	69.16	27.30	62.48	26.74	19.11	30.80	36.05	26.02	10.09
10.	Karnataka	870.28	3873.75	1771.37	1953.66	383.69	12.49	18.91	25.03	237.96	7.54	162.90	4.73
11.	Kerala	354.55	1045.03	815.67	977.61	90.57	205.51	198.89	245.82	64.88	86.35	64.18	46.16
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2736.86	3650.81	4870.56	3364.12	823.85	2246.82	2596.08	2346.59	457.80	400.74	386.55	325.53
13.	Maharashtra	1380.46	128.27	2423.45	2485.29	606.69	36.74	683.57	463.57	361.76	11.44	299.81	141.54
14.	Manipur	9.65	48.86	33.69	0.00	3.42	14.41	9.85	0.00	4.07	20.41	14.09	0.00
15.	Meghalaya	9.06	63.27	34.07	13.91	3.27	2.61	9.78	7.50	3.74	3.17	11.36	6.08
16.	Mizoram	3.86	18.85	21.72	34.45	1.70	5.78	6.64	5.73	1.58	8.01	7.86	1.11
17.	Nagaland	13.31	42.86	37.18	4.98	3.53	8.64	5.01	1.29	5.59	19.99	12.06	2.10
18.	Orissa	764.08	2578.35	2650.36	1572.42	510.69	224.11	690.34	666.22	240.08	435.53	286.06	270.00
19.	Punjab	202.23	338.35	170.82	74.65	37.38	124.62	62.82	38.54	25.48	28.11	9.13	9.77
20.	Rajasthan	552.07	978.28	495.33	385.77	266.89	24.97	252.66	158.96	202.67	6.51	83.57	71.13
21.	Sikkim	3.85	11.30	6.72	26.97	1.67	2.26	2.23	0.00	0.94	1.53	2.34	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
22	Tamilnadu	2179.81	2573.19	3629.66	1924.75	1130.00	1357.93	1758.69	845.12	563.60	571.21	368.65	266.32
23	Tripura	29.47	73.49	124.32	96.12	10.40	25.90	39.63	33.41	12.34	30.62	35.96	36.77
24	Uttar Pradesh	5727.83	9019.54	8676.49	5977.22	3147.28	2221.30	1452.17	1493.25	1777.92	2416.16	1111.56	380.14
25	West Bengal	976.31	2104.54	2431.37	2185.65	531.09	966.50	206.88	56.89	274.49	529.17	199.23	90.08
26	A & N Islands	1.68	0.05	0.00	0.00	1.69	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.02	0.00	0.00
27	Chandigarh	0.00	9.79	2.92	0.00	0.00	1.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
28	D & N Haveli	0.85	1.43	1.41	0.00	1.65	2.92	4.29	0.00	0.29	0.48	0.71	0.00
29	Daman & Diu	0.52	0.95	0.94	0.94	1.48	2.92	2.86	1.44	0.18	0.24	0.04	0.00
30	NCT Delhi	0.00	90.63	177.84	88.92	0.00	32.06	31.46	15.73	0.00	37.68	0.00	0.00
31	Lakshadweep	0.30	0.48	0.47	0.00	1.62	2.81	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.01	0.00	0.00
32	Pondicherry	4.16	0.13	21.06	14.04	1.68	0.06	1.42	1.43	1.78	0.06	4.44	1.48
Total		21614.62	37381.85	38629.05	28842.93	10486.11	10686.22	11760.21	9084.98	5847.13	6757.44	4857.96	2958.07

[English]

National Policy for Senior Citizens

714. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
 SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH :
 SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO :
 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the total number of senior citizens;

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

(c) whether the Government are considering to lay down a National Policy for senior citizens;

(d) if so, the broad features of the contemplated policy; and

(e) the decision since taken on the new policy indicating its salient features?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the latest census, the population of persons aged 60+ was 56.68 million in the country in 1991. The State-wise details are given in the attached statement.

(c) to (e) A National Policy for Older Persons is under consideration of the Government in the Ministry of

Social Justice and Empowerment. The policy will seek to ensure the well being of older persons by attending to their financial security, health care, shelter, welfare and other developmental needs. The policy will be adopted based upon and subject to consultations with different Departments of the Central Government, various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations as well as experts in the field.

Statement

Persons aged 60+, India, States and Union Territories, 1991

1. Andhra Pradesh	4,510,929	16. Nagaland	63,777
2. Arunachal Pradesh	37,560	17. Orissa	2,280,956
3. Assam	1,194,460	18. Punjab	1,590,059
4. Bihar	5,408,629	19. Rajasthan	2,767,870
5. Goa	82,507	20. Sikkim	18,508
6. Gujarat	2,637,803	21. Tamil Nadu	4,161,819
7. Haryana	1,267,741	22. Tripura	193,295
8. Himachal Pradesh	420,003	23. Uttar Pradesh	9,546,943
9. Karnataka	3,142,708	24. West Bengal	4,115,573
10. Kerala	2,567,365	25. A & N Islands	9,546
11. Madhya Pradesh	4,389,202	26. Chandigarh	28,351
12. Maharashtra	5,510,128	27. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5,940
13. Manipur	111,105	28. Daman & Diu	6,327
14. Meghalaya	78,749	29. Delhi	439,520
15. Mizoram	33,186	30. Lakshadweep	2,639
		31. Pondicherry	58,440

Source : Registrar General of India, New Delhi. Excludes figures for Jammu & Kashmir in 1991 where Census was not conducted.

HUDCO Projects for Andhra Pradesh

715. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether HUDCO has cleared projects and funds released for construction of houses by Andhra Pradesh Police Housing Corporation, construction of houses in rural and urban areas and for urban infrastructure sector in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh Police Housing Corporation has decided to construct a number of Police Stations in various districts of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and the amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) HUDCO has sanctioned a total loan of Rs. 95.32 crores for housing & urban infrastructure projects to Andhra Pradesh Police Housing Corporation. Project-wise details alongwith loan sanctioned & loan released are attached as statement-I.

(c) and (d) HUDCO has sanctioned loan of Rs. 11.34 crores to Andhra Pradesh Police Housing Corpn. for construction of 168 Police Stations in 15 districts of Andhra Pradesh. The list of districts is attached as statement-II.

Statement-I

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Scheme Name	Project cost	Loan Amount	Loan Released	Dwelling Units
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Police HP at Kulsumpura at Hyderabad	34.00	30.00	30.00	234
2.	Police Housing Project at Mamnor Harangl	23.00	20.00	20.00	160
3.	Police HP at Malgalagiri (Guntur District)	36.00	30.00	30.00	273
4.	Police Staff Rental Hsg. Scheme at Hyderabad	117.70	82.00	82.00	234
5.	Pol. Rent. Hsg. Scheme for constn. at Mamnnoor	152.67	106.00	106.00	288
6.	Police Rental Hsg. Scheme Kurnool	176.15	123.00	123.00	312
7.	Pol. Rental Hsg. Sch. Yousufgud Arangareddy	143.34	89.00	89.00	296
8.	Staff Rent. Hsg. Sch. for SIAN Osrikakulam	107.01	43.00	43.00	58

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Rental Hsg. Sch. for Police, Vallivedu.	373.42	195.00	195.00	288
10.	Rental Hsg. Sch. for Police at Korittpadu.	162.99	77.00	71.85	96
11.	Rental Hsg. Sch. for Police, Manchirevula.	193.08	105.00	85.66	112
12.	Rental Hsg. Sch. for Police, Guntur Dist.	274.19	154.00	154.00	192
13.	Const. of Rehab. Centre School for Social Offend.	3435.14	2404.60	1200.00	0
14.	Constn. of 90 Staff Quarter for HC/PCS	117.42	82.19	77.53	90
15.	Constn. of 88 Staff Quarters for HS/PCS, CIS & SIS	131.10	91.77	81.01	88
16.	Constn. of 103 Staff Qtrs. for HC/PCS, CIS & SIS	166.54	116.50	107.28	103
17.	Constn. of 93 Staff Qtrs. for HC/PCS & SIS	131.40	91.98	86.54	93
18.	Constn. of 102 Staff Qtrs. for HC/PCS/SIS.	140.40	98.28	92.18	102
19.	Constn. of Rehab. Centre/School for SOCI.	3341.68	2514.02	1220.02	0
20.	Staff Rental Hsg. Sch. for HC/PCS at X Batallion	415.71	291.00	277.00	180
21.	Staff Rental HS. for Police, Const. at X Batallion	299.98	209.99	55.00	120

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Staff Rental HS for Head Constables & Police.	362.39	253.67	140.00	180
23.	Staff Rental HS XI Batallion, Cuddapah.	257.86	180.50	55.16	120
24.	Staff Rental HS at 21 Batallion.	398.41	278.88	60.40	231
25.	Staff Rental HS at Exteem IST Area Complex.	322.53	225.76	489.00	187
26.	Staff Rental HS at Exteem IST Area Complex.	265.60	185.92	40.30	154
27.	Staff Rental HS Police at Extermist Area Complex.	455.33	318.73	69.07	264
28.	Const. of Police Stn. LDC in 15 Dists. AP	1620.38	1134.00	—	0
TOTAL:		13655	9531.87	1979.88	4455

The project at Sl. No. 13, 19, & 28 are for Urban infrastructure projects.

Statement-II

*The District-Wise/Category-Wise Police Stations
Proposed are Given Below*

S. No.	District	Total No. of Police Station
1	2	3
1.	Srikakulam	6
2.	Visakhapatanam	11
3.	East Godavari	15
4.	Guntur	11
5.	Cuddapah	4
6.	Kurnool	3

1	2	3
7.	Warangal	16
8.	Khammam	19
9.	Karimnagar	15
10.	Adilabad	5
11.	Nizamagad	9
12.	Nalgonda	2
13.	Medak	22
14.	Hyderabad	8
15.	Rangareddy	12
Total		168

*[Translation]***Waste Land Development Programme**

716. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated under Waste Land Development Programme to the State Governments has been fully utilised;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount utilised by each State out of the allocated funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Department of Wastelands Development is implementing the Integrated

Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) Scheme. The IWDP projects are sanctioned to the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishads (ZPs) and Autonomous Agencies like Central Soil & Water Conservation Research & Training Institute (CSWCRTI) etc. The funds are released to DRDAs etc. on project to project basis. As no allocation of funds is made to the State Governments, the question of utilisation of funds by them does not arise. The DRDAs are implementing the projects on the basis of the Guidelines for Watershed Development, which are comparatively new and require active involvement of the community in planning, execution and monitoring of the projects. Community Organisation itself is a time consuming activity. Release of funds is a continuous process and funds cannot be utilised instantly. Hence, progress of work as well as utilisation of funds take considerable time.

(c) A statement indicating funds released to the District Rural Development Agencies/Zilla Parishads etc. in various States and the utilisation of funds reported by them is attached.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total funds released upto November, 1998 (Rs. in crores)	Utilisation of funds as reported by DRDAs/ZPs etc. (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	46.41	26.34
2.	Assam	0.37	0.00
3.	Bihar	12.09	9.46
4.	Delhi	0.15	0.00
5.	Gujarat	31.50	20.99
6.	Himachal Pradesh	13.23	9.26
7.	Haryana	12.50	12.86

1	2	3	4
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.46	1.03
9.	Karnataka	13.65	6.92
10.	Kerala	9.81	6.83
11.	Maharashtra	3.87	1.95
12.	Meghalaya	0.57	0.37
13.	Manipur	4.25	2.69
14.	Madhya Pradesh	16.80	7.10
15.	Mizoram	3.52	3.52
16.	Nagaland	11.97	11.04
17.	Orissa	17.29	10.24
18.	Punjab	7.78	7.42
19.	Rajasthan	25.51	20.10
20.	Sikkim	9.52	8.27
21.	Tamil Nadu	9.41	5.08
22.	Tripura	1.35	0.54
23.	Uttar Pradesh	33.02	21.80
24.	West Bengal	8.08	5.85
TOTAL		295.11	199.66

*[English]***Hoganekkal Drinking Water Scheme**

717. SHRI K.P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has agreed to provide assistance for implementing the Hoganekkal Drinking Water Scheme in Tamil Nadu;

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

(c) the details of the assistance likely to be provided by the Union Government for the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no Centrally sponsored programme under which assistance can be provided by the Union Government for the Hoganekkal Water Supply Scheme.

*[Translation]***Panchayat Elections**

718. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States, where Panchayat Elections have not been held of the last five years; and

(b) the action taken by the Union Government in regard to conducting of Panchayat Elections in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The following States have not held Panchayat Elections for the last five years; (1) Bihar (2) NCT Delhi (3) Pondicherry and (4) Goa (only Zilla Parishad).

(b) The State/U.T. Government concerned is responsible for the conduct of elections in consultation with the State Election Commission. The Union Government has however urged the State/UT Governments concerned to initiate action to hold Panchayat Elections expeditiously after overcoming the hurdles being encountered.

*[English]***Water Supply and Sanitation Programme**

719. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has provided any loan for water supply and environment sanitation projects especially for desert areas of Western Rajasthan;

(b) the details of projects sanctioned and the amount to be allocated, project-wise;

(c) whether the Government have approved any project for rural area of Barmer and Jaisalmer districts for providing drinking water out of World Bank assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No World Bank supported project is under implementation at this stage in Rajasthan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Defence Deal with Israel

720. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been facing technological control regimes due to international pressure in the defence sector;

(b) whether due to the pressure from U.S.A. the defence deal with Israel has not been materialised; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the Defence strategy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Over the years, many countries, including India have been the target of export control regimes.

(b) At present defence co-operation between India and Israel continues as hithertofore.

(c) Government is actively pursuing a policy of progressively increasing self-reliance in defence research and development and production as well as programmes of mutually beneficial defence cooperation with friendly countries.

APMC

721. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for revival of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of APMC; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal submitted by the State Government seeks financial assistance from the Central Government for providing infrastructural facilities in 78 APMCs @ Rs. 20.00 lakhs per APMC. The infrastructural facilities include shop-cum-godown, auction platform, approach roads, fencing, office building, water and sanitary facilities etc.

Delay in Construction & Allotment of MIG Flats

722 SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable delay in construction and allotment of MIG (SFS Category II) flats in Dwarka and Shalimar Bagh to the applicants who were declared successful by D.D.A. in the draw published on January 1, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these flats are likely to be ready for allotment to the applicants declared successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU

DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) DDA has reported that it has been stipulated in the brochure for 9th SFS, 1996 that where construction work is in progress in respect of flats which are being included in the Scheme it will take 1-2 1/2 years to complete the construction and compensation on account of delay, if any, will be payable for period beyond 2 1/2 years. 1498 flats in Dwarka and 530 flats in Shalimar Bagh were under construction and were taken up for allocation in the draw held on 31.12.96 and published on 1.1.97. Out of these, 1332 flats in Dwarka, where construction was completed, have already been allotted. The following flats, where construction is not complete, could not be allotted for the reasons mentioned below each of them:

(1) SECTOR-9, POCKET-1, DWARKA, NO. OF FLATS; 115

During the execution of the work the test pile failed and had to be redesigned.

(2) SECTOR-19, POCKET-1, DWARKA, NO. OF FLATS; 51

Keeping in view the slow progress of the work by the contractor, the work was rescinded and has been rearranged with the starting date as January, 1998.

(3) SECTOR-D, POCKET-A, SHALIMAR BAGH, NO. OF FLATS; 530

Being a low lying area prone to floods, the site had to be re-claimed by earth filling. Certain encroachments in parts had also to be cleared.

(c) In respect of the three schemes mentioned above, the likely date of completion is mentioned below:

	Likely date of completion
1. Dwarka Sector-9, Pocket-1	= March, 1999
2. Dwarka Sector-19, Pocket-1	= March, 1999
3. Shalimar Bagh, Sector-D, Pkt. A	
(a) 200 SFS (Group I)	= June, 1999
(b) 200 SFS (Group II)	= Dec. 2000
(c) 130 SFS (Group III)	= June, 2001

[*Translation*]

Ban on Smoking in Air India Flights

723. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to ban smoking in its flights to Europe, Britain and United States;

(b) if so, whether Air India also proposes to ban smoking in its flights to other countries as well; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Depending upon the market feedback regarding passenger preferences and the practice followed by competitors, Air India will consider introducing non-smoking flights progressively on other routes as well. No specific time frame can, however, be laid down for this purpose.

Airport at Ajmer

724. DR. PRABHA THAKUR :
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey for the construction of airport in Ajmer, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether approval to construct an air-strip in Saradhana village of Ajmer has also been accorded;

(c) if so, the progress made by the Department in this regard;

(d) whether the construction of an airport at Ajmer, this year on the occasion of 786 Urs of Khawaja Garib Nawaj, where lakhs of people from all over the world are likely to visit is not most appropriate; and

(e) if so, details of outlines of the proposal formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The question of setting up a new airport at Ajmer has been under examination. Since the Airports Authority of India's feasibility study indicates that the project is not financially viable the Planning Commission has been requested to provide full budgetary support.

[*English*]

Gold Deposits

725. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether significant gold deposits have been discovered in the Singhbhum region of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No significant gold deposits have been discovered in the Singhbhum region of Bihar so far.

(b) Question does not arise.

Out of Turn Allotment of DDA Flats

726. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA has allotted flats on out of turn basis in 1989 on the ground "not having a housing in Delhi" but rejected the requests of other applicants seeking such allotments;

(b) if so, the reasons for following discriminatory policies and whether there is any proposal to inquire into such matters and to allot the DDA flats now to those whose requests were turned down in 90s at the rates prevailing at that time;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there are cases where conveyance deed have not been sent to the allottees who have made the full payment of the flat to the DDA; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action being taken by the Government in the matter to complete the required formalities in a time bound programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. DDA has reported that before the year 1992 out of turn allotments of DDA flats were made by Lt. Governor, Delhi, in his capacity as Chairman, DDA, based on the merit of each case. Government issued guidelines in 1992 which were further amended in 1997, according to which applications for out of turn allotments are decided by an Empowered Committee comprising of Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment and the Lt. Governor, Delhi depending on the availability of flats. A person can apply afresh for having his case reconsidered for out-of-turn allotment of flat at current costs and as per the policy.

(d) There is no delay in issuing conveyance documents to allottees where demanded amount is deposited and nodal formalities are completed.

(e) In view of reply at (d) above, the question does not arise.

Linking of State Capitals with Delhi and other Metropolitan Cities

727. SHRIMATI BHAVANA DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State capitals are being connected with direct railway lines with Delhi and other Metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether the Gandhi Nagar in Gujarat will be directly connected by Railway lines to Delhi and other Metropolitan cities; and

(c) whether Budget provision has been made for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) All State capitals are linked by rail with Delhi and other metropolitan cities except Agartala, Aizawal, Imphal, Kohima, Shillong, Itanagar, Gangtok, and Srinagar.

(b) and (c) Gandhinagar in Gujarat is already linked by BG line to Ahmedabad and via Ahmedabad to Delhi and other metropolitan cities. The survey for bringing

Gandhinagar on Delhi-Ahmedabad main line is being updated. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Upgradation of Baroda Airport

728. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to upgrade the Baroda Airport for landing of larger aircraft and also providing night landing facilities;

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

(c) the time by which the work of upgradation is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Vadodara airport has been developed as a model airport with adequate facilities for operation of Airbus-320 class of aircraft in all weather conditions. The airport is also equipped with night landing facilities. Airports Authority of India has no plans for further upgradation of this airport.

Helicopter Service from Darbar Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

729. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a helicopter service from Darbar Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine to promote religious tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether regular helicopter services to Doda/Poonch/Rajouri are likely to be introduced; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited has plans to run helicopter services subject to viability on Jammu-Katra-Sanjichhat sector after the helipad, is being developed by Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at Katra, becomes available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Trans:ation]***Survey for Hazipur-Vaishali-Sugauli Rail Line**

730. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of Hazipur-Vaishali-Sugauli rail line has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work of above new line is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey report has revealed that the cost of the 143 kms. line would be Rs. 228 crs. Further action to be taken in this regard is under consideration.

*[English]***Earnings from Airports in Gujarat**

731. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of revenue is earned by the Government as well as the National Airports Authority of India from all the airports in Gujarat during each of the last two years, airport-wise;

(b) the number of flights of Indian Airlines and private airlines being operated in the State each year along-with the average percentage of passenger traffic thereon;

(c) whether Gujarat lags behind other States in respect of air services and is the most neglected State in this regard;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to link the airports in the State with long distance airline services during 1998-99; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Details are given in the attached statement.

(b) Details are as under:—

Year		No. of flights operated	Revenue Passangers carried
1996-97	Indian Airlines	4001	365000
	Private Airlines	2759	264110
1997-98	Indian Airlines	4615	389000
	Private Airlines	2914	281419

(c) No, Sir. Airports Authority of India maintains 8 airports and 2 civil enclaves in the State of Gujarat. Out of these, airlinks to other parts of the country have been provided from 7 airports and 2 civil enclaves. In addition, international services are also being operated from Ahmedabad Airport.

(d) and (e) In 1998, Alliance Air has linked Ahmedabad directly to Pune by thrice weekly B-737 service. Jet Airways has introduced services on sector Mumbai-Rajkot-Mumbai and Mumbai-Bhuj-Mumbai.

Statement

Revenue Earned		(Rs. in lakhs)	
Sl. No.	Name of Airport	1996-97 Revenue	1997-98 Revenue
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmedabad	1020.91	1177.49
2.	Baroda	224.27	281.06
3.	Bhavnagar	58.05	54.29
4.	Bhuj (Civil Enclave)	26.19	28.31
5.	Jamnagar (Civil Enclave)	22.02	33.78
6.	Kandla (Civil Enclave)	9.68	2.93

1	2	3	4
7.	Keshod	7.08	4.56
8.	Porbandar	26.84	8.58
9.	Rajkot	61.05	70.64
10.	Surat (State Government)	2.38	2.27

(Airport navigational and Communication facilities are provided by AAI)

Train Accidents

732. SHRI MADAN PATIL :
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY :
SHRI A.C. JOS :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) the details of train accidents/derailments including of Goods trains occurred during the last six months and till date, train/location/state wise;

(b) the causes of such accidents, accident-wise;

(c) the number of persons killed/injured in each of such accidents and the value of Government property damaged therein;

(d) the number of committees appointed to inquire into the causes of accidents during the said period;

(e) the important findings of the inquiry committees and the action taken by the Government on recommendation made by these committees;

(f) the amount of compensation given by the Government to the victims;

(g) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to improve safety and to check such accidents in future; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) The number of train accidents maintained Railway-wise during last six months (May to Oct. 1998*) are given here under.

Railway	Accidents	Derailments
Central Railway	30	24
Eastern Railway	18	13
Northern Railway	23	18
North Eastern Railway	09	08
Northeast Frontier Railway	14	12
Southern Railway	39	33
South Central Railway	33	26
South Eastern Railway	26	21
Western Railway	11	04
Metro Railway	—	—
Konkan Railway Corporation Limited	08	07
TOTAL	211	166

(b) The accidents were due to:

Human failure	—	133
Equipment failure	—	11
Sabotage	—	08
Other than Railway Staff	—	24
Other miscellaneous factors	—	35

(c) Casualty—(May to Oct.' 1998*)

Killed—157 & Injured—403

Damage to Govt. property is provisionally estimated at Rs. 28.25 Crores.

*Figures are provisional.

(d) and (e) Each of above accidents is inquired into by a committee of officers or Commissioner of Railway Safety depending upon the extent of damage. As per findings of the inquiry committee, the main causes of these accidents are human failure, equipment failure, sabotage and other miscellaneous factors. Action under 'Discipline and Appeal Rules' is initiated against the staff found responsible for these accidents.

(f) No compensation has so far been paid. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by Railway Claims Tribunal.

(g) and (h) Steps taken to bring down the incidence of train accidents are as under:

- (i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.
- (ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry has been carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.
- (iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.
- (iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.
- (v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometerse are progressively being used.
- (vi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (vii) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.
- (viii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

- (ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- (x) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.
- (xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.
- (xiv) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Modernisation of Steel Plants

733.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Public/Private/Foreign companies involved in the modernisation programme of various big Steel Plants in the country;
- (b) whether any foreign assistance was involved in the modernisation Programme of Steel Plants; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) There are many public/private/foreign companies involved in the modernisation programme of big steel plants in the country. The details are enclosed in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) No foreign equity investment was involved in the modernisation programme of these steel plants mentioned in the annexure to (a). However, foreign currency loan of DM 30 million and US \$ 17 million are involved in Phase-IV Modernisation Programme of Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd., Jamshedpur.

Statement

Sl. No.	Package	Company	Public/Private/ Foreign
1	2	3	4
Durgapur Steel Plant			
1.	Raw Material Handling Complex	KI (Krupp Industrie- technik, Germany)	Foreign
		TPE (Tiazpromexport, Russia)	Foreign
		HSCL	Public
		BTS	Private
2.	New Sinter Plant	TPE (Tiazpromexport, Russia)	Foreign
		HSCL	Public
		BTS	Private
3.	Blast Furnace Complex	TPE (Tiazpromexport, Russia)	Foreign
		HSCL	Public
		BTS	Private
		MDH	Foreign
		(Mannesmann Demag Huttentechnik, Germany)	
		Rautarukki, France	Foreign
4.	Basic Oxygen Furnace	TPE (Tiazpromexport, Russia)	Foreign
		BTS	Private
		MDH	Foreign
		(Mannesmann Demag Huttentechnik, Germany)	
		DODSAL	Private
5.	Continuous Casting Plant	CONCAST AG, Switzerland	Foreign
		L&T	Private

1	2	3	4
6 (a)	Rolling Mill Part-I	SPS (Simpelkampus Germany) ESCON	Foreign Private
6 (b)	Rolling Mill Part-II	H&K(G) (Hoestembeuge & Klutsch, Germany) H&K(I) (Hoestembeuge & Klutsch, India)	Foreign Private
7.	OPP. Bolani	HSCL	Public
8 (a)	Coke Oven	OTTO India	Private
8 (b)	By Product Plant	EPI Blue Star	Public Private
9.	Hot Metal Ladle Repair	Braithwaite	Public
10.	New Lime Calcination Plant	VULCAN	Private
11.	Plant Water Supply	EPI	Public
12.	Repair Shop & Instruments Store	HSCL	Public
13.	Power Distribution	ABB	Private
14.	Wheel & Axle Plant	HEC	Public
15.	Coal Washery	OTTO India	Private
16.	PPC Computer	PCS USIT	Private Joint Venture with SAIL

1	2	3	4
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Rourkela Steel Plant*Phase-I (Indigenous)*

1.	Mobile Eqpt. for RMHS	Elecon	Private
2.	Raw Material Handling System	EPI	Public
3.	Sinter Screening & Conveyorisation of Bfs (Except for Ore Conveyors for BF No. 4)	MECON	Public
4.	Cast House Slag Granulation Plant	EPI	Public
5.	Modification of Dolomite Brick Plant	MECON	Public
6.	Coal Handling Plant	Tata Robins Fraser	Private
7.	Tonnage Oxygen Plant	BHPV	Public
8.	Power Distribution System	Siemens	Private
9.	Combined Blowing in Converter 4&5 in SMS-I	Siemens Radex	Private Private

Phase-I (Global)

1.	Sinter Plant-II	TPE (Tiazpromexport, Russia) Simplex BHEL RPN	Foreign Private Public Public
2.	BOF Shop	TPE (Tiazpromexport, Russia) Mukand	Foreign Private

1	2	3	4
3.	CCM in SMS-II	MDH (Mannesmann Demag Huttentechnik, Germany) MECON	Foreign Public
4.	CCM in SMS-I	HEC SMS (Schloemann- Siemag, Germany)	Public Foreign
5.	Modification of PM&HSM	MDS (Mannesmann Demag Sack, Germany) BTS MECON Siemens, Germany Siemens, India	Foreign Private Public Foreign Private
<i>Phase-II (Indigenous)</i>			
1.	Raw Material Handling System	HEC	Public
2.	Partial Briquetting Plant	BEEKAY	Private
3.	Conveyors to & from SP-2	Braithwaite	Public
4.	New Calcining Plant	EPI	Public
5.	Relocation of Dividing Line	MECON	Public
6.	Oxygen Plant	BHPV	Public
7.	Medium Pressure Boiler Plant	IJT (Issgec John Thomson)	Private
8.	Power Distribution System	Siemens	Private

1	2	3	4
9.	Sizing Plant at Satna	BEEKAY	Private
10.	Ladle Repair Shop	Braithwaite	Public
11.	Mobile Eqpt. for RMHS	Elecon	Private
12.	Signalling & Voice Communication	Crompton Greaves	Private
13.	Tarkera Pump House	BSBK	Private
14.	Tarkera Intake Facilities	Gammon	Private
15.	Rehating Furnaces	EPI SH (Stein Heautey, France)	Public Foreign
Bokaro Steel Plant			
1.	Continous Casting	HSCL L&T ABB VAI, Austria (Voest-Alpine Industrieanlagenbau)	Public Private Private Foreign
2.	Reheating Furnace	HSCL MECON Italiampianti, Italy (Now Technit)	Public Public Foreign
3.	Hot Strip Mill & Coiler	ABB SMS (I) (Schloemann- Siemag, India) Simplex TGS (Tata Growth Shop) VAI, Austria (Voest-Alpine Industrieanlagenbau) SMS (AG), Germany (Schloemann- Siemag, Akiengesellschaft) GFA, Germany	Private Private Private Private Foreign Foreign Foreign

1	2	3	4
4.	Indigenous packages	HEC, Braithwaite, HSCL Siemens, Wellman, BSBK, NICCO, KPC, Telco, Philips, Ashok Leyland, etc.	Public Private
Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.			
1.	Coal Injection for BF	Klockner, Germany	Foreign
2.	Ladle Furance in LD-II	Demag, Germany VAI, Austria	Foreign
3.	Slab Caster	Davy, U.K.	Foreign
4.	Stamp Charging	S.I.P., Germany	Foreign
5.	Sharing Line	Bronx, U.K.	Foreign
6.	Blowing Metallurgy in LD-II	Thyssen, Germany	Foreign
7.	R.H. Degassing	Standard Messo	Foreign
8.	Scientific & Technical Exchanges	M.I.T., U.S.A.	Foreign
9.	Technical Collaboration for iron making	Nippon Steel, Japan	Foreign

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Cantonments in H.P.

734. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the matter of land acquisition to set up cantonments at Averi in Kullu district

of Himachal Pradesh and also in Una or Hamirpur districts of the State;

(b) whether any compensation has been given to the affected farmers/people in lieu of their land acquired for the said purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present status of the proposal of setting-up of the said cantonments?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Possession of the State Government land measuring 133 Bighas 12 Biswas (29 acres) in Village Kumsu of Simla Distt. has been taken over by Ministry of Defence on 09.09.94. In respect of private land measuring 1259 Bighas 16 Biswas in Village Averi Tehsil, an award of Rs. 10,18,99,548 has been paid by Ministry of Defence to the Land Acquisition Collector, Anni for disbursement to the ex-land owners. There is no proposal for acquisition of any land at Una or Hamirpur district in Himachal Pradesh at present.

(d) The present policy of the Government is to set up Military station and not Cantonment.

[English]

Terrorist outfits in N.E. Regions

735. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army authorities have stated that the North-East is the biggest trouble-spot of the country;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the ISI activities have also increased in these States; and

(c) if so, the remedial action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Keeping in view its strategic location as also the fact that a number of States in the region are affected by insurgency, the region is sensitive.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware of the ISI's activities in the region. All necessary measures are being taken.

Investigation against Top Defence Personnel

736. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
DR. RAVI MALLU :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ordered an investigation against top defence services personnel in Army, Air Force and Navy as reported in *The Hindustan Times* dated October 2, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the senior defence services personnel have protested against such move; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) There was some resentment over a perceived slight due to a routine security check carried out by the appropriate agencies in response to a letter which emanated from the Armed Forces calling for verification of names of persons scheduled to attend the Combined Commanders Conference which was addressed, among others, by Prime Minister and Raksha Mantri. This incident in no way affected the high esteem and regard with which the Chiefs of the Armed Forces and other Service personnel are held in the country.

Non-Implementation of Rural Programmes

737. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-implementation of several Government sponsored rural programmes are taking place in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of hurdles to implement the scheme like Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Marketing of products produced by DWCRA groups has been identified as one of the problems faced in the implementation of DWCRA programme. Forward and backward linkages are not adequate to implement the programme.

Inclusion of Railway Division in East Coast Railway

738. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway divisions originally proposed to be included in the newly formed East Coast Railway;

(b) the reasons for non-inclusion of those in the East Coast Railway;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to include the Waltair and Sambalpur in the East Coast Railway in future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) It was originally proposed to include Khurda Road, Waltair and Sambalpur Divisions in the newly formed East Coast Railway.

(b) and (c) The detailed territorial Jurisdiction of East Coast Railway has not yet been finalised.

(d) Does not arise.

Additional Funds to Steel Companies

739. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial institutions have decided to provide an additional funds to certain Steel Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any terms and conditions have been imposed by the financial institutions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the Steel Companies thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e)
The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Backlog of Reserved Posts

740. SHRI ANUPLAL YADAV :
SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ 341 dated May 28, 1998 and state:

(a) whether the information regarding backlog of SCs/ STs and OBCs posts has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the vacancies reserved for SC/ST and OBC have been filled up during the last six months, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) to (c) Information regarding backlog of 'Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes' and 'Other Backward Classes' posts in different categories which had been forwarded to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the consideration of the Committee on Government Assurances (Lok Sabha) on 16.9.1998 are as under:—

Details of backlog vacancies of SC/ST/OBC in different categories. Recruitment

Year	Group 'C'			Group 'D'		
	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC
1995-96	951	1010	926	1460	1886	1072
1996-97	788	878	711	1157	1779	705
1997-98	1014	1112	1418	739	1236	2692

Backlog of SC/ST/OBC cleared

Year	Group 'C'			Group 'D'		
	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC
1995-96	704	587	928	1067	1420	528
1996-97	961	810	1415	1084	907	853
1997-98	617	548	932	1207	1160	255

Accrual of vacancies and filling of the same is a continuous process.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Linking of Noida with Rail Network

741. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made so far in regard to link Noida (U.P.) with rail network;

(b) whether the Government have since received the survey report in this regard;

(c) if so, the date on which the Government have received the survey report; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) The survey has been taken up.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Survey is still in progress.

[English]

State Level Regulatory Bodies for Housing Sector

742. SHRI R.S. GAVALI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the States to set up State Level regulatory bodies for housing sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide fiscal concession for housing sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Instead the National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998 emphasises that the State Governments would liberalise the legal and regulatory regime to give a boost to housing and supporting infrastructure.

(c) The National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998 says that the Central Government would provide fiscal concessions for housing, infrastructure, innovative and energy saving construction materials and methods and also set up a regulatory mechanism to ensure that the concessions are correctly targetted and utilised.

(d) The fiscal concessions are provided year to year basis during the budget preparation. Concessions provided for 1998-99 Budget are as per statements enclosed.

Statement-I

Fiscal Concessions Allowed under Income Tax/Wealth Tax Acts to Promote Housing Activity

- Urban vacant land held, as stock-in-trade exempted from wealth tax for a period of seven years. (Section 2(ea) of Wealth Tax Act). (The existing facility was for five years).
- Rental properties exempted from wealth tax provided the property had been rented out for at least 300 days. (This concession has been allowed to promote rental housing).
- Against the suggestion for allowing deduction of 33% of rental income under section 24 I.T. Act. Deduction for repairs and collection charges has been increased from 20% to 25%. (Section 24 of Income Tax Act).
- Deductions for interest on borrowed capital in case of self occupied property have been

increased from Rupees Fifteen Thousand to Rupees Thirty Thousand. (Section 5 (VI) Income Tax Act).

- Carry forward of losses from House Property against future income under the same head allowed for Eight Years (Section 71 of Income Tax Act).
- Against the demand for deduction of full amount of rent paid in excess of 10% of total income for furnished or unfurnished residential accommodation for self occupation, Section 80 GG of Income Tax Act is being re-introduced.
- Against the demand for treating housing and construction activity as infrastructure for the purpose of tax holiday for companies under Section 80-1A of Income Tax Act, tax holiday has been allowed for approved housing projects-100% deduction from profits for first five years and 30% deduction for subsequent five years.
- Concessions given under Section 38(1) (VIII) available to HFIs for transferring 40% of their total income to special reserve has been allowed to be continued.

Statement-II

Recommended Changes in Rates of Excise Duty

S. No.	Description	Existing Chapter	Recommended Chapter	Comments
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ready mix concrete	13%	Nil	Accepted
2.	Resin bonded pultruded jute composite doors and window frames and shutters.	18%	Nil	Accepted
3.	Rubberwood and poplar wood based door and window frames and shutters.	18%	Nil	
4.	Goods in which more than 25% by weight of redmud, press mud or blast furnace slag or one or more of these materials have been used.	8%	Nil	Accepted

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Goods in which more than 25% by weight of flyash or phosphogypsum or both have been used.	8%	Nil	Accepted
6.	(a) Cement bonded particle boards	8%	Nil	Accepted
	(b) Jute particle boards	8%	Nil	
	(c) Rice-Husk boards	8%	Nil	
	(d) Glass fibre reinforced gypsum boards (CBC)	8%	Nil	
	(e) Sisal Fibre boards	8%	Nil	
	(f) Bagasse boards	8%	Nil	
7.	Prefabricate building elements and components comprising of concrete (solid or hollow), slabs, lintels, beams, stairs, and chajjas manufactured in a factory.	8%	Nil	**

**Detailed Tariff is to be studied for these recommendations.

Continuation of Previously Granted Exemptions to Building Materials and Housing Sector

Excise Duty.

1. Notification No. 4/97 dt. 1.3.97 General Exemption No. 66 serial No. 154, 155 and 159. **Accepted***
2. Notification No. 5/97 dt. 1.3.97 General Exemption No. 67, serial No. 66 and 119 with amendments as stated in A, B, C above.

Custom Duty.

1. Notification No. 11/97-Cus dated 1.3.97 General Exemption No. 121 Serial No. 117 Condition No. 70 List 5. **Accepted**

List 5 (See S. No. 132 of the Table)

- (i) Brick press with accessories like moulds, pallets, stackers, clamping devices or the like for fly ash sandlime brick capacity 3000-5000 bricks/hr. up and down stroke pressure 300-400 Kgs/sq.m.
- (ii) Flyash block making machine capacity 1000-2000 block/hr. with vibrators, mixer and accessories like moulds, pallets, stackers, clamping devices or the like.
- (iii) Mixer with bottom valve and outlet pipes for cellular concrete.
- (iv) Moulding equipment, cross cutting plant and longitudinal cutting plant, for cellular concrete.
- (v) Centering bridge for moulds.
- (vi) Moving grate sintering strand for light weight flyash cellular concrete.
- (vii) Purification plant including diaphragm, pump, vacuum filter, gas scrubber, for phosphogypsum.
- (viii) Flash calciner.
- (ix) Centrifuge for calcination equipment.
- (x) Partition panel plant.
- (xi) Moulds for phosphogypsum.
- (xii) Drier-cum-calciner.
- (xiii) Edge Runner Mill (for crushing and kneading of clay and Flyash Mixture output 15 to 40 tons per hour depending on the perforation of the grinding plates).
- (xiv) Pan Mixer (output 25 tons per hour).
- (xv) Double Shaft Mixer (for mixing of the material consisting of Clay and Flyash).
- (xvi) Vacuum Worm Press Extrusion machine (capacity of the press up to 36 tons of material per hour).
- (xvii) Mouth piece (for the above vacuum Worm Press with dimensions corresponding to the required type of Bricks or Blocks which will be produced).
- (xviii) Automatic Equipment (for cutting and handing of Bricks between the pressing shop and dryers).
- (xix) Plant & Machinery required for making hollow-core roofing/flooring units.
- (xx) Large-size plants for manufacturing of hollow and solid concrete blocks for walling.
- (xxi) Mechanised hydraulically operated Tunnel Form of Wall forms, Slabforms, Columnforms.
- (xxii) Large-size vibrating—beds with integrated curing and wiretensioning arrangements.
- (xxiii) Vibrating—distributors for speedy production of prefab building parts.
- (xxiv) Hydraulic presses for manufacturing pavement blocks.
- (xxv) Hydraulic heavy duty press for making Hollow and Solid Concrete Blocks.
- (xxvi) Foam Generating Equipment, spiral pumps and Foaming compound for light weight cellular concrete.
- (xxvii) Densified wood fibres plates for door shutters.

*[Translation]***Relaxation of Housing By-Rules**

743. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to relax the housing by-rules in the Capital; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The building norms in Delhi have been modified. Extracts from the notification No. K-12016/5/79-DDIA/VA/IB dated 23.7.98 amending the Master Plan for Delhi vis-a-vis the building norms is attached as statement.

Statement*Extracts from Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Sec 3, Sub-Sectioned-(ii), dated 23.7.98***Modifications**

1. On page 159 (right hand side) of Gazette of the India dated 1.8.90 and in supersession of the Notification dated 15.05.95, the table and footnotes under Residential Plot-plotted housing (001) are amended as follows:—

Sl No.	Area of Plot (Sq. Mt.)	Maximum Ground Coverage (%)	FAR	No. of DUs	Maximum Height (in Mtr.)
1.	Below 32	75	225	1	12.5
2.	Above 32 to 50	75	225	2	12.5
3.	Above 50 to 100	75	225	3	12.5
4.	Above 100 to 250	66.66	200	3	12.5
5.	Above 250 to 500	50	150	3(4)	12.5
6.	Above 500 to 1000	40	120	6(8)	12.5
7.	Above 1000 to 1500	33.33	100	6(8)	12.5
8.	Above 1500 to 2250	33.33	100	9(12)	12.5
9.	Above 2250 to 3000	33.33	100	12(16)	12.5
10.	Above 3000 to 3750	33.33	100	15(20)	12.5
11.	Above 3750	33.33	100	18(24)	12.5

Note:

Levy on the additional FAR to be allowed vide table above over the FAR allowed vide Notification dated 15.05.95, including the basement and/or development charges shall be charged at the rates as laid down in the Building Bye-laws or through Government orders and as revised from time to time.

(ii) In case of residential plots above 250 sq.mtrs. facing 24 metres and above road (a) the FAR shall be increased by the maximum ground floor coverage, (b) maximum height shall be 15 mtrs., and (c) the number of dwelling units shall be as given in brackets.

(iv) (a) BASEMENT:

(1) Basement in case of plotted development if constructed shall not be included in FAR.

(2) Basement area shall not exceed the ground floor coverage and shall be below the ground floor. Basement area may, however, be extended below the internal courtyard and shaft.

Rest of the footnotes i.e. (i) and (v) to (xi) of Notification dated 15.05.95 shall continue.

2. On page 160 (Left Hand Side) of the Gazette of India dated 1.8.90 under Residential Plot-Group Housing (002), the following amendments/additions are made:

Maximum FAR	167
Maximum height	33 mtrs.

NOTE:

Levy on additional FAR and/or development charges for additional FAR shall be charged at the rate as decided by the Government from time to time.

OTHER CONTROLS :

(i) The net housing density permissible shall be 175 DUs per ha. with a life variation on either side. This should be indicated in the Zonal Plan/Layout plan taking into consideration the gross residential density prescribed for the area. At the permissible level, maximum variation in density shall be 5%.

In case of Bungalow area (Part Division D) and Civil Lines are (Part Division C), any residential density in group housing pockets shall be prescribed on the basis of detailed scheme.

(iv) Additional FAR upto a maximum of 400 sq. mtrs. shall be allowed to cater to community needs such as community/recreational hall, creche, library, reading room and society office.

On page 155 (Left Hand Side) under usage/use activities permitted in use premises below Residential Plot-Group Housing (002) entry under creche and day-care centre will be replaced by the following:

Community/recreational hall, library, reading room and society office are permitted on the ground floor.

3. On page 166 (Left Hand Side) in the Gazette of India dated 1.8.90 under Professional Activity, the provision is replaced by the following:

Professional activity shall be allowed in residential plots and flats on any floor on the following conditions:

Part of the permises shall be permitted to be used upto a maximum of 25% of FAR or 100 sq. mtrs. whichever is less, for non-residential but non-nuisance activities for rendering service based on professional skills.

FARM HOUSES (135)

4. On page 164 (RHS) of the Gazette of India dated 1.8.90, the table will be replaced by the following:—

(i) Minimum size of the farm house	0.8 ha.
(ii) Maximum ground coverage	5%
(iii) Maximum FAR	5 (subject to maximum of 500 sq. mtr. irrespective of the size of the farm)
(iv) Number of storeys	two
(v) Maximum FAR	8 mtrs.

All constructions including basement, if any, will be counted towards FAR.

Land will be surrendered free of cost for circulation network and infrastructure requirements as per the layout plan by the land owners, allowing them the benefit of FAR on total area.

Levy on additional FAR over and above permitted *vide* Government of India, Gazette Notification dated 1.8.90 and/or development charges shall be charged at rates to be decided by the Government of India from time to time.

Loan from Steel Development Fund

744. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. and the Tata Steel Corporation Ltd. have received loans from the Steel Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date on which the above loan was received by both companies, separately;

(c) whether the above loan has been paid in stipulated time;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the name of companies responsible for breach of agreement; and

(e) the outstanding amount of above loan as on April 1998, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of loans disbursed to SAIL & TISCO (year-wise) are as under:

(Rs. in crores)		
Date (year of disbursement)	SAIL	TISCO
1	2	3
1979-80	160.00	—
1980-81	—	—
1981-82	240.24	60.00

1	2	3
1982-83	286.66	40.00
1983-84	238.09	—
1984-85	254.52	—
1985-86	300.97	30.00
1986-87	229.42	93.09
1987-88	203.85	92.01
1988-89	299.53	97.88
1989-90	459.41	91.50
1990-91	506.08	94.72
1991-92	583.48	121.61
1992-93	652.80	118.26
1993-94	736.12	150.14
1994-95	—	15.74
1995-96	—	91.86
1996-97	1134.33	118.15
1997-98	—	—
TOTAL	6285.50	1214.96

(c) The above loan has been disbursed in time.

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

(e) The loan amount outstanding as on 1.4.98, company-wise is as under:

Name of the Companies	Amount (Rs. in crores)
SAIL	4427.71
TISCO	884.20

Unauthorised Occupation at Nizamuddin Railway Station

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

(a) whether Nizamuddin railway station is fast turning into a shelter for vendors, porters and parcel staff; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove such unauthorised occupations from the railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, regular checks are conducted by the Ticket Checking staff in association with the Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police personnel to check the entry and movement of unauthorised hawkers, beggars, porters and other anti-social elements at major stations.

Loss of Airforce Planes

746. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian Air Force fighter planes have been lost or damaged in accidents in the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) to (d) In the last six months, (since May, 1998 to October, 1998) 12 fighter aircraft have been lost during flying accidents and two MIG-27 aircraft were damaged on ground. A Court of Inquiry is ordered by IAF in every accident to find out the cause of the accident and to recommend remedials to prevent recurrence. In most of the cases, it has been revealed that the cause of accidents in Human Error/Technical Defect.

Assistance to V.Os through CAPART

747. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance provided to Voluntary Organisations in North-Eastern States through CAPART during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and upto October, 1998, location-wise;

(b) whether any complaints have been received against these organisations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) A Statement showing the total financial assistance provided to Voluntary Organisations in North-Eastern States through CAPART during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and upto October, 1998 is attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Statement showing the total Financial Assistance provided to the Voluntary Organisations in North-Eastern States through CAPART during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and upto October, 1998

S. No.	State	Amount Released (in Rs.)		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (till Oct., 1998)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2973100.00	331715.00	110000.00
2.	Assam	4993830.00	5236594.00	2405871.00
3.	Manipur	8117276.00	3711946.00	3731248.00
4.	Meghalaya	137655.00	663700.00	—
5.	Mizoram	1000230.00	212256.00	99150.00
6.	Nagaland	625371.00	942381.00	102340.00
7.	Tripura	128902.00	608351.00	209465.00
	Total	17976364.00	11706943.00	6658074.00

[Translation]

Licences under the New Civil Aviation Policy

748. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of national and foreign companies permitted by the Government till date to operate in the domestic sector in the country under New Civil Aviation Policy;

(b) the parameters and conditions fixed for compliance by such companies;

(c) the names of routes fixed in the route schedule by these companies for operation;

(d) whether cases have been registered against the companies particularly Jet airways for violating rules of Directorate General of Civil Aviation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Only Indian companies are permitted to operate domestic air transport services. Apart from Indian Airlines, Alliance Air and Air India, the following private airlines have so far been permitted to operate domestic scheduled air services:—

1. M/s Jet Airways (India)
2. M/s Skyline-NEPC Ltd. (formerly M/s Damania Airways)
3. M/s NEPC Airlines
4. M/s Modiluft Ltd.
5. M/s East West Airlines
6. M/s Archana Airways
7. M/s Sahara India Airlines

However, out of the above private airlines only M/s Jet Airways, and M/s Sahara India Airlines are operational. M/s Archana Airways has suspended their operations temporarily.

(b) The operators are required to comply with the provisions of the Aircraft Act, 1935, Aircraft Rules, 1937 and Guidelines and Instructions issued thereunder from time to time.

(c) Routes are not fixed for any airlines. Airlines are free to operate on any route based on their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the route dispersal guidelines.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Appropriate action has been taken by DGCA whenever violation of rules by Airlines including M/s Jet Airways has come to notice.

Reservation Office at Kanpur

749. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down ticket and reservation office of Indian Airlines in Kanpur; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) As part of the cost cutting measures, a policy decision was taken to close down all the off-line stations/Booking Offices which were economically not viable. Cost benefit analysis carried out in respect of Kanpur station revealed that the station was incurring a loss of Rs. 1,17,745 per month. Therefore it was closed on 15th May, 1998.

[English]

Railway Projects

750. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to experts the projects proposed in Railway Budget for the North-East suffer from various drawbacks;

(b) whether the failure to include the section from New Jalpaiguri to New Bongaigaon under North-East Frontier Railway for double track is one of the major drawback; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to rectify the position so that this omission may not lead to serious traffic congestion in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The gauge conversion of New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon which will serve as a double BG line to the existing BG line, was included in the Budget 1997-98. The project has been considered by the Expanded Board and it would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearance of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Linking of Mahabalipuram with Chennai

751. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to rail link Mahabalipuram, a very important tourist centre in Tamil Nadu, with Chennai;

(b) if so, whether the feasibility study of the project has been undertaken; and

(c) if so, the time by which the rail link is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. Mahabalipuram is very well connected with Chennai by a National Highway which is adequate for meeting the needs of the tourist traffic.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Flights from Nedumbassery Airport (Kerala)

752. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work relating to the construction of a new airport of international standards at Nedumbassery near Cochin has been completed;

(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be cleared for operation of flights;

(c) whether the Cochin airport is with the Indian Navy;

(d) if so, whether the premises of the Cochin port being transferred to them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A new airport of international standards is being constructed at Nedumbassery, near Cochin by M/s. Cochin International Airport Limited. The construction work is likely to be completed by April, 1999, after which date, the question of licencing the airport for Civil flights will be considered.

(c) The existing Cochin Airport belongs to the Indian Navy.

(d) There is no such proposal.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Jobs to Apprentices Trained in Defence Institutes

753. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Supreme Court judgement given in 1995 in a case of trade apprentices trained in defence institutes that not providing jobs to the trained apprentices in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh is against the Government's aim to increase employment opportunities;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that thousands of such apprentices are still roaming jobless; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to implement the verdict of the Supreme Court in letter and spirits?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) This Ministry is not aware of any Supreme Court Judgement given in 1995 in the case of Trade Apprentices Trained in Defence Institutes.

2. However, Ministry of Labour *vide* their letter dated 15.3.96 has issued instructions to all Ministries/ Departments for compliance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement given in the case of U.P. State Road Transport Corporation Vs. U.P. Parivahan Nigam Shishukhs Berozgar Sangh and others. The judgement directs, *inter-alia*, that if there is a recruitment in any unit based on its functional requirements, preference should be given to the extrade apprentices in recruitment over other candidates. Accordingly, instructions have been issued to all Ordnance & Ordnance Equipment Factories to comply with directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court while recruiting trained trade apprentices.

3. Under the provisions of Trade Apprentices Act, 1961 as amended in 1973, each factory has to provide apprenticeship for a specific number of persons but no obligation is attached to the factory to absorb apprentices so trained. The trained trade apprentices are free to seek employment anywhere.

4. The induction of manpower depends upon functional requirement of a particular factory after considering various factors like current workload position, future target, wastages, etc. and preference is given to the trained trade apprentices in compliance with Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions.

[English]

Recommendations of K.P. Singh Deo Committee

754. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decisions has been taken on the recommendations of the K.P. Singh Deo Committee on Territorial Army, indicating the precise recommendations and the Government's response on each of them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay in taking the decisions?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Territorial Army Review Committee are presently at an advanced stage of consideration. While tentative conclusions have been reached in regard to the recommendations, final decisions thereon are likely to take some more time. The delay has been mainly due to the need for a series of consultations.

Development of Mangalore Airport

755. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the airports taken in hand by the Government for the development, modernisation and upgradation during the Eighth Plan;

(b) whether the Government propose to continue their efforts for modernisation, development and upgradation during the Ninth Plan;

(c) the funds earmarked for this purpose during the Ninth Plan;

(d) whether Mangalore airport and Bhagalpur airport (in Bihar) have been taken up for expansion; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The following airports were identified for the upgradation and modernisation in the 8th Plan period:

International Airports under modernisation :
(i) Calcutta, (ii) Chennai, (iii) Delhi, (iv) Mumbai and (v) Thiruvananthapuram.

Model Airports for upgradation : (i) Bhubneshwar, (ii) Calicut, (iii) Coimbatore, (iv) Guwahati, (v) Hyderabad, (vi) Indore, (vii) Imphal, (viii) Jaipur, (ix) Lucknow, (x) Nagpur, (xi) Patna, and (xii) Vadodara.

Other airports for upgradation : (i) Agra, (ii) Ahmedabad, (iii) Agartala, (iv) Aurangabad, (v) Bangalore, (vi) Bagdogra, (vii) Bhopal, (viii) Dimapur, (ix) Gwalior, (x) Jabalpur, (xi) Jodhpur, (xii) Khajuraho, (xiii) Lilabari, (xiv) Leh, (xv) Ludhiana, (xvi) Goa, (xvii) Mangalore, (xviii) Port-Blair, (xix) Rajkot, (xx) Tiruchirapalli, (xxi) Tirupathi, (xxii) Udaipur, (xxiii) Rajpur, (xxiv) Silchar, (xxv) Tezpur, (xxvi) Porbandar, (xxvii) Dibrugarh, (xxviii) Jammu, and (xxix) Srinagar.

Construction of New Airports : (i) Kargil, (ii) Lengpui, and (iii) Tura.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An amount of Rs. 3307.32 crores have been earmarked during 9th plan.

(d) and (e) Expansion of Mangalore Airport : Arrival block of Terminal Building has been expanded and modified at the cost of Rs. 1 crore for International Operations. AAI also have plans for the development of Mangalore Airport by constructing a new runway (South of the existing runway) and New Terminal Building with all Modern facilities. The existing runway cannot be extended because of deep drops at both ends. The State Government has been requested to handover 175 Acres of land for this purpose. AAI has already deposited Rs. 50 lakhs with the State Government for Land Acquisition and AAI shall prepare the estimates when land is taken over from the State Government.

Bhagalpur Airport : This airport belongs to the State Government of Bihar. AAI has no plans for its upgradation.

Import of Asbestos

756. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total reserves of Asbestos;

(b) the estimated value thereof;

(c) whether the mineral is included in the dereserved list;

(d) if so, the total number of Asbestos mines leased out;

(e) the total value of Asbestos imported annually;

(f) whether there is any increase in the Asbestos production during the last three years; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, the total recoverable reserves of asbestos of all varieties in India is placed at 9383 thousand metric tonnes (MT). Estimation of value of these asbestos reserves has not been carried out.

(c) No Sir. Asbestos is included in the First Schedule of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and prior approval of Central Government is required before the State Government can grant a prospecting licence or mining lease.

(d) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, as on 25.11.98 a total of 110 mining leases have been granted for asbestos in the country.

(e) The total import of asbestos was 81,924 metric tonnes (MT) valued at Rs. 145 crore in 1995-96 and 77,498 metric tonnes (MT) valued at Rs. 146 crores in 1996-97.

(f) and (g) Production of asbestos during 1995-96 was 23,844 MT, during 1996-97 it was 27,180 MT and during 1997-98 the production was 23,021 MT. Hence it is evident that during 1997-98 production of asbestos has decreased.

Development of Housing Sector in Urban Areas

757. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry for development of housing sector in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No such memorandum has been received recently;

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Supply of Wagons for Import of Sugar

758. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the over all position of Railway wagons in terms of present and projected demand of various essential commodities and action plan to meet the same;

(b) whether the Government have received a proposal for supply of more wagons to facilitate import of sugar from Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details of the existing arrangement in this regard and additional wagons sought; and

(d) the details of action taken/proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) There is no shortage of Railway Wagons in relation to the present as well as projected demand of various essential commodities. The assessment of wagons is an ongoing process and is done after detailed discussion with all users/ministries. For the Ninth Plan, Indian Railway (IR) plans to procure 1,75,000 Four Wheeler Units (FWUs) to meet a projected demand of 525 MT at the end of the Ninth Plan. During 1997-98, the first year of the Ninth Plan, 27,865 wagons (FWUs) have already been procured for fresh acquisition/replacement of wagons. This includes wagons procured under Own Your Wagon Scheme (OYWS), and Build, Own, Lease, and Transfer (BOLT) schemes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Wagons required to be loaded with sugar or any other commodity on Pakistan Railway (PR) are supplied by Pakistan Railway and normally these are PR wagons. After unloading in India, PR wagons are sent back either empty or loaded back to Pakistan. Similarly, for loading in our country, Indian Railways wagons are supplied and Pakistan Railway either returns them as empty or loaded with sugar or other commodities.

[Translation]

Cargo Services

759. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give licence to one other agency in the joint venture in addition to the Airports Authority of India to bring about competitiveness in the air cargo activities and for improvement in services at the airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said agency is likely to be given licence?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) A decision has been taken 'in principle' to set up a joint venture cargo terminal at Indira Gandhi International Airport for handling and warehousing air cargo, which would be managed by the private joint venture partner. The modalities of private participation and the land/infrastructure to be offered for the purpose are currently being worked out by a designated Committee in the Airports Authority of India. The licencing process is likely to be completed by March, 1999.

[*English*]

Revival of Tata International Airport Project

760. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a team of Karnataka Government officials met the Tata Group Chairman Mr. Ratan Tata during the last week of September 1998 with a draft memorandum of understanding in connection with the revival of the Rs. 1500 crores airport project near Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the result achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the information given by the Government of Karnataka, M/s Tata Industries and Government of Karnataka are presently reworking the viability of the project.

[*Translation*]

Leasing out of Railway Land

761. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total land lying vacant alongwith rail lines in the country, zone-wise;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to lease out the said land to landless people of the nearby villages for agricultural purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the land is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Zone-wise vacant railway land including along the railway lines is as under:

Railway	Vacant land (hectares)
Central	146
Eastern	2600
Northern	1828
North Eastern	4560
Northeast Frontier	2610
Southern	2040
South Central	8670
South Eastern	501
Western	1890
Total	24845

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Land is kept reserved for future developmental works. Land which is not immediately required, is used for plantation/afforestation purposes.

Seizure of RDX from Terrorists

762. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of RDX seized from the terrorists by the army during the last three months and the number of terrorists arrested with RDX; and

(b) the preventive steps taken to ensure that the terrorists don't bring RDX in the country in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A total of 1724 Kgs of explosives of various types including RDX has been seized from the terrorists during the period 19 August 98 to 19 November 98. It is not possible to indicate the exact quantity of RDX seized from each terrorist and the number of terrorists arrested with RDX as separate records are not maintained by the Army.

(b) Strict vigil is being maintained on the borders to prevent infiltration by the militants and smuggling. The Coast Guard ships and aircrafts are regularly patrolling the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone to curb any anti national activities. Several special operations, in coordination with various agencies have also been launched to check the infiltrators and illegal entry of arms and ammunition in India. The field formations of Customs and the Central Excise are also alert and vigilant to prevent smuggling of contrabands, including RDX.

[English]

Irregularity in Railway Stores

763. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the irregularities being committed by the stores controllers in the supply of store items under various Railway divisions;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also received some complaints in this regard during the last three years and current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for proper testing of the quality of various items of supply of stores; and

(f) the measures being taken to check the alleged irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (f) The Indian Railways spread throughout the length and breadth of the country make centralised procurement of specified high value items in Railway Board's office and of others in Zonal Railway Head Quarters. Purchases are also made against DGS&D Rate Contracts. Low value items or in emergent cases only purchases are also made at Divisional level. These purchases are made through an established tendering system, as per the laid down policy provided in the Indian Railway Code for Stores Department and instructions issued from time to time.

These procedures provide for adequate safeguards against irregularities. To ensure quality of materials, purchases are made according to specifications laid down for each item and the material is accepted from the supplies only after these are inspected by nominated inspecting agencies. Further, vital/safety/critical components are purchased only from established, reputed and approved sources to ensure quality.

Complaints against irregularities whenever received are examined at appropriate levels by the Executive or by the Vigilance Organisations of the Zonal Railways/ Railway Board. Suitable action, wherever warranted, is also taken by the competent authority. However, it would not be practically, feasible to accurately compile lists of complaints received in the last three years and the current financial year by all the Railway Divisions and other Railway offices.

[Translation]

Shortage of Officers in Defence Services

764. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the shortage of officers in each of the three Defence Services at present;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any plan to fill up the vacancies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The present shortage of Officers in respect of the three services is given below :—

Army	—	13271
Navy	—	1282
Air Force	—	770

2. Various measures have been initiated to make up the shortage in the officer cadre in the Army such as University Entry Scheme, exemption from appearing in the Combined Defence Services Examination for NCC 'C' certificate holders for induction as Short Service Commissioned Officer (SSCO), induction of women officers, promotion of serving JCOs/ORs into the Special Commissioned Officer (SCO) cadre, and introduction of 10 + 2 Technical Entry Scheme.

3. An Image Projection Campaign of the Army was launched during 1997-98 with the assistance of a professional advertising agency. The Government has decided to launch phase II of the Campaign to consolidate the gains already accrued. In the case of Navy and Air Force, the Government are making all out efforts to encourage induction of young people in Navy and Air Force by greater publicity in newspapers and media in order to get the best.

4. The Government has implemented the Fifth Central Pay Commission recommendations with improvements for Armed Forces personnel.

5. It is expected that the cumulative effects of all the measures will result in higher intake, making up the shortage to a considerable extent in the near future.

Shifting of Headquarter

765. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to shift the Headquarter of Kolhapur-Pune section under Hubli Division from Secunderabad to Mumbai under the Central Railway;

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

(c) the time by which the decision regarding shifting of Kolhapur-Pune section is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has decided to set up a Divisional office at Pune. The territorial re-adjustments between Zones and Divisions have not yet been finalised.

[English]

Air Fares

766. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the general criteria for fixing air fares to different foreign destinations from India and vice-versa;

(b) whether there is any difference in fares for some destinations in other countries from India in comparison to their distance in Kilometres; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The international air fares are established through IATA mechanism taking into consideration various factors like mileage, operating and other costs, capacity deployed, competition between carriers, elasticity of demand and traffic potential.

(b) and (c) Fares on different sectors cannot be compared on the basis of mileage alone as it also depends on various other factors mentioned above.

[Translation]

Services provided to Passengers by AI & IA

767. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the information regarding delayed flights is not being given in time and the behaviour of the staff and crew member concerned of Air India and Indian Airlines is not good; and

(b) if so, the remedial measure proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Both Air India and Indian Airlines endeavour to inform the passengers as soon as possible about the delayed flights. Periodic instructions are issued to all concerned to assist and be polite to passengers under all circumstances.

Complaints about the rude behaviour of the staff are immediately enquired into and corrective action taken wherever required by the two national airlines.

[English]

Constitution of Panel by DDA

768. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a panel for formulating a policy decision and guidelines with regard to the functioning of Banquet Halls in Delhi;

(b) if so, the aspects likely to be examined by the panel; and

(c) the time by which the said panel is likely to give its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. DDA has reported that a study group was constituted by Lt. Governor for formulating draft regulations for banquet Halls in Delhi with a view to providing guidelines for dealing with the existing ones and to provide norms for the future. The scope of the study group as indicated in its report was confined to the following:—

- (i) to identify reasons for emergence of Banquet Halls.
- (ii) to formulate norms for regularisation of existing Banquet Halls *vis-a-vis* size, location, front road, parking, fire hazard, etc.
- (iii) to identify amendments in MPD 2001/Building Bye-laws.
- (iv) to frame Rules and Regulations under Section 56 and 57 of DD Act.

The study group submitted its report in July, 97 and the same was approved by Lt. Governor on 16.8.97 for appropriate modification to MPD-2001.

Freight Traffic

769. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a substantial decline in freight traffic in the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss suffered by the railways on this account; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the freight traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Drop in demand from the major core sectors of the economy which includes power, coal, foodgrains, cement, fertiliser and steel has been responsible for the fall in the loading level.

(c) Railways freight earnings during April-September, 1998 was Rs. 9735.57 crores against a budgeted target of Rs. 10447.08 crores, registering a shortfall of Rs. 711.51 crores.

(d) (i) Ministry of Railways is maintaining continuous close liaison both with the rail-user organisations as well as the concerned Ministries/Departments for maximising movement of traffic by rail.

(ii) Also close monitoring is being done both at the field as well as at the Railway Ministry levels to ensure smooth movement of freight traffic.

(iii) To make rail mode attractive, there was no general hike in freight rates during the current year.

Gauge Conversion of Bharuch-Samni-Jambusar-Vishvamitri

770. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for gauge conversion of Bharuch-Samni-Jambusar-Vishvamitri narrow gauge line in Gujarat has been completed;

(b) if so, the time by which the gauge conversion is likely to be started; and

(c) the funds earmarked for conversion of above line during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The gauge conversion of this line is proposed to be taken as a part of the project of providing a third line between Ahmedabad and Mumbai. Action has been initiated for obtaining the requisite clearances required before including the work in the Railway Budget.

(c) The funds for this work will be allotted after the work is sanctioned.

Allotment of Plots

771. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some complaints regarding violation of norms laid down for allotment of Plots/Flats by DDA;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As and when representations/complaints are received, the same are forwarded to DDA for taking immediate necessary corrective measures. The allotment of plot is made by DDA in accordance with the DDA (Disposal of Developed Nazul Lands) Rules, 1981. Similarly, DDA allots flats according to the priority assigned to the individuals under different housing schemes and as per the norms and the terms and conditions envisaged in the brochure of the related self-financing schemes, by way of computerised draw held in the presence of judges invited from outside DDA.

Production in R.S.P.

772. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase the production of steel in Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the target fixed for the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the production expected by the end of 2000; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The production in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) will increase with the completion of modernization and stabilization thereof.

(b) The original target for production of Saleable Steel by the RSP during the Ninth Five Year Plan period was 8.05 million tonnes. This target would undergo change depending upon the commissioning and stabilization of the modernization units and the market conditions.

(c) The Saleable Steel production expected by the end of 2000 is 1.55 million tonnes per annum.

(d) Some of the steps taken by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in this regard include optimum utilization of modernized units; improvement of quality of inputs like coal and other raw materials; and improving the marketability of products etc. On its part, the Department is closely monitoring the progress etc.

Construction of Bridge over River Ganga at Mungher

773. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY" :
SHRI RAJ BANSHI MAHTO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the necessary clearance for the construction of rail bridge over river Ganga at Mungher has been obtained by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction of the said bridge is likely to be started and completed; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Detailed investigations and final location survey for the rail bridge on the river Ganga at Mungher have been taken up. The requisite clearances can only be processed after the location and costs are finalised which will be after the completion of the survey.

(b) and (c) Will be known after the survey is completed and the work is taken up.

Investment in Railway Sector

774. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investment in the Railway Sector has been constantly declining which may be well short for further development;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken to cover the deficit;

(c) whether the Railways propose the handing over marketing to private sector to improve freight performance and to reduce the costing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The budgetary support from the Central Government has been decreasing over the years and has come down from 75% of the total plan outlay in the Fifth Five Year Plan to 22% in the Eighth Five-year plan. Suitable steps have been taken to maintain investment by taking recourse to Market Borrowing besides Internal Generation. The increased market borrowings have, however, lead on an increase in the lease charges borne by the Railways. This has had an adverse affect on the Internal Resource Generation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Quadrupling of Mumbai-Ahmedabad Railway Tracks

775. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the double broad gauge line between Ahmedabad and Mumbai was laid in May 1960 taking into account the traffic at that time;

(b) whether during his visit two months ago he has announced to make it into 4 line in view of the heavy quantum of traffic on this route; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Link Roads

776. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to link every village with approach road; and

(b) if so, the State-wise number of villages which have so far been linked with approach road, particularly in Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOURA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Connecting of all categories of villages with approach roads is a State subject and funds for this purpose are provided by the State Governments in their Annual Plan. Moreover Planning Commission provides additional central assistance to State Governments under the Basic Minimum Services including construction of rural roads. The State-wise number of villages with population of 1000 and above which have been connected by link roads upto 1995-96 is given in the attached Statement.

Statement

State	Total No. of Villages	Total No. of Villages Connected
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	13467	11647
2. Arunachal Pradesh	81	71
3. Assam	3719	3719
4. Bihar	14332	9559
5. Goa	226	201
6. Gujarat	8300	8292
7. Haryana	3470	3468
8. Himachal Pradesh	459	450
9. Jammu & Kashmir	1178	1035
10. Karnataka	8396	6915
11. Kerala	1262	1262
12. Madhya Pradesh	7337	5742
13. Maharashtra	11328	11162
14. Manipur	277	268
15. Meghalaya	109	109
16. Mizoram	342	342
17. Nagaland	240	240

1	2	3
18. Orissa	6173	5811
19. Punjab	3346	3346
20. Rajasthan	5707	5280
21. Sikkim	69	64
22. Tamil Nadu	6432	6424
23. Tripura	535	535
24. Uttar Pradesh	22295	18529
25. West Bengal	10428	6705
TOTAL STATES		
	129508	110976
Union Territories		
	Total No. of Villages	Total No. of Villages connected
26. A & N Island	31	31
27. Chandigarh	16	16
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38	38
29. Daman & Diu	15	15
30. Delhi	160	160
31. Lakshadweep	—	—
32. Pondicherry	84	84
TOTAL UNION TERRITORIES		
	344	344
GRAND TOTAL (STATES + UTS) Anticipated.		
	129852	111320

Poverty Alleviation Programme

777. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have an extensive poverty alleviation programme and Rural Development with the constructive co-operation of a Business House;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to include private sector besides efficiency development, wages employment and setting up of rural industries in this programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a number of Non-Governmental parties have come up for the implementation of poverty alleviation schemes and Rural Development; and

(f) if so, the details of proposed concessions and assistance to be given for implementing these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (f) The Government have always welcomed and encouraged participation of business houses and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in poverty alleviation programmes. In fact there is a clear focus on involvement of various Non-Governmental Organisations in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes. Council for Advancement of People's Action & Rural Technology (CAPART) was established in February, 1984 specifically for funding NGOs for taking up projects under the various poverty alleviation and rural development schemes.

To supplement Government efforts in regard to poverty alleviation, the Private Sector is being encouraged to take up training programmes. Private ITIs contribute substantially towards skill upgradation through their development programmes and by providing necessary training infrastructure support for Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM).

In addition, there is a National fund for Rural Development established in February, 1984 which attracts donations for rural development projects with tax concessions. It has been included under the category of activities eligible for 100 per cent income tax exemption

under Section 35CCA & 80GGA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 consequent on the Amendment of the Direct Tax Law (Amendment) Act, 1989.

Arun Singh Committee Report

778. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the three Service Chiefs to submit proposals for restructuring the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to help remove the unpleasant situation between bureaucrats and the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken into consideration the 'Arun Singh Committee' report in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The process of streamlining decision-making and management in the defence establishment is an on-going one involving inputs from all wings of the Ministry of Defence including the armed forces. The Arun Singh Committee Report is one of such inputs taken into consideration.

[Translation]

Export of Steel from B.S.P.

779. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum (in tonnes) and value of steel exported from Bokaro Steel Plant during the last two years, separately;

(b) the amount outstanding against the different countries under this head;

(c) whether there is any hinderance in recovery of the said amount; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Quantum and value of steel exported from Bokaro Steel Plant during

the last two years, i.e., 1996-97 and 1997-98 (financial years) is as follows:—

Year	Quantity (in MT)	Value (Rupees)
1996-97	9221	11.81 crores
1997-98	41801	48.47 crores

(b) There is no outstanding amount to be recovered from any country on account of exports during the above mentioned period.

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

[*English*]

Expenditure on Spare Parts of Defence Helicopters

780. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have to incur annual expenditure of over Rs. 2000 crore on the spare parts of defence fighter Aircraft and helicopters, which are sent abroad, particularly to Russia, for servicing;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to indigenously produce such spare parts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Average annual expenditure incurred on the spare parts of defence fighter aircraft and helicopters sent abroad for servicing is about Rs. 68 crores, including about Rs. 20 crores in respect of Russia.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Efforts are being made to produce increasing quantities of spares within the country by HAL and private agencies. IAF has taken up major programmes for indigenisation of spares and components required for the maintenance of aircraft and helicopters of Russian origin. In-house indigenisation is being undertaken at Base Repair Depots and regular work shops. Exhibitions and seminars are also being arranged in collaboration with the industry for ensuring their cooperation and active involvement in the indigenisation

effort. As a result of the above measures, a number of important indigenous development projects are being progressed with the Indian industry for important and critical spares. As on date, over 27,600 items of fighter aircraft and helicopters of Russian origin have been indigenised.

(d) Does not arise.

Allotment of Govt. Accommodation

781. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether laid down rules and norms for allotment of Government Accommodation are being strictly followed in respect of employees of Directorate of Estate; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Setting up of Mining Industries

782. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Mining Industries in States, particularly in Goa in close proximity to regions where minerals are available in abundance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of industrial units which have been set up till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The Central Government does not propose to set up any mining industry in any State including Goa. However, any Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder.

(c) Comprehensive information is not maintained centrally.

Noise Emitting from Labs of HAL

783. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the heavy noise being released from the testing labs of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) during landing and take off; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to shift all jet testing centres away or stop testing and emitting high decible noise?

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

(b) HAL Factory and airfield set up at Bangalore 50 years ago, were far away from the city limits. The Town Development Authorities could have avoided the expansion of the city near to the factory and Jet testing airfield. It is not possible for HAL to shift the factory and airfield from the present location. However, steps such as providing Baffle etc. have been taken for containment of noise, to the extent possible.

Measures to Liberalise Civil Aviation Sector

784. SHRI MAGANTI VENKATESHWARA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow automatic approval to FDI to the extent of 76 per cent for the development of airports under the New Civil Aviation Policy; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) In terms of the 'Policy on Airport Infrastructure' approved by the Government of India in December, 1997, foreign equity participation in airport infrastructure will be permitted upto 74% with automatic approvals and upto 100% with special permission.

Air Flight from Ahmedabad to Johannesburg

785. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some requests/proposals from public as well as VIPs to start a new Air flight from Ahmedabad to Johannesburg via Nairobi; and

(b) if so, the decision taken or to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A direct flight from Ahmedabad to Johannesburg via Nairobi is not considered feasible to present because insufficient traffic potential and capacity constraints of Air India. Moreover, Ahmedabad is at present not available as a point of call to foreign airlines.

Revision of Powers to the Panchayats

786. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Commission for Union Territories have suggested revision of powers to the Panchayats; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The final report of the Finance Commission for Union Territories has been referred by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Union Territory Administrations concerned for their comments. The comments when received from the Union Territory Administrations will be examined by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Action Taken Report on the Report of the Finance Commission for Union Territories will be laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament.

Increase in Activities of ISI

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

(a) whether ISI has stepped up its activities in the Southern States as reported to have been said by the Chief of Staff of Southern Army Command;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken to counter these activities; and

(c) the measures taken to strengthen the coastal surveillance?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Government is aware of the increased activities of the ISI in the Southern States. Appropriate remedial measures to counter these activities and the necessary steps to strengthen the coastal surveillance are being taken.

[*Translation*]

**Shortage of Accommodation for
Govt. Employees**

788. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Government accommodations for Central Government employees in the country;

(b) if so, the number of Central Government employees in Maharashtra allotted Government accommodation; and

(c) the number of dwelling units the Government propose to construct for the Central Government employees in the country during 1998-99 and also in the current Plan period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In Maharashtra there are at present 9355 units of General Pool residential quarters in Mumbai and 1376 units at Nagpur for allotment to the Central Government employees.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of quarters proposed to be constructed during 9th Plan period and during the year 1998-99

S. No.	State	General Pool Quarters to be constructed	
		During the Year 1998-99	During 9th Plan period
1	2	3	4
1.	Delhi	32	1178
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	216
3.	Himachal Pradesh	90	264
4.	Uttar Pradesh	262	1224

1	2	3	4
5.	Rajasthan	88	144
6.	Maharashtra	200	1642
7.	Madhya Pradesh	60	112
8.	West Bengal	—	100
9.	Sikkim	—	106
10.	Orissa	—	139
11.	Assam	—	136
12.	Tamil Nadu	32	364
13.	Kerala	68	148
14.	Karnataka	336	641
TOTAL:		1168	6414

[*English*]

Setting up of Procurement Planning Boards

789. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up separate procurement planning boards at the services headquarters level to streamline administrative procedure for quick decision making;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan; and

(c) the details of areas identified for private investment/participation for defence requirement ensuring quality control?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Government has already set up Army and Air Force Procurement Planning and Revenue Procurement Boards to provide an appropriate forum to review and give macro level directions on

processing procurement cases consistent with annual budgets and approved plan outlays. These boards would provide an institutionalised mechanism to review relative priorities and procurement status of projects and programmes with a view to an optimum utilisation of available resources.

(c) Areas identified for private sector investment are in accordance with the industrial policy. Quality control is overseen by DGQA which is represented on the Boards referred to in answer to parts (a) and (b).

[Translation]

Investigation by Railway Vigilance

790. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Preventive checks and raids conducted by the Vigilance organisations at the Railway Board's level and in each zone during the last three years and current year so far;

(b) the number of officers and staff punished for corruption and the number of cases that could not be proved due to technical reasons;

(c) the average time taken for inquiry of vigilance cases;

(d) whether there is any proposal/drive to check the public complaints and conducting speedy inquiry of preventive checks and complaint cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) The number of Preventive Checks and raids conducted during the last 3 years and the current year so far are as under:—

Year	No. of Checks
1995	29,322
1996	32,005
1997	33,387
1998 (Till 31.10.1998)	30,933

(b) The number of officers and staff punished for corruption and the number of cases that could not be proved due to technical reasons are as under:—

Year	No. of officials punished	No. of cases which could not be proved due to technical reasons
1995	8,209	5,737
1996	8,885	5,404
1997	10,015	2,765
1998 (Till 31.10.1998)	8,578	5,002

(c) The average time taken for inquiry of vigilance cases has been 7.5 months.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The following actions have been taken:

- (i) The public complaints received at Station, train in divisional headquarters, zonal headquarters and in the Railway Board are all enquired into by Public Complaint Inspectors posted in the Divisions. On the basis of complaint either disciplinary action is taken against the staff found responsible or rectification for the defect is done or system improvements are carried out. In the year 1997-98 about 20,000 complaints were received and action has been taken on all. Additional General Managers on Zonal Railways and Additional Divisional Railway Managers in the Divisions are monitoring the complaints personally on regular basis.
- (ii) Enlarging the strength of Vigilance Inspectors for reducing time for investigation of complaints;
- (iii) Associating CBI in decoy checks where cash demands are suspected;
- (iv) Raiding the premises of fake travel agencies and touts with the assistance of State Police/CBI;
- (v) Random checks on the addresses mentioned in the reservation forms to check the bonafides of ticket purchasers; and

- (vi) Monitoring activity of ticket purchasers and countersigning the requisition forms during festival rush.

[English]

Diversion of Trains

791. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cancelled/diverted more than 10 trains passing through the Raichur causing great difficulty to the people of Raichur in reaching Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details of trains which have been cancelled/diverted or proposed to be diverted;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce any new train instead of these trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) Train Nos. 6635/6636 Netravati Express (daily), 6333/6334 Rajkot-Trivandrum Express (weekly), 6335/6336 Gandhidham-Nagercoil Express (weekly) and 6337/6338 Rajkot-Cochin Express (weekly) have been diverted to run via Konkan Railway route and 7085/7086 Secunderabad/Bangalore (daily) has been diverted to run via Mahbubnagar-Dronachalem section. In lieu of these, the following compensatory arrangements have been made:

- (i) 6613/6614 Coimbatore-Rajkot Express (weekly) has been introduced.
- (ii) 1013/1014 Kurla/Bangalore Express (daily) has been extended upto Coimbatore along with its augmentation by one sleeper class coach.
- (iii) Frequency of 6339/6340 Kurla-Nagercoil Express has been increased from 3 days a week to 4 days a week.
- (iv) Frequency of 2429/2430 Bangalore-Rajdhani Express has been increased from bi-weekly to tri-weekly w.e.f. 1.12.1998.

- (v) 7429/7430 Rayalseema Express and 7497/7498 Venkatadri Express have been separated to run as two independent trains there by increasing the accommodation available for the through passengers.

- (vi) The load of 6591A/6592A Bangalore-Nanded Express has been augmented by one sleeper class coach.

Agents for Alliance Airlines

792. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to contemplate to appoint the handling agents for Alliance Airlines in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Airlines offices at North Eastern States are being closed down; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Alliance Air does not appoint handling agents at any station which is currently being operated by Indian Airlines or was operated by Indian Airlines. Alliance Air only appoints handling agents where Indian Airlines does not operate. Jaisalmer is the only station where Alliance Air has appointed handling agents.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to close down. Indian Airlines offices in the North Eastern States.

(d) Does not arise.

Illegal Construction by NDMC

793. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "NDMC unable to check Chief's illegal construction" appearing in the 'Statesman', dated Sept. 4, 1998;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

[Translation]

Unprofitable Railway Routes

794. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD) : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of rail routes in the country are unprofitable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the loss suffered by the railways due to operating trains on such routes during 1996-97 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During 1996-97, the loss suffered by the railways on 120 Uneconomic Branch Lines was Rs. 243.67 crores. For 1997-98, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Occupation of Seats by Coolies

795. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coolies occupy seats in the unreserved coaches and offer these seats to the passengers by charging money from them; and

(b) if so, the arrangements made by the Government to check such type of practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Some instances have come to notice.

(b) Regular checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments in association with the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police personnel in all Mail/Express trains to prevent cornering

of seats by coolies and other anti-social elements. In addition, queue system has also been introduced for passengers for preventing cornering of seats by coolies/porters in unreserved coaches.

[English]

Pipelines for Safe Drinking Water

796. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is going to get technological help from Israel for laying network of pipelines to provide safe drinking water in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether experts are making a draft plan for having system of pipelines similar to that in Israel; and

(d) if so, the cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration in this Ministry to get technological help from Israel for laying a network of pipelines to provide safe drinking water in the rural areas.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Damage of Pots

797. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply to USQ No. 5346 dated July 23, 1998 regarding the damage of pots in Aluminium plant at Angul, Orissa and state:

(a) the findings of the Committee and the recommendations thereof;

(b) the actions taken by the NALCO and his Ministry on the findings so far; and

(c) the total loss incurred due to the damage of pots and the funds provided for replacement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The Committee has concluded that main causes of instability and failure in the pot lines are gradual deterioration in the performance of pots over the years due to non-adherence to standard operating practices, inadequate

maintenance of the facilities, failure of back-up services for proper maintenance and repairs, absenteeism and indiscipline on the part of workers, lack of proper supervision, etc. To avoid recurrence of such failures in future, the Committee has recommended certain measures such as camping of Director level executives at the plant during the entire period of resolution of the crisis, better communication at the shop floor level between workers, supervisors and executives, adherence to prescribed shift hours, adherence to duty timing, implementing standard operating practices, curbing of indiscipline, etc.

(b) The Govt. asked National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) to take immediate action on the recommendations of the Enquiry Committee. NALCO has initiated corrective action for revival of pots as per the recommendations of the Committee. The number of pots in operation has since improved to 335 pots as on 30.11.98 from 239 pots on 22.7.98. The quality of metal produced has also improved and export of metal has been resumed.

(c) The total loss of production due to failure of pots upto 31st October 1998 was 50539 Tonnes *vis-a-vis* the production target resulting into a consequential reduction in profit by Rs. 95.40 crores. The additional expenditure required for restart of the pots is Rs. 14.69 crores and NALCO had adequate funds for the same.

Nigha Aerodrome

798. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nigha Aerodrome in West Bengal has become unsuitable for the use of aviation after Eastern Coalfields Limited was permitted to use the airfield for open cast mining, park and underground mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against Eastern Coalfields Limited for the damage done to Nigha Aerodrome?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The material is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Army Unhappy with Bureaucrats

799. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Press report appeared in the "Statesman" dated October 24, 1998 captioned, 'Army unhappy with bureaucrats attitude'.

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

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

(b) A public exhibition on arms and equipment captured from the militants in Jammu & Kashmir was organised by the Army in Mumbai. People from different walks of life visited the exhibition. The insinuations made in the news report about Army's unhappiness with bureaucrats are not correct.

(c) Does not arise.

Incidents of Safety Violations by Indian Airlines

800. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines air-bus has violated the safety norms;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent such incidents in near future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Drinking Water Scheme for M.P.

801. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drinking water schemes of Madhya Pradesh are pending with the Union Government for approval;

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

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the amount proposed to be allotted for the above schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 49 schemes sent by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 4107.22 lakhs are under scrutiny of the Union Government for clearance under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census. The details of the schemes are attached as statement.

(c) Approval of the schemes under the AUWS Programme would depend upon techno-economic feasibility of the schemes and allocation of funds for the programme under the Central Plan for the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment.

(d) During the year 1998-99, an allocation of Rs. 648.81 lakhs has been provided for the State of Madhya Pradesh under the AUWSP.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Town	District	Population	Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Shahpura	Khandwa	15,211	76.00
2.	Depalpur	Indore	11,315	49.40
3.	Sailana	Ratlam	11,095	49.60
4.	Betama	Indore	9,587	48.00
5.	Prithvipur	Tikamgarh	17,020	50.00
6.	Patan	Durg	7,142	76.90
7.	Amla	Betul	17,547	23.37
8.	Baihar	Balaghat	13,442	128.00
9.	Suthalia	Rajgarh	6,032	78.00
10.	Chanderi	Guna	19,383	270.00
11.	Devendranagar	Panna	11,092	60.00
12.	Balod	Durg	17,783	117.00
13.	Pendra	Bilaspur	16,069	44.00

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Vijayaraghavgarh	Jabalpur	5,891	26.28
15.	Mauganj	Rewa	17,252	123.15
16.	Kothi	Satna	11,190	33.00
17.	Khategaon	Dewas	15,670	296.50
18.	Rattanpur	Bilaspur	16,069	65.00
19.	Baikunthpur	Sarguja	8,316	41.20
20.	Kukshi	Dhar	19,838	194.00
21.	Kharod	Bilaspur	7,741	50.00
22.	Khujner	Rajgarh	7,672	279.00
23.	Talen	Rajgarh	7,378	88.00
24.	Sakti	Bilaspur	6,298	142.00
25.	Patharia	Damoh	14,311	111.00
26.	Kota	Bilaspur	13,493	55.00
27.	Soyetkalan	Shajapur	10,610	59.25
28.	Bhanpura	Mandsaur	14,929	25.00
29.	Barahi	Jabalpur	8,192	49.50
30.	Seonda	Datia	15,373	33.10
31.	Chakghat	Rewa	6,576	54.83

1	2	3	4	5
32.	<i>Baikunthpur</i>	<i>Rewa</i>	7,265	63.00
33.	<i>Govindgarh</i>	<i>Rewa</i>	8,437	60.00
34.	<i>Kotar</i>	<i>Satna</i>	9,814	30.92
35.	<i>Boda</i>	<i>Rajgarh</i>	6,655	56.00
36.	<i>Mangavan</i>	<i>Rewa</i>	9,307	67.30
37.	<i>Zeerapur</i>	<i>Rajgarh</i>	12,304	105.00
38.	<i>Rehti</i>	<i>Sehore</i>	7,502	45.50
39.	<i>Nasrullaganj</i>	<i>Sehore</i>	14,688	67.20
40.	<i>Sheroinarayan</i>	<i>Bilaspur</i>	16,886	49.62
41.	<i>Saranggarh</i>	<i>Raigarh</i>	13,915	34.60
42.	<i>Barod</i>	<i>Shajapur</i>	9,130	66.00
43.	<i>Anjad</i>	<i>Khargone</i>	19,424	194.00
44.	<i>Isagarh</i>	<i>Guna</i>	12,103	70.00
45.	<i>Taricharkalan</i>	<i>Tikamgarh</i>	5,202	31.00
46.	<i>Khargapur</i>	<i>Tikamgarh</i>	9,843	50.00
47.	<i>Kanod</i>	<i>Dewas</i>	13,352	150.00
48.	<i>Narayangarh</i>	<i>Mandsaur</i>	9,625	135.00
49.	<i>Gharghora</i>	<i>Raigarh</i>	7,040	36.00
			TOTAL	4,107.22

[English]

Allocation of Funds for SCs/STs under Rural Development Schemes

802. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentage of allocation of funds for SCs/STs under the Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-plan (for areas predominantly tribal) under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP);

(b) whether the Government are aware that the rural population of North-East States especially Meghalaya are adversely affected by the Apex Court's recent order on timber felling with no alternative source of livelihood available;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose some projects under this scheme to Foreign Donor Agencies for financial aid; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Under JRY 22.5% of the funds is earmarked for SCs/STs at all level of Panchayati Raj Institutions. There is no specific allocation of funds for SCs/STs under the existing guidelines for implementation of EAS. Under the Special Component Plan for SCs/STs, it is stipulated that 50% of the total coverage under IRDP should be of SC/ST families.

(b) to (d) Relevant information is being collected from North-East States and will be laid on the Table of House.

Financial Crisis in PSUs

803. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Undertakings (PSUs) under his Ministry;

(b) whether some of these PSUs are facing severe financial crisis and running at loss;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for their loss; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to make them economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) There are 10 Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of Deptt. of Steel.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sponge Iron India Limited, Bharat Refractories Limited, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Hindustan Steelworks Construction Co. Ltd., Indian Iron & Steel Co. and Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Co. (a subsidiary of SAIL) have been incurring losses.

The detail of losses occurred by these PSUs for the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Name of PSUs	Losses incurred		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Sponge Iron India Limited	—	1.30	3.36
Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.	114.64	132.57	224.85
Bharat Refractories Ltd.	6.72	13.20	20.97
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	204.27	245.94	176.73
Indian Iron & Steel Co.	49.0	213.0	395.0
Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Co.	37.0	102.0	84.0

(d) The reasons for incurring losses are increase in output costs, sluggish market conditions, excess man power, excessive man power costs due to recent pay revision, high transportation costs, obsolete machinery, greater competition from imports and enhancement in supplies in domestic market.

(e) Steps being taken for their revival include reduction in cost by improving the techno-economic parameters, demand oriented production, improving product quality, increasing sales through aggressive and customer oriented marketing and formulation. Revival packages/turn around strategies for long term viability of

the companies are under consideration of the Government. Information from the Department of Mines is being collected and will be informed as soon as it is available.

[Translation]

Jawahar Rojgar Yojana

804. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission has conducted any study regarding Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) in Bihar;

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

(c) whether the amount provided under JRY has not been utilized by some of Village Panchayats of the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the preventive measures adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO), Planning Commission conducted a quick study of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) during 1992 covering the period from April, 1989 to September, 1991. The PEO had selected 10 States including Bihar for this purpose.

(b) Since the study was conducted in 10 States of the country, separate State-wise recommendations are not available. However, the following observations were made in respect of Bihar:

- The assets created in Bihar like rural roads, drinking water, wells, ponds and panchayats ghars were either of poor or average quality.
- Among the selected beneficiaries in Bihar, 70% of them stated that the assets created were useful.
- Out of the four panchayats selected in Bihar, two panchayats indicated that the assets are maintained by the panchayats with the JRY funds.
- It had been revealed that supervision and monitoring of JRY works were inadequate in Bihar.
- The unit cost of Indira Awaas Yojana houses was also reported to be inadequate.
- The study also revealed that the contractors were engaged to execute the JRY works in Bihar.

— It was observed that the works taken up under JRY were of short duration.

— It was beneficiaries suggested that the works should be taken up as per the needs of the area.

— It was also suggested that the employment should be provided to the village only.

(c) and (d) In Bihar, four panchayats were selected from two districts *i.e.* Purnia and Siwan. The utilization of funds in Chandiraji Ganj Panchayat was 100%, Goasi Panchayat was 64.44%, Sunderpur Panchayat was 83.02% and Borika Gaon Panchayat was 12%.

(e) The Government has taken a number of steps to improve the implementation of JRY since its inception. The programme was first reviewed and streamlined during 1993-94 and again in January 1996. No Panchayat is allowed to carry over more than 25% of the allocated funds. If carry over exceeds 25%, the allocation equivalent to excess amount is deducted at the time of release of second instalment during the next year. In addition, the State Governments have been advised to constitute Monitoring and Vigilance Committees at the village, block and district levels to supervise and monitor the implementation of the rural development programmes.

[English]

MBA Course for Army Officers

805. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to make it mandatory for in-service Army Officers to go for MBA courses;

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

(c) whether this is likely to be extended to in-service Navy and Air Force Officers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Trains

806. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for providing stoppage of Mahamaya Express, Shipra Express and Jhelum Express at Ganj Basoda and of Pathankot Express at Gulabganj railway station; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Stoppage of Gondwana Express (Mahamaya Express), Shipra Express and Jhelum Express at Ganj Basoda and Dadar-Amritsar Express (Pathankot Express) at Gulabganj have been examined but not found feasible.

Construction of Railway Lines in Maharashtra

807. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway lines constructed, doubled, converted and electrified in km during each of the last three years, zone-wise, particularly in the Marathwada region;

(b) whether the Marathwada region has been ignored by the railways while undertaking the said works; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) A statement is attached.

(b) No, Sir. The following works have been taken up in Marathwada region:—

(i) *Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajjanath new line:—*

This is a sanctioned work which has received all the necessary clearances. At present, final location survey is in progress and the same of a length of 26 kms has been completed. Land acquisition proceedings are in progress and work will be taken up once the State Govt. makes available the land.

(ii) *Miraj-Latur gauge conversion:—*

Work has been taken up in phases. In the first phase Latur-Latur Rd. new line and Kurduwadi-Pandharpur gauge conversion have been taken up, which are targeted for completion in 1999-2000, subject to availability of resources.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

The details of Railway Lines constructed, doubled, converted and electrified in kms. during the last three years are as under:

S. No.	Name of the Section	Length in Kms.	Zone
1	2	3	4
New Lines			
1.	Damanjodi-Rayagada	145	South Eastern Railway
2.	Beas-Goindwal	27	Northern Railway
3.	Chittauni-Bagaha	19	North Eastern Railway
4.	Karanjali-Kashinagar	16	Eastern Railway
5.	Jogighopa-Goalpara	18	Northeast Frontier Rly.
	Total	225	

1	2	3	4
Doubling			
1.	Diva-Panvel	20	Central Railway.
2.	Guma-Ashoknagar-Habra (Duttapukur-Habra)	10	Eastern Railway.
3.	Sahibganj-New Farraka- Malda Town (Part)	21	Eastern Railway.
4.	Jhaptardal-Guskara (Part)	5	Eastern Railway.
5.	Sonenagar-Mughal Sarai (Part)	53	Eastern Railway.
6.	Bithura-Bareilly (Rampur- Bareilly)	19	Northern Railway.
7.	Aluabari-Kishanganj and New Jalpaiguri-Ambari Falakata	32	Northeast Frontier Railway.
8.	Shoranur-Mangalore (Part)	21	Southern Railway.
9.	Whitefield-Malur (Whitefield-Kuppam)	20	Southern Railway.
10.	Karunagapalli-Quilon (Kayankulum-Quilon)	28	Southern Railway.
11.	Talcher-Hindol Road	32	South Eastern Railway.
12.	Dhencanal-Hindol (Joranda- Hindol Road)	20.5	South Eastern Railway.
13.	Akaltara-Bilaspur	34	South Eastern Railway.
14.	Rayagada-Ladda (Ambodala- Bissomcuttack & Theruvali- Gumada)	8	South Eastern Railway.
15.	Gumada-Bobilli	38	South Eastern Railway.

1	2	3	4
16.	Bobilli-Gajapatinagram	32	South Eastern Railway.
17.	Saragbundia-Urga (Korba-Saragbundia)	6	South Eastern Railway.
18.	Akaltara-Naila (Akaltara-Champa)	16	South Eastern Railway.
19.	Urkura-Raipur (Urkura-Raipur-Sarona)	6	South Eastern Railway
20.	Gajapatinagram-Vijayanagaram	22	South Eastern Railway
21.	Bairagarh-Bakanian Bhaunri-Phanda	16	Western Railway.
22.	Anas Bridge (Three Single line stretches)	1	Western Railway.
23.	Pirumrod-Bercha	12	Western Railway.
Total		472	

Gauge Conversion

1.	Harapur-Hospet	67	South Central Railway.
2.	Hospet-Swamahalli	60	South Central Railway.
3.	Londa-Castlerock	25	South Central Railway.
4.	Mudkhed-Nanded	23	South Central Railway.
5.	Nailalung-Dimapur	38	Northeast Frontier Rly.
6.	Yellahanka-Chickballapur	46	Southern Railway.
7.	Makrana-Parbatsar	21	Northern Railway.

1	2	3	4
8.	Samastipur-Darbhanga	37	North Eastern Railway.
9.	Giddalpur-Nandyal	69	South Central Railway.
10.	Gunda Rd.-Kottur	50	South Central Railway.
11.	Aunrihar-Chhapra	171	North Eastern Railway.
12.	Yeshwantpur-Salem	46	Southern Railway.
13.	Chhindwara-Parasia	28	Central Railway.
14.	Dimapur-Furkating	70	Northeast Frontier Rly.
15.	Guwahati-Kamakhya	07	Northeast Frontier Rly.
16.	Wadsa-Nagbir	28	South Eastern Railway
17.	Arasikere-Hassan	47	Southern Railway.
18.	Hossur-Salem	151	Southern Railway.
19.	Mau-Shahganj	99	North Eastern Railway
20.	Hassan-Holenarsipur	30	Southern Railway.
21.	Mahesana-Marwar-Ajmer	423	Western Railway.
22.	Guntakal-Nandyal	136	South Central Railway.
23.	Sagauli-Narkatjaganj	59	North Eastern Railway.
24.	Castle Rock-Vasco	87	South Central Railway.
25.	Furkating-Mariani	193	Northeast Frontier Rly.
26.	Tinsukia-Dibrugarh	48	Northeast. Frontier Rly.
27.	Tinsukia-Lekhapani	63	Northeast Frontier Rly.

1	2	3	4
28.	Hassan-Sakleshpur	42	Southern Railway.
29.	Kolar-Bangarpet	18	Southern Railway.
30.	Trichy-Thanjavur	50	Southern Railway.
31.	Hajipur-Bachwara	71	North Eastern Rly.
32.	Jodhpur-Marwar	103	Northern Railway.
33.	Holenarsipur-Hossa- Agarahara	19	Southern Railway.
34.	Dronachalam-Mehboobnagar	185	South Central Railway.
35.	Hotgi-Bijapur	97	South Central Railway.
36.	Jorhat-Furkating	67	Northeast Frontier Rly
37.	Nagbir-Chandafort	111	South Eastern Railway.
38.	Simalguri-Sheosagar	16	Northeast Frontier Rly
39.	Hosa Agrahara-Mysore	68	Southern Railway
Total		2969	

Railway Electrification

1.	Tori-Patratu (Part of Sonnagar-Patratu)	69	Eastern Railway.
2.	Patratu-Gumia-Jarangdih	83	Eastern Railway.
3.	Chittaranjan-Jasidih- Nargunjoo and Jhajha-Kiul	185	Eastern Railway.
4.	Dhatrigran-Katwa (Part of Bandel-Katwa)	53	Eastern Railway.

1	2	3	4
5.	Karanjali-Nishchintpur-Kashipur	17	Eastern Railway.
6.	Karnal-Ambala-Ludhiana (Part of Ambala-Ludhiana)	202	Northern Railway.
7.	Ambala-Saharanpur (Part of Ambala-Moradabad)	79	Northern Railway.
8.	Erode-Palghat-Punkunnam (Part of Erode-Ernakulam)	242	Southern Railway.
9.	Mustabada-Visakhapatnam (Part of Vijayawada- Visakhapatnam)	355	South Central Railway.
10.	Dornakal-Singareni	26	South Central Railway.
11.	Manikgarh-Gadchandur	33	South Central Railway.
12.	Jamadoba-Mohuda	22	South Eastern Railway.
13.	Chandil-Murti-Barkana	126	South Eastern Railway.
14.	Chandiposh-Bimalgarh- Barsuan, Bimalgarh-Rangra and Bokaro-Radhagaon (Part of Bokaro-Barsuan)	93	South Eastern Railway.
15.	Adra-Bankura-Bheduaole (part of Adra-Midnappur)	60	South Eastern Railway.
16.	Gopalpatnam-Simhachalam- Kottavalasa	30	South Eastern Railway.
17.	Kottavalasa-Alampada (Part of Bhubneswar-Kottavalasa)	21	South Eastern Railway.
Total		1696	

*[English]***Shortage of Staff**

808. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of ticket checking and catering staff in Railways;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recruit staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) to (c) The assessment of requirement of Ticket Checking and Catering Staff and creation of posts to meet the requirement is a continuing process, and 270 posts (Eastern Railway—135, Northern Railway—135) of Ticket Checking Staff have been created in the recent past.

Jawahar Rojgar Yojana

809. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints about the indifferent attitude of the Banks in disposal of applications under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Banks are not involved in the implementation of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana.

Tunnel Across Calicut

810. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a request for construction of a Tunnel Road across Calicut

Airport runway on Tirurangadi-Kondotty main road in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The request is being examined.

Recruitment of Sportspersons

811. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway recruits sportspersons under the Sports Quota Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Northern Railway had made selection for Boxing under said quota during 1997-98;

(c) if so, whether all the persons selected have since been appointed;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the names of persons selected for appointment under the Sports quota in 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Out of 118 sportspersons appointed in different games, during the year 1997-98, on Northern Railway, the names of boxers are as under:

1. Shri Ajay Kumar Sangwan
2. Shri Lakhwinder Singh.

Prices of Quarters of Slum

812. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have in the recent past reduced the prices of quarters which were allotted under the scheme to grant permanent lease-hold rights to allottees/occupants of slum tenants in Delhi?

(b) if so, the areas where prices of quarters have been reduced;

(c) whether the benefit of reduction in prices of quarters have not been extended to the allottees who had made part payments against the earlier demand notices;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government have received representations from Members of Parliament for extending the benefit of the reduction in prices to the allottees who had made part payments against the earlier demand notices without charging any penal interest; and

(f) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On receipt of representations from the allottees/occupants of slum tenements, Government had decided in December, 1993 that the liquidation cost of the slum tenements would be the actual cost of the tenements instead of 20 times the annual economic licence fee. This is applicable for tenements located in various parts of Delhi.

(c) and (d) It was also clarified that the cases already settled pursuant to the 1984 guidelines need not be re-opened.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Government is seized of the matter.

Water and Electricity Bills

813. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4393 on July 16, 1998 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) The requisite information is still awaited from the local body.

[Translation]

Land Reclamation

814. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI :
SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Committee set up for land reclamation in the capital;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha when received.

[English]

Supply of Drinking Water

815. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of major Water Supply Schemes sanctioned, funded and executed by the Union Government during the last 10 years are non-functional;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to activate new water sources and to bring water through channels/pipes from Indira Gandhi Nahar and Narbada Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) Rural Water Supply is a state subject. State Governments have been implementing Rural Water Supply Programme under State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Govt. only supplement the efforts of the State Government by providing central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Powers have been delegated to State Governments to plan, sanction and execute individual rural water supply schemes in the

respective states utilising the funds provided under the ARWSP alongwith the state MNP funds. The State Government has reported that due to non-functioning of the drinking water supply sources a large number of fully covered habitations had become either partially covered or not covered and partially covered habitations had become not covered. The State Government also reported that the reasons for re-emergence of large number of such habitations are:

- Fast depletion of ground water level, which also increases incidence of quality problems of Arsenic and Fluoride, etc.
- Sources go dry and defunct due to deforestation with consequent reduced recharge and lack of protection.
- Heavy emphasis on new construction and poor attention to maintenance.
- Non-involvement of people in operation and maintenance.
- Neglect of traditional water management practices/systems.

The scheme-wise and source-wise details are not maintained at the Central Government level. However, States have been advised to bring in appropriate legislation to improve water recharge and to prevent over exploitation of ground water to ensure source sustainability. The States have also been requested to institutionalise community participation in planning, implementation and operation and maintenance of various water supply schemes to ensure system sustainability. Financial assistance is also provided to the States in this regard.

Employment Assurance Scheme

816. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount have been doubled for employment assurance scheme for the drought hit farmers of Bolangir and Kalahandi districts;

(b) if so, whether the Government have undertaken any exercise to identify other drought hit districts in other States like those in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the districts so identified in different States and Union Territories and the decision taken to enhance

allocation of these States for Employment Assurance Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) For the year 1998-99, this Ministry has released two instalments for all KBK districts of Orissa including Bolangir and Kalahandi districts.

(b) and (c) No such exercise has been undertaken in respect of any other district in other States for the purpose of enhancing the outlays.

Bombing by Srilankan Forces on Indian Cargo

817. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Cargo was bombed by Srilankan Forces on August 14, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Captain of the Cargo was suspected of acting in connivance with the Tigers;

(c) the outcome of the enquiry held, if any;

(d) the total damage caused to the ship;

(e) whether the LTTE had released the Captain and the crew; and

(f) whether the damaged ship was also handed over to the Indian Authorities?

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

(b) to (f) A Statement is attached.

Statement

1. A cargo vessel "MV Princess Kash" with Belize Flag and leased by Goodwill Private Ltd., Colombo which was hijacked by the LTTE was sunk by the Sri Lankan Air Force by bombing off Mullaithivu coast on 14th August, 1998. The vessel was not carrying any Indian cargo.

2. Investigations carried out so far by the Sri Lankan Government have not been able to substantiate the allegations of links between the crew and the LTTE. Also, Indian agencies have reported that they have not come across any indication suggesting any connivance of the Captain of the vessel with the LTTE.

3. The loss of cargo has been estimated at about Sri Lankan Rupees 230 million.

4. Out of 21 crew members of the vessel, there were 17 Indian nationals including the Captain who were initially detained by the LTTE. They were subsequently handed over to the Sri Lankan authorities through the ICRC. The ICRC handed over those Indian nationals to the High Commissioner of India, Colombo on 14th August, 1998 and they returned to Chennai airport on 19th August, 1998.

Revamping of Defence Services

818. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct a strategic review of the wherewithal of infrastructure, equipment, armaments and recruitment and technical capabilities of the personnel in the Defence Services and its organisations in the context of the threat perceptions of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Government propose to conduct a strategic defence review. This would be one of the priority tasks of the Strategic Policy Group which is a part of the recently set up National Security Council.

Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises

819. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed the Society for Development Studies, New Delhi to conduct a study of Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the society has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the salient features of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) The Society for Development Studies, New Delhi was entrusted with the task of carrying out a study titled "Impact Assessment of Urban Poverty Alleviation (UPA) programmes" on 9.9.96 in two towns each of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Society was required to complete the assignment

within 6 months i.e. by 9th March, 1997. However, the Society failed to keep the target and could submit the report covering two towns of Madhya Pradesh in August, 1997. The study covering the States of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan was cancelled, as the Nehru Rozgar Yojana was wound up in November, 1997.

(d) Major findings/recommendations of the Study report are contained in the attached statement.

Statement

Major Findings/Recommendations in the study conducted by Society for Development Studies, New Delhi in towns of Jabalpur and Kharsia of Madhya Pradesh

(a) Assessment of Delivery System :

- (1) Survey proforma used for listing of potential NRY beneficiaries is well conceived but its importance as a monitoring and management tool is not, realised.
- (2) Few non-economic parameters have been used to identify beneficiaries. Implementing officials do not have professional expertise in assigning weight to these factors.
- (3) The beneficiaries list was not updated periodically. It was recommended to update list every two years and prominently displayed.
- (4) The norms of Special Target Group (SCs/STs/ Women) not formed, in the absence of proper list of beneficiaries.
- (5) The expectation of Task Force becoming an effective "watchdog" of the programme has not materialised.
- (6) The maintenance of records at the level of the implementing agencies and banks is deficient. The significance of records and techniques to maintain and use them does not seem to be known at the local level. Capacity building is necessary in this area of human resource development.
- (7) The long processing time (6-7 months) between submission of application and approval by Task Force and Banks. This processing system should be reviewed and time norms clearly fixed and rigorously maintained.

- (8) The "Target-driven" approach to approval and implementation of projects should be replaced by a "need-based" approach by all the implementing agencies and banks.

(b) Human Resource Development :

- (1) Human resource development is crucial for introducing sustainability in the programme. Training infrastructure is found to be highly deficient in terms of physical infrastructure, manpower, and operational equipment.
- (2) No special efforts were taken to develop training modules and curriculum.
- (3) The absorption rate of NRY trainees was negligible as only 11.4% could take up self-employment and 71.4% remaining unemployed.

(c) Nehru Rozgar Yojana :

- (1) The performance of SUME in Jabalpur was satisfactory. The target achievement was over 75% and the representation to SCs/STs was significantly higher than the stipulated requirement. The women participation was, however, lower than the requirement.
- (2) The training and loan components operated in parallel because loan applicants and training applicants were strictly compartmentalised by different selection agencies. This has been the result of inadequate understanding on the part of the implementing agencies resulting in near zero rate access to loans to the NRY trainees.
- (3) In Kharsia, there has been an effective convergence between NRY training and UBSP and this led to a good access to bank credit.
- (4) The full potential of NRY not explored by implementing agencies.
- (5) In Jabalpur, SHASU was not implemented with same zeal as that of SUME because of complicated procedure involved.
- (6) As compared to Below Poverty Line (BPL) status of 61.5% of the total beneficiaries at pre-NRY stage, only 8% are left in the BPL group. 92% beneficiaries have crossed the poverty line due to SUME intervention.

- (7) In the pre-NRY income distribution stage, 65% of the total unemployed person have gone up significantly high in the income ladder.
- (8) Unlike Jabalpur, the income enhancement was not significant in Kharsia because of the higher level of poverty in that town. The society has recommended the need to make a resource inventory for providing the base for higher value added economic activities.
- (9) Lack of publicity of the scheme and non-involvement of NGOs upto the desired level are major factors which are responsible for non-existence of any pressure groups in both the towns of Jabalpur and Kharsia.
- (10) Guidelines should be made extensively familiar to the implementing officials at all levels. Basic guidelines such as provision of infrastructural support to micro enterprises, the preparation of training profiles by DUDA/SUDA are not known to many officials including district level officials.

[*Translation*]

Complaints against CPWD Enquiries

820. SHRI AMANKUMAR NAGRA :
 SHRI BAIJNATH RAWAT :
 SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE :
 SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :
 SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
 (JHANJIHARPUR) :
 SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PAJEL :
 SHRIMATI SHEILA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of complaints received against the working of CPWD enquiries, particularly of Laxmibai Nagar and DIZ Area, New Delhi, from the allottees and Members of Parliament during each of the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[English]***Probe into IAF Golf Course Plan**

821. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANJIHARPUR) :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "IAF Golf Course Plan to be probed" as appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated August 28, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has found the construction of Golf within the prohibited area without any permission of the concerned authority; and

(d) if so, the remedial action taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

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

(b) to (d) In June, 1998, it came to the Government's notice that Air Forces has undertaken the construction of a Golf Course within the Air Force Dump, 54 ASP at Gurgaon. However, the IAF has informed that a nodal sports complex has been set up at Gurgaon. Air Force Campus also in the sterile area of the establishment, for the use by Service Personnel and Mini Golf Course forms a part of this sports facility at Gurgaon. Ministry of Defence appointed a team of officials to look into the matter. The team has since submitted its observations which are under consideration.

Introduction of New Trains

822. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :
VAIDYA VISHNU DATT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains strated and proposed to be started during 1998-99 in the country, zone-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received representations/requests/proposals from State Governments, public representatives and various

organisations regarding the introduction of new trains in J & K especially DMU/SHUTTLE service between Jammu and Pathankot, and direct train between Haridwar and Jammu; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):
(a) During the year 1998-99, 44 Express trains have been introduced. The zone-wise break up is as follows:—

Railway	Mail/Express
Central	2
Eastern	4
Northern	6
North Eastern	2
North East Frontier	4
Southern	12
South Central	6
South Eastern	4
Western	4

It is proposed to introduce 6 trains from Central Railway and 2 trains from South Eastern Railway during the year.

(b) and (c) Some representations have been received in these regards. These were examined, but not found feasible of implementation due to operational and resource constraints.

Maharashtra Infrastructure Finance Corporation

823. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
 SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
 SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
 SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
 SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for setting up of Maharashtra Infrastructure Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No specific proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for setting up of Maharashtra Infrastructure Finance Corporation. However, a proposal was received from Government of Maharashtra for setting up of a Financial Intermediary at the State Level in the form of Trust Fund.

(b) and (c) The Government of Maharashtra had proposed setting up of a Financial Intermediary at the State level in the form of a Trust Fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 150 crores, for financing Urban infrastructure. The Trust Fund was to be managed by an Asset Management Company with an Equity of Rs. 1 crore. The Financial Institutions viz. HDFC, ICICI and IL&FS were together to contribute 51% of the corpus and 51% of the equity of the Asset Management Company. The balance contribution of 49% was to be made by the Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA) and Government of Maharashtra.

The proposal was recommended to World Bank through Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) in December, 1996. However, in April, 1997 the World Bank had advised all concerned agencies to hold off the project preparation work until agreements on institutional arrangements are finalised.

Buildings on Agriculture Land

824. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 5142 dated 11.9.98 regarding 'buildings on agricultural land' and state:

(a) the number of warrant of possessions executed in respect of districts South and South-West;

(b) the number of cases pending in the Court of Revenue Assistants; and

(c) the number of cases where Revenue Assistants/SDMs orders were set aside by the Court of Collectors in Delhi, district-wise, during the last ten years and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) :

- (a) District South — 29
 Distt. South-West — 1
 (b) 3877 Nos.
 (c)

District	No. of cases
1. North	—
2. North-West	9
3. North-East	—
4. West	1
5. South-West	7
6. South	—
7. East	—
8. New Delhi	—
9. Central	—

Out of 7 cases in South-West District appeal has been filed in 6 cases. In one case, Panchayat Deptt. has decided to drop proceedings.

Allotment of Janata DDA Flats

825. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO :
 SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of allottees taken possession of flats in Janata category of DDA in Kondli Gheroli;

(b) the time taken by DDA in completing all the formalities for handing over of possession of flats to the allottees;

(c) whether allottees are harassed for months together for obtaining the possession of their flats;

(d) the reasons for not providing the basic amenities including water connections to the allottees;

(e) whether the signature of the allottees are taken in the inventory list at the time of taking possession and though inventories are not supplied to them thereafter;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the doors, windows, grills, pipes and other accessories such as water tank lids are missing in most of the flats;

(h) whether staircases for the roof of all the flats have also not been provided by the DDA;

(i) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(j) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation in view of the problems being faced by the allottees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) (a) DDA has reported that physical possession has been given to 3008 allottees.

(b) After the allotment of flats is made, it takes around 7 to 11 months for taking over physical possession at the site as per details given below:—

(i) Deposit of demanded amount by the allottee within 150 days in case of Janata flats.

(ii) Deposit of conveyance deed by the allottee 1 to 2 months (if allotment is made on cash down).

(iii) Issue of possession letter by the DDA on completion of formalities; 1 to 2 months.

(iv) Permitted time for taking physical possession by the allottee; 3 months at site.

There is also provision to extend the above time limit on the specific request of the allottee subject to their fulfilling certain laid down terms and conditions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All the basic amenities are provided. The water connection is provided at the time of handing over physical possession to the allottee.

(e) and (f) The signatures of the allottees are taken in inventory list at the time of giving physical possession. The copy of the inventory is also given to the allottee. The signature of the allottee is obtained only after fixing the inventory items.

(g) Doors/Shutters, grills, pipes and other accessories, lids of water tank, etc. are provided/rectified before handing over physical possession to the allottees. Flats are also got cleaned properly before giving physical possession.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) These are double storey houses and no staircase has been provided for access to the roof as per the architectural drawings and to reduce the cost of construction.

(j) No further remedial measures are felt necessary in view of the position explained above.

Upgradation of Jammu Airport

826. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Civil Airport at Jammu is being raised to the level of an International Airport;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to have one more airport in Jammu region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Jammu Airport belongs to the Ministry of Defence. Airports Authority of India maintains a Civil Enclave. No airline has requested for operation of international flights through Jammu.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sub-standard Services of I.A.

827. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian air services are found at par with the international standards;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the programmes formulated/to be formulated to bring the country's air services at par with international services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Indian air services are operated in accordance with the standards laid down by the Aircraft Act, 1934, the Aircraft Rules, 1937 and various Civil Aviation Requirements. It is ensured by Director General of Civil Aviation that the standards laid down by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) are adhered to.

Foreign Investment in Civil Aviation

828. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI ARJUN SETHI :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
SHRI MAGANTI VENKATESHWAR RAO :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to allow foreign investment in Civil Aviation Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) In accordance with the existing policy on domestic air transport services sector, 100% NRI/OCB and 40% foreign equity participation is permissible in the domestic transport services sector. However, equity from foreign airline, directly or indirectly, is prohibited.

"Policy on airport Infrastructure" stipulates foreign equity participation upto 74% with automatic approvals and upto 100% with special permission.

Discussions are under way to attract foreign investment in the infrastructure sector. However, no proposal in project form has so far been received.

Upliftment of People below Poverty Line

829. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of families living below poverty line in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for constant increase in the number of families living below poverty line; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Statement showing the total number of families living below poverty line in the country, is attached.

(b) and (c) As per the estimates by the Planning Commission, the population below poverty line has decreased from 2612 lakh in 1973-74 to 2440 lakh in 1993-94 at All India level. Government are implementing several anti-poverty schemes, such as the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Million Well Scheme (MWS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) towards provision of social assistance as well as generation of wage and self employment. In addition, under the programme of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), houses are provided to the rural poor.

Statement

Number and percentage of rural population below poverty line by States as per the Planning Commission

Sl. No.	States	1973-74		1993-94	
		No. Lakhs	%age	No. Lakhs	%age
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	178.21	48.41	79.49	15.92
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.57	52.67	3.62	45.01
3.	Assam	76.37	52.67	94.33	45.01
4.	Bihar	336.52	62.99	450.86	58.21
5.	Goa	3.16	46.85	0.38	5.34
6.	Gujarat	94.61	46.35	62.16	22.18
7.	Haryana	30.08	34.23	36.56	28.02
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9.38	27.42	15.40	30.34
9.	J&K	18.41	45.51	19.05	30.34
10.	Karnataka	128.40	55.14	95.99	29.88
11.	Kerala	111.36	59.19	55.95	25.76
12.	Madhya Pradesh	231.21	62.66	216.19	40.64
13.	Maharashtra	210.84	57.71	193.33	37.93
14.	Manipur	5.11	52.67	6.33	45.01
15.	Meghalaya	4.88	52.67	7.09	45.01
16.	Mizoram	1.62	52.67	1.64	45.01
17.	Nagaland	2.65	52.67	4.85	45.01

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Orissa	142.24	67.28	140.90	49.72
19.	Punjab	30.47	28.21	17.76	11.95
20.	Rajasthan	101.41	44.76	94.68	26.46
21.	Sikkim	1.09	52.67	1.81	45.01
22.	Tamil Nadu	172.60	57.43	121.70	32.48
23.	Tripura	7.88	52.67	11.41	45.01
24.	Uttar Pradesh	449.99	56.53	496.17	42.28
25.	West Bengal	257.96	73.16	209.90	40.80
26.	A & N Island	0.59	57.43	0.73	32.48
27.	Chandigarh	0.07	27.96	0.07	11.35
28.	D & N Haveli	0.37	46.85	0.72	51.95
29.	Daman & Diu			0.03	5.34
30.	Delhi	1.06	24.44	0.18	1.90
31.	Lakshadweep	0.18	59.19	0.06	25.76
32.	Pondicherry	1.61	57.43	0.96	32.48
Total		2812.90	56.44	2440.31	37.27

- NB: 1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
 2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.
 3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
 4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
 5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and Urban poverty of Chandigarh.
 6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
 7. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
 8. Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir for 1983-84.

*[English]***Gauge Conversion**

830. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of meter and narrow-gauge railway lines which are converted into broad-gauge during the Eighth Five Year Plan, zone/State-wise; and

(b) the details of the meter/narrow gauge railway line likely to be converted during the Ninth Five Year Plan alongwith estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon, zone/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) A statement is attached.

(b) The details of the MG/NG lines converted during the 1st year of the 9th Plan are furnished in the statement enclosed. The lines to be converted in the next 3 years of the 9th Plan have not yet been decided. Since the railway projects are not sanctioned Statewise and often fall in more than one state, it is not possible to give Statewise information. However the States in which the projects fall has been indicated against each project. Targets for each year are fixed only one year in advance based on availability of resources and are announced while presenting the Annual Budget.

Statement*Gauge conversions completed in the 8th Plan*

Section	Kms.	Zone State
1	2	3

1992-93 Completed Section

Delhi-Rewari	83 NR	Haryana
Lalgarh-Merta Rd.	177 NR	Rajasthan
Lalgarh-Kolayat	47 NR	Rajasthan
Sawaimadhopur-Jaipur	125 WR	Rajasthan
Nadiad-Kapadvanj	45 WR	Gujarat
Bangalore-Tumkur	59 SR	Karnataka
Mysore-Bangalore	138 SR	Karnataka
Dindigul-Tuticorin	196 SR	Tamil Nadu
Bangalore-Yellahanka	12 SR	Karnataka

1	2	3
Guntur-Narsaraopet	46 SCR	AP
Bellary-Rayadurg	54 SCR	AP
Aurangabad-Jalna	64 SCR	Maharashtra
Parbhani-Parlivajinath	63 SCR	Maharashtra
Burhwal-Mehmoodabad	38 NER	UP
Kotkapura-Fazilka	80 NR	Punjab
Lucknow-Kanpur	59 NR	UP
Mankapur-Katra	30 NER	UP
Purulia-Kotshila	35 SER	WB
	1351	
1993-94 completed Section		
Bhatinda-Hissar	157 NR	Haryana
Jaipur-Phulera	55 WR	Rajasthan
Phulera-Jodhpur	281 NR	Rajasthan
Tumkur-Arasikere	101 SR	Karnataka
Arasikere-Chickjajur	114 SR	Karnataka
Narsaraopet-Donakonda	75 SCR	AP
Secunderabad-Mehboobnagar	127 SCR	AP
Madras-Tambaram	27 SR	TN
Chickjajur-Chitradarg	16 SR	Karnataka
Jalna-Parbhani	116 SCR	Maharashtra

1	2	3
Gondia-Arjuni	82 SER	Maharashtra
Secunderabad-Bolarum	14 SCR	AP
Allahabad-Varanasi	126 NER	UP
Guwahati-Lumding	181 NFR	Assam
Mehmoodabad-Sitapur	60 NER	UP
Merta Rd-Merta City	15 NR	Rajasthan
Daund-Baramati	42 CR	Maharashtra
Lalkuan-Kathgodam	29 NER	UP
Patel Nagar-Sarai	3 NR	Delhi
Durgapur-Jaipur	8 WR	Rajasthan
Mysore-Ashok Puram	5 SR	Karnataka
Lucknow-Manaknagar	5 NER	UP
	1619	
1994-95 completed Section		
Hisar-Rewari	143 NR	Haryana
Phulera-Ajmer	81 WR	Rajasthan
Rewari-Jaipur	225 WR	Rajasthan
Mehsana-Khodiyar	52 WR	Gujarat
Delhi Cantt-DLI/NDLS	14 NR	Delhi
Jodhpur-Jaisalmer	295 NR	Rajasthan
Chickmagalur-Harihar	60 SR	Karnataka

1	2	3
Harihar-Hubli	129 SR	Karnataka
Hubli-Londa	93 SCR	Karnataka
Londa-Miraj	188 SCR	Karnataka
Birur-Shimoga	63 SR	Karnataka
Hubli-Gadag-Hariapur	78 SCR	Karnataka
Alnavar-Amedwadi	26 SCR	Karnataka
Donakonda-Giddalur	84 SCR	AP
Chickjajur-Chitradurg	18 SR	Karnataka
Parbhani-Purna	29 SCR	Maharashtra
Purna-Nanded	32 SCR	Maharashtra
Arjuni-Wadsa	23 SER	Maharashtra
Muzaffarpur-Raxaul	129 NER	Bihar
Lumding-Nailalung	22 NFR	Assam
Chapermukh-Haibargaon	21 NFR	Assam
	<hr/> 1805 <hr/>	
Total in 8th plan = 6897 kms		
1995-96 completed Section		
Harlapur-Hospet	67 SCR	Karnataka
Hospet-Swamahalli	60 SCR	Karnataka
Londa-Castlerock	25 SCR	Karnataka
Mudkhed-Nanded	23 SCR	AP
Nailalung-Dimapur	38 NFR	Assam

1	2	3
Yellahanka-Chickballapur	46 SR	Karnataka
Makrana-Prabatsar	21 WR	Rajaasthan
Samastipur-Darbhanga	37 NER	Bihar
Giddalur-Nandyal	69 SCR	AP
Gunda Rd-Kottur	50 SCR	Karnataka
Aunrihar-Chhapra	171 NER	UP
Yeshwantpur-Salem	46 SR	Karnataka/TN
Chhindwara-Parasia	28 CR	MP
Dimapur-Furkating	70 NFR	Assam
Guwahati-Kamakhaya	7 NFR	Assam
	758	
1996-97 completed Section		
Wadsa-Nagbir	28 SER	Maharashtra
Arasikere-Hassan	47 SR	Karnataka
Hossur-Salem	151 SR	TN
Mau-Shahganj	99 NER	UP
Hassan-Holenarsipur	30 SR	Karnataka
Mehsana-Marwar-Ajmer	423 WR	Rajasthan
Sagauli-Narkatiaganj	59 NER	Bihar
Castle Rock-Vasco	87 SCR	Goa
Guntakal-Nandyal	136 SCR	AP

1	2	3
Tinsukia-Lekhapani	63 NFR	Assam
Furkating-Tinsukia	193 NFR	Assam
Tinsukia-Dibrugarh	48 NFR	Assam
	1364	

Position of gauge conversions in the 9th Plan

Section	Kms.	Zone	State
1	2	3	4
1997-98 Completed Section			
Hassan-Sakleshpur	42	SR	Karnataka
Mysore-Holenarsipur	87	SR	Karnataka
Bachwara-Hajipur	71	NE	Bihar
Kolar-Bangarpet NG	18	SR	Karnataka
Trichy-Thanjavur	50	SR	Tamilnadu
Jodhpur-Marwar	103	NR	Rajasthan
Nagbir-Chandafort NG	111	SER	Maharashtra
Hotgi-Bijapur	97	SCR	Karnataka & Maharashtra
Jorhat-Furkating loop	67	NFR	Assam
Shimalguri-Shivsagar	16	NFR	Assam
Dronachellam-Mehboobnagar	185	SCR	Andhra Pradesh
Total	847		

1	2	3	4
1998-99 Section			
Tambaram-Trichy (Completed)	309	SR	Tamilnadu
Dindigul-Trichy	95	SR	Tamilnadu
Yeshwantpur-Bayippanhalli	20	SR	Karnataka
Chandafort-Ballarshah	12	SER	Maharashtra
Gorakhpur-Narkatiaganj	159	NER	Bihar & U.P.
Jorhat-Mariani (Completed)	17	NFR	Assam
Sheosagar-Moranhat (Completed)	38	NFR	Assam
Indara-Phephna	50	NER	Uttar Pradesh
Nonera-Soni	27	CR	Madhya Pradesh
Chengalpattu-Kenjivaram	34	SR	Tamilnadu
Total	761		

Railways do not maintain information state-wise. However, zone-wise expenditure incurred on gauge conversion in 1997-98 and expenditure likely to be incurred thereon during 1998-99 are as under:

Zone	Expenditure incurred in 1997-98 (Rs. in crs.)	Expenditure likely to be incurred during 1998-99 (Rs. in crs.)
1	2	3
Central Railway	12.68	25.00
Eastern Railway	Nil	Nil
Northern Railway	89.99	28.50
Northeastern Railway	106.97	138.77
Northeast Frontier Railway	191.95	83.10

1	2	3
Southern Railway	461.19	192.62
South Central Railway	239.43	121.60
South Eastern Railway	70.82	55.40
Western Railway	72.58	158.00
Total	1245.61	802.99

Defence Team to Russia

831. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian Government has been pressurised by the US to end military ties with India;

(b) if so, the response of the French Government thereon;

(c) whether a high level Indian Defence team visited Moscow recently for a meeting of the Indo-Russian joint working group on military technical cooperation;

(d) if so, the details of discussions held there; and

(e) the outcome therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Government has seen unsubstantiated media reports to this effect.

(b) Government is not aware of any official reaction of the French Government in this regard.

(c) to (e) In connection with the fifth meeting of the Indo-Russian Group on Military-Technical Co-operation a delegation led by Defence Secretary and consisting of senior officers from the armed forces and the Ministry of Defence visited Moscow from November 10-12, 1998. The Joint Working Group is responsible for reviewing and monitoring the progress of the implementation of the on-going long-term programme of military-technical co-

operation between the two countries. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details of discussions held during the joint meeting.

Use of Substandard Material in Construction

832. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the roof plaster of the newly constructed building of Balasore Railway Station has started falling;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which the inquiry is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Crash of IAF Plane near Calcutta

833. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Air Force Plane crashed over two other stationary aircraft while landing at Kalaikunda Airbase near Calcutta on August 31, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons of the accident;

(c) the loss of lives and property caused therein; and

(d) the details of the inquiry conducted in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) The Court of Inquiry into the accident has revealed that the accident was due to failure of flaps to come out or non-selection of flaps by the pilot and subsequent high angle of attack during overshoot action which resulted in the aircraft stalling and impacting the ground. This aircraft crashed over two aircraft parked on the ground which were also destroyed. The pilot was fatally injured and one Engine Fitter working on the parked aircraft also sustained fatal injuries due to the impact and subsequent fire. As a result of the enquiry remedial steps are being taken to prevent such accidents.

Rakesh Mohan Committee

834. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

Will the Minister of 'URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rakesh Mohan Committee on infrastructure has submitted reports;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The Expert Group on Commercialisation of Infrastructure Projects under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohan submitted its report to the Government on 22nd June, 1996.

(b) The Expert Group has provided policy directions for policy reforms which can help in greater commercialisation of infrastructure, alongwith the promotion of public-private partnerships. Its major recommendations are as follows:—

- The Expert Group has estimated that the total infrastructure investment requirements would be about Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 4,500 billion over the next five years and about Rs. 7,500 billion during 2001-02 to 2005-07;

- For meaningful commercialisation of infrastructure projects, the Government must ensure that project risks are clearly demarcated and allocated to different stakeholders;

- If infrastructure is to be financed through the capital markets, it is necessary to initiate major reforms in the area of contractual saving institutions;

- India needs an institution to specifically provide credit enhancements to projects and activate the debt market;

- The existing sector-specific enactments should be unified into a single statute and an autonomous regulatory body should be set up for each infrastructure sector; and

- Sector specific reforms have also been suggested for urban infrastructure, ports, roads, power, telecom and industrial parks.

(c) Tax on dividends in the hands of the shareholder has been abolished in the Union Budget for 1997-98.

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) on net inter-bank liabilities have been abolished with effect from 26th April, 1997.

FIs have been permitted to invest in unlisted companies in the same manner as they were allowed to invest in listed companies. SEBI has issued guidelines to this effect as well. This makes it possible for FIs to invest in infrastructure.

FIs allowed to invest in listed/to be listed debt securities and Government securities through the 100% debt fund route.

Prescription of limits on investment in individual instruments by Money Market Mutual Funds (MMMFs) has been withdrawn and they are free to determine the extent of their investments in each instrument.

The Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) was incorporated on 30th January, 1997 with an authorised share capital of Rs. 5,000 crore.

In the budget for 1998-99, 10 per cent of the new accretion to Provident Funds has been permitted to be invested in private sector infrastructure projects, which have an investment grade rating from at least two credit rating agencies.

Independent regulatory authorities such as the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Tariff

Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) have been established. In the context of the power sector, legislation has been enacted to establish the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission with enabling provisions to facilitate State Governments to set up State Regulatory Commissions.

Flying/Gliding Clubs

835. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flying/gliding clubs in Uttar Pradesh and other States and the number of planes each have;

(b) the amount provided as subsidy/assistance during the last three years, club-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the status given to each of these clubs by the Civil Aviation Directorate?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is given in the attached statement.

(c) There is no system of according status to the flying/gliding clubs by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Statement

Name of Flying/Gliding Clubs and the State to which they belong	No. of Aircraft/ Gliders	Amount of subsidy given by D.G.C.A. (Rs. in lakhs) (approximately)		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
I. FLYING CLUBS/SCHOOLS/INSTITUTES/GLIDING CLUBS COVERED UNDER GOVT. SUBVENTION SCHEME:—				
(A) Flying clubs/schools/institutes				
<i>(i) Uttar Pradesh</i>				
Govt. Flying Training Centre, Lucknow, (U.P.) with 3 branches at Kanpur, Faizabad and Varanasi	12	13.81	11.01	13.73
<i>(ii) Other States</i>				
Andaman & Nicobar Flying Training Instt., Port Blair	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Andhra Pradesh Flying Club, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	8	10.84	2.95	5.33
Assam Flying Club, Guwahati (Assam)	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar Flying Training Instt. Patna (Bihar)	5	Nil	2.65	Nil
Jamshedpur Co-operative Flying Club Jamshedpur (Bihar)	3	3.65	7.11	6.49
Delhi Flying Club (Delhi)	12	4.02	Nil	Nil
Gujarat Flying Club, Baroda, (Gujarat)	9	15.14	10.18	8.13
Hissar Aviation Club, Hissar (Haryana)	5	3.54	2.37	0.37
Karnal Aviation Club, Karnal (Haryana)	6	8.42	2.00	4.37
Pinjore Aviation Club, Pinjore (Haryana)	4	4.26	3.99	3.83
Govt. Flying Training School, Bangalore, (Karnataka)	6	Nil	20.55	1.76
Kerala Aviation Training Institute Thiruvanthapuram, (Kerala)	4	2.24	3.64	1.84
Madhya Pradesh Flying Club, Indore with one Branch at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	12	33.38	21.65	10.37
Ajanta Flying Club, Aurangabad, (Maharashtra)	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bombay Flying Club Mumbai (Maharashtra)	8	2.42	2.06	2.14
Nagpur Flying Club Nagpur (Maharashtra)	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Govt. Aviation Training Institute, Bhubaneshwar (Orissa)	4	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
Amritsar Aviation Club, Amritsar (Punjab)	4	3.97	3.51	1.49
Ludhiana Aviation Club (Punjab)	6	7.30	8.94	4.59
Northern India Flying Club, Jalandhar Cantt. (Punjab)	5	Nil	6.84	10.39
Patiala Aviation Club, Patiala (Punjab)	6	1.09	4.79	4.65
Banasthali Vidyapith Flying Club (Rajasthan)	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rajasthan State Flying School, Jaipur, (Rajasthan)	4	7.59	6.77	3.24
Coimbatore Aviation Training Academy Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)	6	0.42	Nil	Nil
Madras Flying Club Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	7	3.88	Nil	3.43
Govt. Flying Training Inst., Calcutta, (West Bengal)	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
(B) Gliding Clubs				
<i>(i) Uttar Pradesh</i>				
GLIDING & SOARING CENTRE, IIT Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	4	0.80	0.54	0.96
<i>(ii) Other States</i>				
Bihar Flying Instt., Gliding Wing, Ranchi (Bihar)	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Jamshedpur Gliding Club (Bihar)	—	3.33	2.33	1.30
Delhi Gliding Club (Delhi)	7	3.05	2.96	2.30
Ahmedabad Gliding & Flying Club (Gujarat)	5	1.66	0.77	0.58

1	2	3	4	5
Hissar Aviation Club (Haryana)	5	3.77	0.19	0.87
Pinjore Aviation Club (Haryana)	5	5.77	1.80	1.20
Deolali Gliding Club, Nasik (Maharashtra)	6	4.46	3.36	3.47
Govt. Gliding Centre, Pune (Maharashtra)	13	complete budget is borne by Government (Directorate General of Civil Aviation)		
Ludhiana Aviation Club Gliding Wing (Punjab)	2	1.45	0.49	Nil
Northern India Flying Club (Gliding Wing), Jalandhar, Punjab	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Birla Gliding Club, Pilani (Rajasthan)	4	0.74	1.72	0.53
Rajasthan State Flying School, (Gliding Wing), Jaipur	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(II) AUTONOMOUS ORGANISATION UNDER MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION				
Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Fursatganj (Uttar Pradesh)	11	Funded by the Government, Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited.		
(III) PRIVATE FLYING CLUBS/SCHOOLS/INSTITUTES NOT COVERED UNDER GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION SCHEME				
<i>(i) Uttar Pradesh</i>				
Garg Aviation Ltd., Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	3			
<i>(ii) Other States</i>				
Wings Aviation Pvt. Ltd. Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	3			
Flytech Aviation Academy, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	7			
Tata Nagar Aviation, Jamshedpur (Bihar)	6			

1	2	3	4	5
Ahmedabad Aviation Akademi (Gujarat)	9			
Academy of Carver Aviation (Pvt) Ltd. Balgaum, Karnataka	3			
Bangalore Aeronautics Technical Services Pvt. Ltd., (BATS) Bangalore, (Karnataka)	3			
Taneja Aerospace & Aviation Ltd., Bangalore (Karnataka)	5			
UDAN Research & Flying Instt., Pvt. Ltd., (Renamed FRANK Airways Pvt. Ltd.) Indore (Madhya Pradesh)	6			
Orient Flight School, Pondichery (Union Territory)	5			
Rajputana Aviation Academy, Kota, (Rajasthan)	4			
Tetra Aviation Academy, Salem (Tamil Nadu)	3			

**Diversion of River Water towards India
by Pak Army**

836. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Engineers of Pakistan have pushed, in the recent past, the course of Sutlej and Ravi rivers towards the Indian Territory in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of the damage caused to the Indian Army and villagers in Punjab; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to counter the Pakistani move?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to construction of embankments and spurs by Pakistan, the course of

the rivers Ravi and Sutlej had changed resulting in washing away of 17.26 Kms. of fencing and flood lighting and damage to 26.18 Kms. of fencing and flood lighting during 1993 to 1995, as also threat to some border out posts.

(c) While some repair work was earlier completed in 1997 in Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Ferozepur districts of Punjab, some more flood protection projects have been put in the "High Priority" list.

Losses Incurred by Air India

837. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI T.R. BAALU :
SHRI K.P. MOHAN :
SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news report, "We are broke, need Govt. help: Air India" appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated November 4, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news report mainly relates to the information given by the Managing Director, Air India regarding losses of Air India and steps being taken/proposed to be taken to offset these losses.

(c) The Disinvestment Commission in its VIII report has recommended the restructuring/disinvestment in Air India. The main recommendations of the Commission are:—

- (i) Infusion of Government equity of Rs. 1000 crores and finally bringing down the Government share holding in Air India to 40%.
- (ii) Induction of a strategic partner holding 40% equity on the basis of global bids.

- (iii) 10% equity to be offered to the domestic institutional investors and 10% to retail investors and employees.

The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Construction of Low Cost Houses

838. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of delegations of Government officials and people's representatives had been sent abroad to get technical knowhow about construction of houses with low cost;

(b) if so, the details of the reports submitted by each delegation; and

(c) the names of the persons and the countries where such delegations have been sent during 1997 and 1998?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The names of the persons and the countries where such delegations have been sent during 1997 and 1998 are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of officers/persons	Countries/places Visited	Duration of the visit
1	2	3	4
1.	Sh. Swaroop Chand Rajan, MLA	Singapore, Bangkok, Manila, Hanoi and Ho-chi-Minh city	7.9.1998 to 19.9.1998
2.	Sh. Sahab Singh Chauhan, MLA		
3.	Sh. Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, MLA		
4.	Sh. Mohabal Mishra, Councilor, MCD		
5.	Ms. Devagya Bhargava, Councilor, MCD		
6.	Sh. V.M. Bansal, Commissioner-Cum-Secretary, DDA		

1	2	3	4
7.	Sh. K.K. Bandopadhyaya, Addl. Commissioner (Planning), DDA	Singapore, Bangkok, Manila, Hanoi and Ho-chi-Minh city	7.9.1998
8.	Sh. A.K. Jain, Addl. Comm. (Planning), DDA		to 19.9.1998
9.	Sh. K. Mahesh, OSD to Minister of Urban Affairs & Employment		
10.	Sh. K.K. Bhandari, Eng. Member, DDA	Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Shanghai (China)	
11.	Sh. Vijay Rishbud, Comm. (Planning), DDA		
12.	Sh. S.C. Tayal, Director (Planning)		7.11.1998
13.	Sh. Prakash Narain, Director (Planning), DDA		to 22.11.1998
14.	Sh. Ashok Acharya, OSD to Lt. Governor of Delhi		

No report has been submitted to Govt. as yet by these delegation.

[English]

Media Briefing by Army

839. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :
SHRI M. RAJIAH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the *Asian Age* dated September 3, 1998 captioned "Bureaucrats upset over Army briefing",

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to set the matter right?

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

(b) and (c) From time to time instructions are issued to streamline the system of media briefings by senior officers of the defence establishment. These instructions

are aimed at making interaction with the press effective, coherent, informative and accurate. Such briefings involve the armed forces and civilian components of the defence establishment in a way that the existing press relations effort is buttressed with technically qualified backing whenever required. There is no question of anybody being upset over the transmission of coherent, accurate and informative information to the media through authorised briefings.

Military Hardwares to Burma

840. SHRMATI RANEE NARAH :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of main buyers of Indian defence products, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have turned down several requests from Burma for supply of military hardware in the recent past; and

(c) if so, the reasons attributed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Defence production units have primarily been exporting defence products to countries in the Afro-Asian region. These include ammunition, communication equipment, aeronautical stores and software items, etc. Some Components and sub-systems are also being exported to certain developed countries.

(b) and (c) It is not in public interest to disclose this information relating to specific countries.

[Translation]

Defence Cooperation with France

841. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consensus has recently been reached on the long term defence cooperation between the Prime Minister of India and France; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) During the recent visit of Prime Minister to France discussions were held with the French President, Prime Minister and Defence Minister on many issues of mutual interest including defence cooperation. The discussions confirmed the strong desire of the two sides to strengthen all aspects of defence co-operation including defence supplies, interaction in defence research and development as well as production, training and exchange of defence related visits at different levels on the basis of an understanding and appreciation of each other's security concerns and aspirations.

Setting up of Divisional Office in Ahmedabad

842. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has provided land to Railways for setting up of Divisional office in Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the location thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above Divisional office is likely to be made functional and the details of territorial jurisdiction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No land has been provided by State Government. However, land was offered by State Government at Gandhinagar. Land offered by Gujarat Government was not found suitable for locating the Divisional office.

(c) The Division being made functional depends upon availability of suitable land, development of infrastructure, thereon as suitable land has not yet been offered a time frame for making the Divisional Office functional has not been fixed. The territorial jurisdiction of the Ahmedabad Division has not yet been finalised.

[English]

Foreign Tourists Detained in Plane at IGI Airport

843. SHRI KAMALNATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plane of visitors to India from U.K. had an unwelcome experience because the visitors were detained at the Indira Gandhi International Airport for four hours:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ward off such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) On a specific complaint, Chartered Flight No. 733 from Tbilisi, Georgia carrying 155 passengers was detained by immigration authorities at the airport on 3.10.1998. After consultation with the DGCA officials, the passengers were cleared. DGCA has since taken action against the tour operator for violation of charter guidelines.

(c) Monitoring of charter flights by DGCA would be intensified, to prevent such incidents.

**Basic Amenities in Stopping Complex,
Vasant Vihar**

844. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made the allotment of shops in Vasant Vihar, Central Government Housing Complex, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted therefor;

(c) whether all the basic amenities have been provided in these shops and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which such facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of the 46 shops, 23 shops have been allotted on leave and licence basis after inviting tenders.

(c) and (d) Action relating to provision of basic amenities on the part of CPWD has been completed. As regards electric connection, individual allottees have to approach Delhi Vidyut Board.

[Translation]

Army Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur

845. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that Army Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh has stopped the manufacturing of conventional military vehicles and two types of new vehicles are being manufactured there using new technology of Tata and Ashoka Leyland;

(b) whether on the one hand the employees of the said factory are unaware of the new technology and on the other there is shortage of about four thousand employees in this factory against the sanctioned strength;

(c) whether the number of trained workers is decreasing whereas trained apprentices are per trade perception are not getting employment; and

(d) if so, the remedial action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A Statement is attached.

Statement

Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur (VFJ), set up in late 60s has been manufacturing conventional military transport vehicles in the pay load categories of 3 Ton, 1 Ton and 0.25 Ton. Army's changed requirements, manufacture of new generation of transport vehicles in the pay load category of 2.5 ton and 5/7.5 ton vehicles have been started during 1997-98 at VFJ, in technology collaboration with M/s Telco and M/s Ashok Leyland respectively. These new vehicles are slated to eventually replace the conventional military vehicles under production at VFJ.

The basic automobile technology for the new vehicles remains the same and the employees are well-versed in it. However production of any new item requires familiarisation and experience involving a learning curve, for which appropriate training inputs have been organised and this is an on going process.

The existing strength of VFJ is approximately 3200 Nos. less than the sanctioned strength, which was based on production of 8000 vehicles per annum. The strength of the work force is related with the technology, machines & equipment and is also dependent on long term requirements of the Army. Induction of man power is undertaken by Ordnance Factory Board for skill up-gradation based on the specific requirement.

In the matter of trade apprentices, Ordnance Factories are responsible for their training as per the apprentices training scheme under the Apprentice Act 1961. This scheme does not guarantee employment of trade apprentices. The employment/absorption of trade apprentices is done on need basis in accordance with Government policy at the relevant period.

[English]

Granite Mining Projects in Goa

846. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some integrated granite mining projects in Goa;

(b) if so, the number of projects originally planned; and

(c) the details of granite projects set up in Goa so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Granite is a minor mineral notified under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and according to Section 15 of the Act, State Governments are empowered to make rules in respect of minor minerals. Hence the grant of mineral concessions for Granite is governed by the provisions of Minor Mineral Concession Rules framed by the respective State Governments. Information regarding granite projects set up in State Governments, including Goa is not maintained by the Central Government.

Modernisation of Jalgaon Airport

847. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for modernising the Jalgaon Airport;

(b) if so, whether the Jalgaon Airport has been handed over to Jalgaon Municipal Council for modernisation;

(c) if so, the financial assistance provided to Jalgaon Municipal Council for the purpose;

(d) whether regular air services are proposed to be started from Jalgaon; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Jalgaon airport belongs to the State Government of Maharashtra.

(d) and (e) No scheduled airline has shown interest to operate to/from Jalgaon airport.

Laying of New Railway Line between Dharampuri and Morapur

848. SHRI K.P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to lay a new railway line between Dharampuri and Morapur under Southern Railway;

(b) if so, whether any survey had been conducted on the said route earlier; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said line is likely to be laid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of Arms and Ammunition Unit in Bihar

849. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a new arms and ammunition unit at Rajgir in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and its present status;

(c) whether the Government also propose to shift the duly approved site of the ordnance factory from Koderma to Rajgir in Bihar;

(d) if so, the detailed reasons therefor;

(e) the number of families expected to be dislocated in the event of establishment of ordnance factory at Rajgir;

(f) the amount likely to be incurred for rehabilitation of the dislocated families; and

(g) whether the Government propose to give employment to all the peasants who are likely to be dislocated from their cultivated land?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There is no proposal to set up any new arms factory at present. However the need to set up a ammunition/propellant factory is under examination of the Government.

(b) The proposal is under examination.

(c) and (d) The site in Koderma district of Bihar was accorded a very low priority by the site selection committee in their final report submitted in February 1987 and hence was never in contention.

(e) to (g) It will be known only after final selection of the site is made.

*[Translation]***Supply of Ozonised Water to Passengers**

850. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for making available free 'ozonised' safe drinking water to the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which and the names of the Railway Stations where this scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. However, potable drinking water is made available at the stations to the passengers free of cost.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Manufacturing of Railway Coach by BGML**

851. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has approached the Ministry of Railways for obtaining orders for the manufacturing of Railway coaches by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Department of Mines has not approached the Ministry of Railways for obtaining orders for manufacturing railway coaches. BGML have no facility to manufacture Railway coaches. However, BGML has been awarded, as a result of their participation in a tender process, developmental order for 60 nos Boxn Type Wagons in February 1998 for a total value of Rs. 3.02 crores of which 3 nos prototype have to be manufactured and approved by the RDSO, Bangalore, before executing balance quantity.

*[Translation]***Malpractices in Army Recruitment Centre, U.P.**

852. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any raid was ever conducted during the recruitment in the Army Recruitment Centre at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of recruitments reported to have been made by giving bribe in connivance with the army officers; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to investigate the irregularities and malpractices being committed in this centre?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Pak Troops in J&K**

853. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the former Pakistan Army Chief General is reported to have admitted intrusion of their troops into J&K in 1990 when Islamabad sponsored militancy in the State was at its peak as published in the 'Times of India' dated October 21, 1998; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

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

(b) The LOC was delineated on maps after the Simla Agreement. It does not run along clearly discernible natural features, instead passes over rugged and inaccessible terrain. It has not been demarcated on the ground and no boundary pillars exist. Given the lay of the ground there is a tendency by local commanders to establish moral ascendancy. The Pak Army made several unsuccessful attempts to cross the LOC in J&K in 1990 and 1991 when insurgency with Pakistan support was at its peak.

[Translation]

Regularisation of Workers

854. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to regularise the services of a large number of workers working on daily wages in his Ministry during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to re-employ the daily wage workers rendered jobless, due to the closure of Steam Loco-sheds and other reasons in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) and (b) It is presumed that the reference is to casual labour on roll on the Railways. The number of casual labour on the Railways stood at 504 as on 30.09.98. Their regularisation has been held up due to Court cases, Vigilance cases, Discipline & Appeal Rules cases, etc. Efforts are on to expedite their regularisation.

(c) and (d) It is presumed that the reference is to casual labour retrenched in the past on completion of work and/or for want of further work on the Railways. Those casual labour whose names are borne on the Live Casual Labour Register/Supplementary Live Casual Labour Register on the Railways are to be considered for absorption in their turn according to seniority based on the number of days of service as casual labour. There are no separate orders in this regard for Steam Loco-sheds.

Performance of Indian Railways

855. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance level of Indian Railways has been declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the factors responsible therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken to improve the performance include amongst others, increasing the reliability and utilisation of assets, improvement in punctuality and safety in train operation, reduction in energy consumption, innovative marketing strategies, reduction in working expenses etc.

Pay Disparity amongst Armed Forces

856. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after adoption of the Report of the Fifth Pay Commission, a disparity in pay, allowances and ranks arises between a Naval Officer and a Coast Guard Officer selected for equal ranks, with the result that till the time the Naval Officer reaches the rank of Lt. Commander his counterpart in Coast Guards is ranked as Commandant and draws higher pay packet; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Coast Guard Organisation was raised on the pattern of Central Para Military forces like BSF while Naval personnel are combatant armed forces. Both the governed by separate Acts. Therefore, the two are strictly not comparable and, thus, the pay and allowances for two sets of personnel are different.

There is no established rank equation between the Navy and the Coast Guard as the rank structure of the Coast Guard are similar to that of the CPOs and the recruitments are also done by different agencies. It is, therefore, not possible to ascribe inter-se-seniority between the officers of the Indian Navy and that of the Coast Guard.

The pay scales of the Coast Guard personnel, including officers, broadly correspond to the pay scales and allowances of the personnel in the Central Police Organisations. However, some of the allowances which are peculiar to sea service are paid as applicable in the Navy. The Fifth Central Pay Commission had

recommended a replacement scale of Rs. 14300-18300 for the Commandant in the Coast Guard and a replacement pay scale of Rs. 11600-14850 with rank pay of Rs. 1200/- for Lt. Commander of Navy. These pay scales have been implemented.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance from United States for Energy Programme

857. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programme propose to provide financial assistance to the Rural Energy Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said assistance is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information received from the Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources, which is the concerned Ministry, rural energy has been identified as one of the areas for support under the Government of India and United Nations Development Programme "Country Cooperation Framework-I (CCF-I) 1997-2001". The main objectives of the Rural Energy Programme support are to complement the Government of India's ongoing activities in providing energy to rural areas, capacity building to manage, plan and implement rural energy programme and demonstrate the decentralised energy intervention in the rural areas.

(c) The Rural Energy Programme Support document under Government of India and United Nations Development Programme "Country Cooperation Framework-I (CCF-I) 1997-2001" has been signed on 11.8.1998. UNDP assistance will be available for the specific sub-programme during the period of the programme.

[*English*]

Development of International Airport at Trivandrum

858. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the development works at Trivandrum International Airport are being taken currently; and

(b) the time by which the proposed developmental activities are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The following development works have been undertaken at Trivandrum International Airport:—

(1) Extension of apron likely to be completed in December, 1998:

(2) Air-conditioning of the international terminal building likely to be completed in December, 1998; and

(3) Interim modification to the Terminal Building likely to be completed in March, 1999.

[*Translation*]

Hindi Salahkar Samiti

859. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Hindi Salahkar Samiti' has been set-up in various departments of his Ministry;

(b) if so, whether it has held any meeting so far alongwith the names of journals/magazines being brought out by the said Samities;

(c) whether the Government propose to nominate M.P.'s in the Official Language Implementation Committee in order to look after the work pertaining to Hindi instead of nominating the non-Government persons; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) At present the reconstitution of the Hindi Salahkar Samities in both the Departments i.e. (i) Department of Steel and (ii) Department of Mines is under consideration. Thus it has not been possible to hold the meetings of these Committees. No magazines are being published by the Hindi Salahkar Samities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no such provision under the guidelines for constitution of Official Language Implementation Committee issued by the Department of Official Language (Ministry of Home Affairs).

Food for Siachin Guards

860. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "No food, woollens for Siachin guards" appeared in 'Pioneer' dated July 29, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to supply the essential items to Siachin gurards and to avert such situation in future?

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

(b) and (c) The supply of essential items to Siachen troops is monitored at the highest level and all bottlenecks are removed most expeditiously. Essential supplies are regularly, air-maintained by the Army and Air Force. Chartering of additional civil aircraft, through Indian Airlines, is also being finalised. While the operational communications in the Glacier area are satisfactory, a project to further modernise the communication system in the sector is, currently, under way. Procurement of all-weather Surveillance systems, too, has been finalised. The winter stocking of Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System is fully satisfactory. While Gloves, supplied in the past, did not fully stand upto the Extreme Cold Conditions in the sector, import of the successfully, Winter-tested, Gloves in the sector has been contracted and supplies are expected, very shortly.

Collection of Money on Armed Forces Flag Day

861. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the total amount collected on the occasion of the Armed Forces Flag Day in 1996 and 1997 and the details of its breakup, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : A Statement is attached.

Statement**State-wise Flag Day Collection—1996**

Sl. No.	State	Amount (Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24,26,726
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	1,22,999
4.	Bihar	6,06,676
5.	Delhi	8,21,066
6.	Goa	89,931
7.	Gujarat	22,14,566
8.	Haryana	7,70,401
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2,79,290
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4,36,707
11.	Karnataka	1,04,16,755
12.	Kerala	34,35,544
13.	Madhya Pradesh	24,30,557
14.	Maharashtra	4,04,03,991

1	2	3
15.	Manipur	5,535
16.	Meghalaya	1,10,776
17.	Mizoram	45,185
18.	Nagaland	26,695
19.	Orissa	25,061
20.	Punjab	16,27,000
21.	Rajasthan	19,00,000
22.	Sikkim	33,743
23.	Tamil Nadu	3,47,08,220
24.	Tripura	12,227
25.	Uttar Pradesh	48,41,068
26.	West Bengal	3,27,721
27.	A & N Islands	60,904
28.	Chandigarh	1,43,036
29.	Pondicherry	4,72,846
Total		10,87,95,226

A sum of Rs. 10,87,95,226/- (Rupees Ten Crore Eighty Seven lakh Ninety Five Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Six only) was collected by the State and Union Territories towards the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund in 1996. The State/Union Territory-wise collections were as per Annexure-I.

2. The details of the collections from the States & Union Territories for the year 1997 will be known only after 7th December, 1998.

Assistance under IDSMT

862. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Notified Area Committees and Municipalities in the State of Gujarat which have been included for development under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme alongwith the funds provided to each of them during each of the last three years; and

(b) the names of new towns likely to be included under the scheme during 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT), ten towns have been included for coverage under the IDSMT Scheme in Gujarat State during last three years are attached as statement.

(b) The State Government of Gujarat has submitted a priority list of eleven towns out of which ten towns have already been covered. Coverage of remaining one town, viz. Dakaor which has been approved in principle by the State Level Sanctioning Committee in its Meeting held on February 10, 1997, will depend upon the availability of funds for new towns.

Statement

New Towns Included under IDSMT during the last 3 years in Gujarat State and Central Assistance Released to each of them during last 3 years

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Name of Town	Central Assistance Released
1	2	3
1995-96	1. Bavla	22.50
	2. Modasa	22.50
	3. Idar	15.00
	4. Anand-I	55.00
	Sub Total	115.00
1996-97	5. Bardoli	30.00
	6. Jamnagar	33.00
	7. Bhavnagar	33.00
	8. Dwarka	14.00
	9. Bavla	7.50 (Balance of 1st Instalment)
	10. Modasa	7.50 (-Do-)
	11. Idar	5.00 (-Do-)
	12. Anand-I	15.00 (-Do-)
	Sub Total	145.00

1	2	3
1997-98	13. Ambaji	7.55
	14. Mandvi	13.00
	15. Jamnagar	57.00 (Balance of 1st Instalment)
	16. Bhavnagar	57.00 (-Do-)
	17. Dwarka	16.00 (-Do-)
	18. Bavla	19.00 (2nd Instalment)
	19. Idar	20.00 (-Do-)
	20. Anand-I	44.00 (-Do-)
	Sub Total	233.55
	Grand Total	493.55

Job for Women and Minorities in Rural Areas

863. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored schemes to generate more opportunities of jobs for women and minorities in rural areas in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of people actually benefited and got jobs, State-wise;

(c) the total amount allocated for each scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether any criteria has been fixed for introducing the said Schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) are the major employment schemes being implemented in rural areas of the

country. The women and minorities are covered under these schemes.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of the total amount allocated for each scheme and the total number of people actually benefitted are given in the Statements-I to V.

(d) and (e) These programmes are being implemented all over the country and beneficiaries are selected as per the eligibility criteria set for the respective schemes.

Statement-I

Allocation & Achievement under JRY during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99

S. No.	State/UTs	(Rs. In lakhs) Allocation			(In lakhs Mandays) Achievement		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17372.39	19410.49	14629.93	330	311	57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	178.30	199.21	321.65	3	3	0
3.	Assam	5718.18	6389.03	8357.73	92	108	12
4.	Bihar	34075.58	38073.25	47925.96	460	538	107
5.	Goa	192.65	215.25	215.25	5	3	0
6.	Gujarat	6376.25	7124.30	5506.98	105	83	15
7.	Haryana	1531.81	1711.53	3239.85	13	16	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	612.16	683.98	1364.43	11	10	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1243.93	1389.86	1688.66	18	24	10
10.	Karnataka	11665.34	13033.90	11047.66	251	266	43
11.	Kerala	4244.16	4742.08	4957.05	55	42	8

②—Upto September'98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	22014.51	24597.23	24292.41	349	347	54
13.	Maharashtra	18937.55	21159.28	21838.53	455	528	58
14.	Manipur	228.53	255.34	560.30	3	2	0
15.	Meghalaya	267.40	298.78	627.74	7	5	0
16.	Mizoram	112.65	125.86	145.26	2	2	1
17.	Nagaland	286.64	320.26	430.60	12	9	7
18.	Orissa	14093.11	15746.50	16733.63	314	300	54
19.	Punjab	1089.39	1217.19	1574.54	8	13	4
20.	Rajasthan	9146.40	10219.44	8388.86	168	196	46
21.	Sikkim	104.36	116.60	160.83	3	3	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	15704.96	17547.45	12936.06	489	389	136
23.	Tripura	296.83	331.65	1011.64	10	7	10
24.	Uttar Pradesh	42334.91	47301.56	52742.94	658	599	197
25.	West Bengal	15569.34	17395.93	18596.09	179	155	11
26.	A & N Islands	84.41	94.31	117.89	1	0	0
27.	D & N Haveli	45.81	51.18	77.81	1	0	0
28.	Daman & Diu	26.99	30.16	37.70	1	1	0
29.	Lakshadweep	42.32	47.28	59.10	1	1	0
30.	Pondicherry	82.64	92.34	115.42	3	1	0
Total		223679.50	249921.18	259702.47	4006	3961	833

Statement-II**Allocation & Achievement under EAS during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99**

S. No.	State/UTs	(Rs. In lakhs) Total Allocation			(In lakh Mandays) Total Achievement		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25137.50	20925.00	20825.00	437.35	488.26	142.64
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2126.25	2362.50	1162.50	39.05	43.66	9.23
3.	Assam	13526.00	10740.00	3110.00	162.38	207.76	52.12
4.	Bihar	26556.25	22792.50	10757.50	324.49	420.45	136.04
5.	Goa	100.00	175.00	225.00	0.00	2.92	1.94
6.	Gujarat	7312.50	5400.00	1887.50	122.98	92.71	29.17
7.	Haryana	3350.00	3337.50	325.00	24.10	20.18	5.34
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1987.50	3187.50	1200.00	13.44	35.65	13.22
9.	J & K	4825.00	5950.00	5950.00	91.64	132.17	22.48
10.	Karnataka	14450.00	13250.00	6187.50	314.18	349.41	90.3
11.	Kerala	3562.50	4986.25	2201.25	28.76	47.26	27.24
12.	Madhya Pradesh	28337.71	26884.81	15103.75	379.22	447.46	170.05
13.	Maharashtra	8412.50	14168.14	5688.59	309.72	363.24	93.76
14.	Manipur	1350.00	1012.50	250.00	16.72	15.38	4.47
15.	Meghalaya	612.50	275.00	0.00	5.90	7.72	3.01

Note : Statewise allocation is not earmarked, the release figures taken as allocation.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Mizoram	1500.00	1000.00	1000.00	32.26	17.88	9.69
17.	Nagaland	3482.50	2625.00	1312.50	72.65	104.54	24.92
18.	Orissa	20534.44	18401.98	10427.50	439.36	382.14	95.69
19.	Punjab	1225.00	2300.00	0.00	NR	4.55	4.01
20.	Rajasthan	12987.50	11581.25	6656.25	212.65	250.06	73.9
21.	Sikkim	275.00	275.00	0.00	4.45	7.41	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	18406.25	23400.00	11700.00	468.42	558.28	201.83
23.	Tripura	2700.00	1800.00	900.00	44.73	54.46	15.63
24.	Uttar Pradesh	26630.94	39310.08	18656.04	319.94	522.76	205.85
25.	West Bengal	12712.50	9737.50	687.50	162.76	138.6	23.19
26.	A & N Islands	0.00	80.00	0.00	0.32	0.14	0.14
27.	D & N Haveli	60.00	30.00	0.00	0.47	0.72	0.12
28.	Daman & Diu	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.34	0.03
29.	Lakshadweep	140.00	0.00	0.00	2.06	1.46	0.82
30.	Pondicherry	60.00	60.00	0.00	NR	0.14	0
All India		242379.34	246047.51	126213.38	4030.02	4717.71	1456.83

Statement III**Allocation & Achievement under IRDP during 1996-97, 1997-98 & 1998-99**

S. No.	State/UTs	(Rs. in lakhs)			(No. of beneficiary)		
		1996-97 Total Allocation	1997-98 Total Allocation	1998-99 Total Allocation	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8336.41	8612.23	8147.91	203135	162117	35684
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	623.43	644.07	644.06	4956	12799	2635
3.	Assam	2743.50	2834.27	4654.71	23062	39585	5947
4.	Bihar	16218.24	16754.81	26691.63	241026	196849	53062
5.	Goa	141.87	146.57	18.78	1982	897	445
6.	Gujarat	3059.22	3160.43	3067.02	47545	41822	14748
7.	Haryana	735.33	759.67	1804.39	17202	10853	3234
8.	Himachal Pradesh	239.78	247.71	759.89	7990	5548	1501
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	999.09	1032.15	940.48	7929	13643	5415
10.	Karnataka	5594.91	5780.01	6152.83	116900	94688	15606
11.	Kerala	2036.15	2103.50	2760.75	48690	44191	12377
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10565.39	10914.93	13529.29	168123	138810	26982
13.	Maharashtra	9087.73	9388.40	12162.63	161018	147640	40678
14.	Manipur	449.59	464.47	464.48	7256	4258	
15.	Meghalaya	477.57	493.36	493.36	6822	5167	1409

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Mizoram	201.82	208.50	208.50	1360	2876	1053
17.	Nagaland	335.69	346.81	346.80	2915	3433	
18.	Orissa	6763.85	6987.62	9319.53	91249	75343	17780
19.	Punjab	521.53	538.77	876.91	7160	6107	2846
20.	Rajasthan	4388.01	4533.18	4672.05	70304	60819	11003
21.	Sikkim	55.95	57.79	89.57	1483	1792	486
22.	Tamil Nadu	7537.14	7786.50	7204.54	152597	180696	60219
23.	Tripura	641.42	662.64	662.64	13725	11668	464
24.	Uttar Pradesh	20316.50	20988.66	29374.37	364552	351146	131677
25.	West Bengal	7472.20	7719.41	10356.80	110280	91733	36574
26.	A & N Islands	70.94	73.29	73.29	276	628	52
27.	D & N Haveli	14.99	15.49	43.75	168	179	47
28.	Daman & Diu	27.97	28.90	28.90	178	188	29
29.	Lakshadweep	6.99	7.22	7.22	30	27	2
30.	Pondicherry	57.95	59.87	59.87	1293	1107	40
Total		109721.16	113351.23	145616.95	1881206	1706609	481995

Statement IV**Allocation & Achievement under TRYSEM during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99**

S. No.	State/UTs	Allocation (Rs. in Lakhs)			Number of Youth Trained		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 @
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	684.92	684.92	498.68	83716	9713	6778
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	51.22	51.22	50.94	739	643	0
3.	Assam	225.40	225.40	284.88	6277	6884	103
4.	Bihar	1274.48	1274.48	1633.70	34477	23902	11455
5.	Goa	11.66	11.66	1.14	3863	1314	1645
6.	Gujarat	251.34	251.34	187.72	9371	6198	1709
7.	Haryana	60.40	60.40	110.44	3519	703	292
8.	Himachal Pradesh	19.80	19.80	46.50	803	737	124
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	140.00	140.00	57.56	4294	1865	1687
10.	Karnataka	459.84	459.84	376.58	18096	14379	307
11.	Kerala	167.28	167.28	168.96	5036	3046	1500
12.	Madhya Pradesh	867.96	867.96	828.12	39806	9255	3046
13.	Maharashtra	746.64	746.64	744.48	21447	6335	1914
14.	Manipur	36.94	36.94	36.74	362	602	0
15.	Meghalaya	39.24	39.24	39.02	352	166	31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Mizoram	16.58	16.58	16.48	445	300	22
17.	Nagaland	27.58	27.58	27.42	486	832	0
18.	Orissa	555.72	555.72	570.48	18555	12531	4512
19.	Punjab	43.00	43.00	53.68	1824	1047	635
20.	Rajasthan	360.52	360.52	285.94	5766	6169	1283
21.	Sikkim	4.60	4.80	5.58	660	216	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	619.24	619.24	440.94	7687	3599	5143
23.	Tripura	52.68	52.68	52.38	2597	3074	638
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1669.12	1669.12	1797.98	69272	50371	10731
25.	West Bengal	613.84	613.84	633.96	24199	10513	2719
26.	A & N Islands	11.74	11.74	11.68	486	287	37
27.	Daman & Diu	4.62	4.62	2.47	75	123	0
28.	D & N Haveli	2.48	2.48	4.59	107	82	20
29.	Lakshadweep	1.16	1.16	1.15	12	0	0
30.	Pondicherry	5.00	5.00	4.97	8	138	5
All India		9025.00	9025.00	8975.16	364337.00	175024.00	56336

Statement V*Allocation & Achievement under DW CRA during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99*

S. No.	State/UTs	Allocation (Rs. in lakhs)			Achievement (No. of Groups formed)		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	718.75	724.50	870.16	277319	100876	1528
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44.75	45.11	45.10	1141	1158	13
3.	Assam	283.75	286.02	496.94	11751	17489	36
4.	Bihar	760.50	766.58	2850.12	33661	31570	991
5.	Goa	9.00	9.07	2.02	961	540	12
6.	Gujarat	258.25	260.32	327.60	12751	16688	241
7.	Haryana	146.50	147.67	192.78	7707	5784	73
8.	Himachal Pradesh	76.00	76.61	81.14	1331	3724	177
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	220.00	221.76	100.54	7569	8156	152
10.	Karnataka	387.00	390.10	656.96	27314	23446	447
11.	Kerala	180.00	181.44	294.84	9881	12977	761
12.	Madhya Pradesh	698.75	704.34	1444.72	12790	33160	160
13.	Maharashtra	572.00	576.58	1298.80	30492	28177	530
14.	Manipur	61.25	61.74	61.74	3567	488	0
15.	Meghalaya	110.00	110.88	110.88	4775	2897	21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Mizoram	17.00	17.14	17.14	710	625	18
17.	Nagaland	30.50	30.74	30.74	2238	1705	0
18.	Orissa	405.75	409.00	995.14	28452	23502	814
19.	Punjab	165.75	167.08	93.74	6401	6920	145
20.	Rajasthan	309.50	311.98	498.96	7939	4322	0
21.	Sikkim	43.50	43.85	43.84	259	1388	53
22.	Tamil Nadu	487.75	491.65	769.36	22550	27483	989
23.	Tripura	22.50	22.68	22.68	1711	2103	100
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1017.00	1025.14	3136.14	45623	78215	4538
25.	West Bengal	451.50	455.11	1106.02	22087	26589	859
26.	A & N Islands	5.80	7.31	7.31	662	209	13
27.	D & N Haveli	3.20	4.03	4.03	0	0	0
28.	Daman & Diu	2.80	3.53	3.53	90	0	0
29.	Lakshadweep	3.20	4.03	4.03	16	35	4
30.	Pondicherry	3.20	4.03	4.03	196	183	0
Total		7495.45	7560.00	15571.03	581944	460409	12675

Development of Sabarmati Railway Station

864. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ahmedabad Railway Station is having problem of overcrowding;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ease this overcrowding problem;

(c) whether the Railways have received any proposal to develop Sabarmati railway station with trains originating/terminating there to ease the overcrowding at Ahmedabad Station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Presently, there is no overcrowding at Ahmedabad Station. However, to meet with the future requirements, following improvements have been made/proposed to be made at this station:—

- (i) New foot-over-bridge has been constructed at South end of the platform with direct passengers discharge facility out side station building without overcrowding other platform;
- (ii) New landing is proposed for foot-over-bridge on North end for discharging passenger direct from platform Nos. 2 to 12 to outside station building without using platform No. 1, thereby easing overcrowding on platform No. 1 and circulating area;
- (iii) Due to gauge conversion, the length of platform has also been extended to accommodate more passengers.

(c) No Sir. However, additional facilities at Sabarmati Station are being provided as a part of Delhi-Ahmedabad gauge conversion project.

(d) Does not arise.

Low Cost Construction

865. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the status of standardisation on low cost construction practice, housing material and other aspects related to housing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the technologies identified for use of industrial and agricultural wastes in manufacturing building materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has set up a special sectional committee under Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to review the standards for low cost housing. IS8888 which specifies the guidelines for low-income housing is being revised. Building materials and technologies on which Indian Standards have been designated by the BIS is attached as Statement-I.

(c) Various technologies have been identified and developed for use of industrial and agricultural wastes in manufacture of building materials. A list of building materials and components which can be possibly produced by using industrial and agricultural wastes is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement I

List of Building Materials and Techniques (Developed by Different R&D Organisations) on which Working Specifications have been formulated to encourage Wider Field Applications

Building Materials	BIS Code
1	2
Specifications for Clay-Fly ash Bricks	IS:13757-1993
BUILDING COMPONENTS	
Specifications for Precast Concrete Stone Masonry Blocks	IS:14213-1994

1	2
CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES	
Specifications for Precast Channel Unit for Flooring/Roofing	IS:14201-1994
Code of practice for Construction of Floor and Roofs with reinforced concrete channel units.	IS:14215-1994
Specifications for Precast Reinforced Concrete Plank Flooring/Roofing.	IS:13990-1994
Code of practice for design and Construction of floor and roof with Precast Reinforced Concrete Planks and RC Joist.	IS:13994-1994
Specifications for Precast Lpanels units for roofing.	IS:14241-1994
Code for practice for design and construction of roof with Lpanel units.	IS:14242-1995
Code of practice for design and construction of roofs and floors with Prefabricated Brick Panels.	IS:14142-1994
Specifications for Prefabricated Brick Panel and partially precast concrete joist for flooring and roofing.	IS:14143-1994

INDUSTRIAL WASTE

S. No.	Name of the Waste	Type of Building Materials/Product
1	2	3
1.	Fly ash	Clay Flyash Bricks
		Aerated lightweight concrete (ACC) block/slabs
		Cellular Concrete Blocks.

1	2	3
		<p>Synthetic Flyash light weight aggregate (cold process)</p> <p>Flyash Concrete</p> <p>Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC)</p> <p>Flyash cement bricks/blocks</p> <p>Lintels, sunshades, jallies, doors/windows frame, roof slabs, purlins etc.</p> <p>Ready Mixed Concrete (RMC)</p> <p>Flyash Sand Lime Bricks</p> <p>Flyash fibre cement boards of roofing partition & panels</p> <p>Flyash-lime-Gypsum bricks/blocks</p> <p>Flyash/Redmud polymer composite core frame, core strips.</p> <p>Sand Lime Bricks.</p> <p>Cellular light-weight concrete blocks (CLC)</p>
2.	Blast Furnace Slag	Portland Slag Cement.
3.	Phosphogypsum	<p>Gypsum plaster-fibre jute/sisal & glass partition door shutters.</p> <p>Wall board, base board, internal walling, partitions, Sound absorption board.</p> <p>Plaster of Paris.</p> <p>Gypsum board, Wall linings, partitions and suspended ceilings.</p>
4.	Red Mud	<p>Redmud PVC jute fibre corrugated roofing sheets.</p> <p>Redmud polymer sisal-glass fibre.</p> <p>Redmud polymer composite for doors.</p>

Statement II*List of Agricultural—Industrial Wastes and the Technologies for Manufacturing Building Materials/Component*

AGRICULTURAL WASTES

S. No.	Name of the Waste	Type of Building Materials/Product
1	2	3
1.	Paper waste	Asphaltic roofing sheets, (corrugated/Plain)
2.	Rice Husk	For manufacturing building materials and products for production of rice husk binder, fibrous building panels, brick etc.
3.	Un-pulp Straw & Paper	Straw boards
4.	Bagasse	For manufacture of insulation boards wall panels, etc.
5.	Sawmill Waste	Particle Board Agro based Particle board. Cement bonded Particle Board. Cement bonded wood Particle Board. Wood Particle board. Waste wood particle board.
6.	Cotton plant Scanting, Eucalyptus & other plantation timbers	MDF Board for doors, panels/partitions etc.
7.	Jute	Jute sheet or board Jute-Fibre polyester panels Gypsum plaster-fibre jute/sisal & s partition door shutters. Jute polymer door frames.

1	2	3
8.	Coir/wood wool	Ceiling partition panels, coir boards
9.	Sisal fibre	Sisal glass fibre panels, tiles, roofing sheets
10.	Pine needle fibre	Pine needle fibre-bitumen Roofing Sheets.
11.	Rubber wood	Door Shutters

[*Translation*]

Unused Machinery in Bokaro Steel Plant

866. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether surplus machineries has been lying unused since many years in the Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the purpose for which this machinery was purchased; and

(c) the details of the surplus inventory alongwith the cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[*English*]

Bogus non-Governmental Agencies

867. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General in its report for the years 1991-97 of CARART have exposed numerous bogus non-Government agencies who have been allotted projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether report has referred to connivance of Senior Government officers; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against the officers responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Tatkal Reservation in Superfast Trains

868. SHRI BHAWAR CHAND GEHLOT .Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided 'Tatkal reservation' facility in all Superfast trains in accordance with its announcement;

(b) if so, the names of the trains and the places from where this facility has been introduced;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide this facility on Railway Stations under all Railway Division headquarters; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) At present, tatkal Scheme has been introduced in 81 important and popular trains including some Super fast trains.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

(b) The names of the trains on which tatkal Scheme has been introduced togetherwith the names of their originating and terminating stations are as under:

S. No.	Name/No. of the Train	From	To
1	2	3	4
1.	1015 Mumbai CST-Gorakhpur Kushi Nagar Express	Kurla(T)	Gorakhpur
2.	1016 Gorakhpur-Mumbai CST Kushi Nagar Express	Gorakhpur	Kurla(T)
3.	1019 Mumbai CST Bhubaneshwar Konark Express	Mumbai CST	Bhubaneshwar
4.	1020 Bhubaneshwar-Mumbai CST Konark Express	Bhubaneshwar	Mumbai CST
5.	2001 BPL-NDLS Shatabdi Express	Bhopal	New Delhi
6.	2002 NDLS-BPL Shatabdi Express	New Delhi	Bhopal
7.	2003 LKO-NDLS Shatabdi Express	Lucknow	New Delhi
8.	2004 NDLS-LKO Shatabdi Express	New Delhi	Lunknow
9.	2005 NDLS-KLK Shatabdi Express	New Delhi	Kalka
10.	2006 KLK-NDLS Shatabdi Express	Kalka	New Delhi
11.	2009 Mumbai Central-ADI Shatabdi Express	Mumbai Central	Ahmedabad
12.	2010 ADI-Mumbai Central Shatabdi Express	Ahmedabad	Mumbai Central

1	2	3	4
13.	2011 NDLS-CDG Shatabdi Express	New Delhi	Chandigarh
14.	2012 CDG-NDLS Shatabdi Express	Chandigarh	New Delhi
15.	2013 NDLS-ASR Shatabdi Express	New Delhi	Amritsar
16.	2014 ASR-NDLS Shatabdi Express	Amritsar	New Delhi
17.	2015 NDLS-AJMER Shatabdi Express	New Delhi	Ajmer
18.	2016 Ajmer-NDLS Shatabdi Express	Ajmer	New Delhi
19.	2017 NDLS-DDN Shatabdi Express	New Delhi	Dehradun
20.	2018 DDN-NDLS Shatabdi Express	Dehradun	New Delhi
21.	2029 NDLS-ASR Shatabdi Express	New Delhi	Amritsar
22.	2030 ASR-NDLS Shatabdi Express	Amritsar	New Delhi
23.	2105 Mumbai-Nagpur Vidharbha Express	Mumbai Central	Nagpur
24.	2106 Nagpur-Mumbai Vidharbha Express	Nagpur	Mumbai Central
25.	2137 CSTM-FZR Punjab Mail	CSTM	Ferozpur
26.	2138 FZR-CSTM Punjab Mail	Ferozpur	CSTM
27.	2165 Kurta(T)-Bilaspur Express	Kurta	Bilaspur

1	2	3	4
28.	2166 Bilaspur-Kurla(T) Express	Bilaspur	Kurla
29.	2303 Howrah-New Delhi Poorva Express	Howrah	New Delhi
30.	2304 New Delhi-Howrah Poorva Express	New Delhi	Howrah
31.	2381 Howrah-New Delhi Poorva Express	Howrah	New Delhi
32.	2382 New Delhi-Howrah Poorva Express	New Delhi	Howrah
33.	2421 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express	Bhubaneswar	New Delhi
34.	2422 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express	New Delhi	Bhubaneswar
35.	2424 NDLS-GHY Rajdhani Express	New Delhi	Guwahti
36.	2425 New Delhi-JAT Rajdhani Express	New Delhi	Jammu Tawi
37.	2426 JAT-New Delhi Rajdhani Express	Jammu Tawi	New Delhi
38.	2703 Howrah-Secundrabad Falknuma Express	Howrah	Secundrabad
39.	2704 Secunderabad-Howrah Falknuma Express	Secunderabad	Howrah
40.	2759 Chennai Hyderabad Charminar Express	Chennai	Hyderabad
41.	2760 Hyderabad-Chennai Charminar Express	Hyderabad	Chennai
42.	2841 Howrah-Chennai Coromandal Express	Howrah	Chennai

1	2	3	4
43.	2842 Chennai-Howrah Coromandal Express	Chennai	Howrah
44.	2859 Mumbai CST Geetanjali Express	Mumbai CST	Howrah
45.	2860 Howrah-Mumbai CST Geetanjali Express	Howrah	Mumbai CST
46.	2903 BCT-ASR Golden Temple Mail	Mumbai Central	Amritsar
47.	2904 ASR-BCT Golden Temple Mail	Amritsar	Mumbai Central
48.	2915 Ahmedabad-Delhi Ashram Express	Ahmedabad	Delhi
49.	2916 Delhi-Ahmedabad Ashram Express	Delhi	Ahmedabad
50.	2925 BCT-ASR Paschim Express	Mumbai Central	Amritsar
51.	2926 ASR-BCT Paschim Express	Amritsar	Mumbai Central
52.	2927 Mumbai Central-Vadodara Express	Mumbai Central	Vadodra
53.	2928 Vadodra-Mumbai Central Express	Vadodra	Mumbai Central
54.	2953 BCT-New Delhi August Kranti Rajdhani Express	Mumbai Central	New Delhi
55.	2954 New Delhi-BCT August Kranti Rajdhani Express	New Delhi	Mumbai Central
56.	2955 Mumbai Central-Jaipur Superfast Express	Mumbai Central	Jaipur

1	2	3	4
57.	2956 Jaipur-Mumbai Central Superfast Express	Jaipur	Mumbai Central
58.	3045 Howrah-Guwahati Saraighat Express	Howrah	Guwahati
59.	3046 Guwahati-Howrah Saraighat Express	Guwahati	Howrah
60.	3073 Howrah-Jammu Himgiri Express	Howrah	Jammu Tawi
61.	3074 Jammu-Howrah Himgiri Express	Jammu Tawi	Howrah
62.	4005 Indore-NZM Intercity Express	Indore	Nizamuddin
63.	4006 Nizamuddin-Indore Intercity Express	Nizamuddin	Indore
64.	4645 New Delhi-Jammu Tawi Shalimar Express	New Delhi	Jammu Tawi
65.	4646 Jammu Tawi Shalimar Express	Jammu Tawi	New Delhi
66.	4707 Bikaner-Bandra Express	Bikaner	Bandra
67.	6669 Chennai-Erode Yercaud Express	Chennai	Erode
68.	6670 Erode-Chennai Yercaud Express	Erode	Chennai
69.	7001 Mumbai-Hyderabad Hussain Sagar Express	Mumbai CST	Hyderabad
70.	7002 Hyderabad-Mumbai Hussain Sagar Express	Hyderabad	Mumbai CST
71.	7031 Mumbai-Hyderabad Express	Mumbai CST	Hyderabad

1	2	3	4
72.	7032 Hyderabad-Mumbai Express	Hyderabad	Mumbai CST
73.	9005 Mumbai Central-Okha Saurashtra Mail	Mumbai Central	Okha
74.	9006 Okha-Mumbai Central Saurashtra Mail	Okha	Mumbai Central
75.	9031 Mumbai-Central-GIDM Kutch Express	Mumbai Central	Gandhidham
76.	9032 GIDM-Mumbai Central Kutch Express	Gandhidham	Mumbai Central
77.	9264 Delhi Sarai Rohilla- Porbander Express	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Porbander
78.	9305 Shipra Express	Indore	Howrah
79.	9306 Shipra Express	Howrah	Indore
80.	9307 Indore-Jaipur Express	Indore	Jaipur
81.	9308 Jaipur-Indore Express	Jaipur	Indore

The reservation under this scheme are provided on end to end basis, however, Zonal Railways have been authorised to book passengers from the PRS at intermediate stations in case the traffic at the originating station is not adequate enough. Train Superintendents have been authorised to permit the passengers from the intermediate points to the extent of vacant berths subject to realisation of the prescribed charges and also production of proof of identity.

[English]

Resurvey of Land

869. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had sent any plan or project for resurvey of land in the entire State with modern equipment with Central assistance;

(b) if so, the amount of Central assistance sought for; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide financial assistance to the proposed project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Karnataka Government had sent a proposal of Rs. 554.20 crore for resurvey of the entire State under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records. Under this Scheme Central assistance is 50% of the approved items of the project cost. The State Government solicited 50% of the entire project cost though major part of the project cost related to the cost on manpower, which does not

come under the approved components of Central assistance under the Scheme.

(c) Since the annual budgetary allocation under the Scheme of Strengthening of Revenue Administration & Updating of Land Records for the current financial year is only Rs. 8.80 crore, the Ministry is not in a position to give administrative approval or bear reasonable cost of the project during the current financial year. The State Government has, however, been requested to take up pilot project for adoption of modern technology in the field of survey settlement by utilizing the unspent balance allotted for the aforesaid purpose during the last financial year.

Reduction in Population below Poverty line

870. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a reduction in the population below the poverty line in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the main scheme so far implemented to reduce the poverty line in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of Scheme in the State that could reduce further the population below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) As per the Planning Commission, the percentage of rural population living below poverty line in Andhra Pradesh had declined from 48.41% in 1973-74 to 15.92% in 1993-94.

(c) and (d) Government are implementing several anti poverty schemes, such as the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Million Well Scheme (MWS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) towards provision of social assistance as well as generation of wage and self-employment.

In addition, under the programmes of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) houses are provided to the rural poor.

The financial achievement of these programmes in Andhra Pradesh during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Programmes	1996-97		1997-98	
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
1.	JRY	17372.39	17488.47	19410.49	18745.52
2.	EAS	*	25509.86	*	29448.56
3.	IAY	11087.88	8213.28	11212.93	14792.02
4.	MWS	4342.14	3950.54	4342.14	4374.73
5.	IRDP	8336.41	12810.19	8612.23	11499.86
6.	DWCRA	718.75	3446.12	724.50	1288.34
7.	TRYSEM	634.92	1517.59	684.92	889.46
8.	SITRA	313.14	640.73	274.00	475.75
9.	NSAP	7896.11	6796.23	7820.90	6372.58

*Since EAS is a need-based programme, allocation is not fixed.

Classification of Minerals

871. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether minerals have been classified as Scheduled and Non-scheduled categories under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957;

(b) whether grant/renewal of mining lease of scheduled minerals by the State Government need prior approval of the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES : (a) to (c) Minerals have not been classified as Scheduled and Non-scheduled categories under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957. However, the minerals appearing in the first schedule of the Act are called specified minerals comprising of Part A—Hydrocarbons/Energy Minerals, Part B—Atomic minerals and Part C—Metallic and non-metallic minerals. All other minerals (except minor minerals) are called non specified minerals. Minor minerals are declared by notification in Official Gazette by the Central Government under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. Mineral Concessions are granted by the State Governments. However, the grant/renewal of mining leases by State Governments in respect of minerals listed in the first Schedule of the Act requires prior approval of the Central Government. But powers for the First renewal of prospecting licences/mining leases in respect of minerals specified in Part C of the first Schedule of the Act have been delegated to the State Governments vide Gazette Notification No. SO 69(E) dated 30th January, 1997.

[Translation]

Social Problems of Armed Forces

872. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee has been constituted to deliberate upon the social problems of the three wings of the Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the said committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in submitting its report and the time by which it is likely to be submitted?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Losses suffered by SAIL

873. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAIL has incurred losses worth Rs. 616 crores despite a higher sales turnover in the first half of the 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to bring down the losses of SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has incurred a loss of Rs. 616.91 crores (provisional) despite higher sales turnover in the first half of 1998-99.

The main reasons for decline in profits include sluggish demand for steel, greater competition from imports arising due to lower international prices and enhancement in supplies in domestic market resulting in decline in net realization from sales in the domestic market. Export prices also declined in the international market etc.

While the benefits of modernization would materialize in phases, SAIL had to absorb higher capital related cost (interest and depreciation) because of capitalization of modernization/capital schemes and also for maintaining a higher inventory level.

(c) Government have taken following steps to improve the profitability of steel industry including SAIL and to overcome the present problems:—

- (i) To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel (DCI&S) has launched a National Campaign.
- (ii) To reduce input costs for steel making, the special import duty on several inputs such as coking coal (ash content < 12%, non-coking coal (ash content < 12%), metallurgical coke, ferro nickel, charge nickel and nickel oxide sinters,

low silica limestone and graphite electrodes (> 28") has recently been waived.

- (iii) Anti-dumping duty on Hot Rolled Coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has recently been recommended.
- (iv) Rationalization of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports have been carried out to boost exports.
- (v) A Steel Exporters Forum has been set up to help steel exporters overcome bottlenecks in exports.
- (vi) Enhanced project financing to steel sector by All India Financial Institutions and relaxation of ECB norms has been strongly recommended.
- (vii) Government has set up an Empowered Committee to examine and assist specific Research and Development Projects to improve technology for steel making and enhance quality of Indian Steel.

Shortage of Wagons

874. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representation from Vidarbha Industries Association, Nagpur regarding shortages in wagons received in Direct Dispatch from SAIL-BSP, Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar complaints of shortages reported from other organisations/areas; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed in the matter to safeguard the interest of bulk consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) M/s. Vidarbha Industries Association, Nagpur, have made a representation about alleged shortages of material in certain wagons despatched from Bhilai Steel Plant, Madhya Pradesh. The correctness of the system of weighment has been clarified to them by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Besides, the said Association has been offered to take materials directly from Bhilai Steel Plant by road. Complaints of shortages in material, received by SAIL, are disposed of by them on merits.

[Translation]

Demurrage Imposed by Railways

875. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of demurrage and wharfage imposed on the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for inordinate delay in loading of coal, etc., by the Railways during each of the last three years and current year;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to avoid such incidents in future;

(c) whether adequate number of bogies have been provided to the C.C.L. and B.C.C.L. for transportation of coal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Amount of Demurrage and Wharfage imposed by the Railways on the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for delay in loading of coal beyond permissible free time during each of the last three years and current year upto Oct., 1998 in respect of South Eastern Railway and upto Sept., 1998 in respect of Eastern Railway is as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)	
	Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)
1995-96	13.56	6.49
1996-97	10.41	5.78
1997-98	12.28	9.08
1998-99 (upto Sept./Oct., 1998)	10.52	6.51

(b) Continuous inter-action is maintained by the Railways with the concerned colliery officials to overcome

handling constraints for enabling quicker release of wagon. Following steps are also taken to reduce the detention of wagons:—

- (i) creation of additional bunkering capacity for different types of coals;
 - (ii) creation of additional loading facilities; and
 - (iii) increase in efficiency of existing loading plants.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Details are as under:—

Name of the Company	Year	No. of wagons loaded (Daily average in 4-wheelers)	
		Eastern Railway	South Eastern Railway
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	1995-96	1651	1012
	1996-97	1658	998
	1997-98	1709	998
	1998-99 (upto Oct., 1998)	1660	829
Central Coalfields Limited	1995-96	2414	518
	1996-97	2525	552
	1997-98	2603	479
	1998-99 (upto Oct., 1998)	2433	431

[English]

Revival of HSCL

876. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering to revive the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) A Financial Restructuring cum Financial Assistance package for revival of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) is presently under the consideration of the Government. The package essentially comprises actions to make the company's balance sheet bankable and to rationalise its manpower over the next three years to a sustainable level.

[Translation]

Right to Housing

877. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD):
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to contemplate to include Right to Housing as Fundamental Rights;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Inclusion of 'Right to Housing' as fundamental right would entail huge investment. It has been estimated by the Working Group on Housing for 9th Plan that an investment of Rs. 1,51,000 crore would be needed to provide shelter for all. The provision of such resources for the housing sector alone may be difficult.

In view of the above, the Government is focusing on its commitment of Housing for All. The National Agenda for Governance has recognised housing for all as a priority area and envisages construction of an additional two million houses every year in the country.

Production Capacity of Rampura Aagucha Mine Plant

878. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which the capacity of Rampura Aagucha mine plant in Rajasthan has been increased during the last year;

(b) whether there is a proposal to set up a new zinc smelter in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the cost and production capacity thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the air survey work regarding the zinc reserves has since been completed and the time by which the remaining work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The capacity of ore beneficiation plant at Rampura Agucha Mine of Rajasthan has been expanded from 3000 Tonnes Per Day (TPD) to 4500 TPD in November, 1997.

(b) and (c) Government has accorded approval for preparation of Techno Economic Feasibility Report for a new Zinc Smelter with the production capacity of 60,000 tonnes to 1,00,000 tonnes per annum to be set up by Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL). It is not possible at this stage to indicate the exact cost of setting up the new zinc smelter.

(d) Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL) in collaboration with Broken Hill Proprietary Minerals (BHPM) India Ltd., have completed approx. 23,360 flight line km. in the prospecting licence areas held by the two companies in the State of Rajasthan. In addition, HZL has also carried out air borne geophysical survey covering 3902 line km. in the State of Rajasthan over the prospecting licence area held by HZL and not covered by the joint efforts of HZL and BHPM. Identification of various areas for detailed ground follow-up based on processing and interpretation of aerial survey data has also been completed. Now, the ground checking by adopting appropriate geophysical and geochemical exploration techniques to locate the potential sites where scout drilling can be done for identifying the possible zinc resources is being undertaken. These operations including detailed drilling are likely to take about 24 months.

[English]

Land Acquisition Act

879. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend and incorporate certain provision in Land Acquisition Act, 1894; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amendments suggested include creation of provisions for liberal compensation, increased solatium and empowering the Collector to make consent award. It also includes appropriate amendments in various provisions of the existing law to compress the maximum time-frame for land acquisition from three years to one year. The proposed amendments also intend to enable the Collector to assess and allocate. Resettlement and Rehabilitation Packages by adjusting the cost of resettlement and rehabilitation against the award of compensation. The proposed amendment also intend to increase people's participation and total transparency in land acquisition proceedings.

Replacement of Outlived Railway Stocks

880. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway engines and bogies that have out lived in the last three years;

(b) the number out of them replaced during the said period;

(c) whether frequent railway accidents took place due to outlived rolling stocks; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to replace the outlived rolling stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Replacement of the overaged rolling stock is a continuous process on Indian Railways. Due care is taken to ensure that the rolling stock which is completely safe to run is allowed in service.

Statement

(a) Number of Rolling Stock that have overlived their codal lives in the last three years:

Item	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Steam Locos	85	41	37
Diesel Locos	67	26	30
Elec. Locos	82	20	10
Coaches	941	1011	1082
Wagons	8659	13878	19103

(b) Number of new Rolling Stock added during the last three years:

Item	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Steam Locos	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diesel Locos	122	142	155
Elec. Locos	155	175	195
Coaches	1291	1759	1951
Wagons	17950	22185	27865

[English]

International Flights of Indian Airlines

881. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Sub-Committee of the Board of Air India was set up to give its recommendations on route rationalisation between Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, whether the Sub-Committee has given its report;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Air India will operate its flights to Europe, Australia, America and other countries daily from the Santacruz Airport; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Sub-Committee has given its report, which is under consideration of the Board/Government.

(d) and (e) Air India is presently operating its flights from Sahar Airport in Mumbai to Paris, Frankfurt, Rome, Manchester, New York, Chicago. It does not have direct flights to Australia, but provides convenient connections to passengers on Qantas Airways flights over Singapore, Bangkok and Hong Kong.

Working Groups

882. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formed working groups to recommend certain policy measures on different aspects on the working of SAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which working groups are likely to submit their recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Government have not formed working groups to recommend certain policy measures on different aspects on the working of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

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

Vikrant Museum Plan

883. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for conversion of INS Vikrant into a maritime museum is expected to get delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have provided it with the sufficient financial assistance; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra for condoning Rs. 18 crores, being the scrap value of INS Vikrant, the decommissioned Aircraft Carrier of Indian Navy, and its conversion into a maritime museum has since been agreed to. Further action in this regard is to be taken by Govt. of Maharashtra in coordination with Mumbai Port Trust. Any recurring or non-recurring expenditure required for conversion to a museum and its maintenance is to be undertaken by the State Government.

[Translation]

Risk of Life to Civilians due to Firing Range in Rewa

884. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the firing range of Indian Army situated at Badwar hill of Rewa district has been proved dangerous to the life of the civilians;

(b) the number of civilians who have become victims of bullets in this firing range so far and the steps taken by the Government for the welfare by the family of the deceased; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the range is shifted to somewhere else from there?

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

(b) No case of loss of life or injury caused to civilians has been reported so far.

(c) There is no proposal to shift this range.

[English]

National Maritime Policy

885. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELA :
SHRI T.R. BAALU :
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a national maritime policy to ensure safety and security in Indian waters by strengthening the coastal security force;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to keep a check on the activities of foreign powers in Indian waters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Safety and security in Indian waters is effected by Indian Navy and Coast Guard. Coordinated interaction with other concerned agencies is undertaken through well-established interactive fora. A close watch is kept over the security aspects and improvements in procedure are brought about on a continuing basis.

(c) The Indian Navy and Coast Guard maintain regular surveillance of the Indian coast, island territories and Exclusive Economic Zone and thereby keep a check on the activities of foreign powers in Indian waters.

Mineral Exploration Surveys

886. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mineral exploration surveys were conducted for limestone (mostly BF and SMS grades) in Jaintia Hills area of Meghalaya recently;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the details of estimated reserves of different grades of limestones in Meghalaya State;

(d) the details of exploited limestones reserves;

(e) whether any such surveys have also been conducted in Meghalaya for exploration of Clay; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted mineral exploration for limestone in Jaintia Hills area of Meghalaya recently and reserves established are as follows:

SMS grade	653 million tonnes
BF/LD grade	165 million tonnes

(c) The details of estimated recoverable reserves of different grades of limestones in Meghalaya States are as under:

	Recoverable reserves as on 1.4.95. (in '000 tonnes)
Chemical	281,832
S.M.S. (OH)	2,790,525
S.M.S. (L.D.)	58,575
B.F.	30,000
S.M.S. & B.F. mixed	589,750
Cement (Portland)	173,895
Cement (Portland) & white)	2,625

(d) Production of limestone of cement and chemical grades is reported only from East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya. The total production of limestone during 1996-97 & 1997-98 was at 2.79 lakh tonnes and 2.03 lakh tonnes, respectively.

(e) and (f) Survey for exploration of Clay has also been conducted in Meghalaya and the findings of clay exploration are given below:

Area	Reserves	Grade
1. Mawkriah-Smit area, Khasi Hills.	1.21 mt	Kaolin suitable for whiteware.
2. Darugiri area, East Garo Hills	8.4 mt (indicated 1.2 mt (proved)	Kaolinitic Clay
3. Khera-Rongrenggiri, Garo Hills	68 mt (inferred)	White lithomargic clay.
4. Lamal area (Sung valley) Jaintia Hills.	0.5 mt	Plastic clay
5. Mulieh area, Jaintia Hills.	0.8 mt	Plastic clay

[*Translation*]

IDSMT Proposals received from Bihar

887. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar under the integrated development of small and medium towns in the State;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received and approved, separately;

(c) whether the Union Government have released its share; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Since inception of the IDSMT Scheme, 40 towns have been covered;

During the 8th Five Year Plan, 16 project reports were received from the Government of Bihar, out of which 12 towns have already been covered;

(c) and (d) Central assistance so far released to 12 towns is given below:—

*Central Assistance Released during 8th Five
Year Plan to Bihar State*

Sl. No.	Name of Town	Central Assistance Released (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Munger	36.00
2.	Garhwa	10.00
3.	Muzaffarpur	30.00
4.	Bhagalpur	30.99
5.	Chatra	20.00

1	2	3
6.	Rajgir	20.00
7.	Godda	20.00
8.	Gaya	20.00
9.	Supaul	15.00
10.	Sheohar	10.00
11.	Forbesganj	15.00
12.	Lohardaga	15.00
Total		241.99

[English]

Development of Slums

888. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any scheme from the Government of Orissa for the development of slums in that State; and

(b) if so, the total funds required for implementing slum development schemes and actual allocation made by the Union Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment has not received any scheme from the Government of Orissa for the development of urban slums. However, under the scheme of National Slum Development Programme launched in August 1996, the Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 13.14 crore upto the month of Oct., 1998, as Additional Central Assistance to the Government of Orissa for the development of urban slums.

Loss in Procurement of Trolleys from HAL

889. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report published in 'The Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated 5 October, 1998 under the caption 'HAL gives IAF Rs. 1.84 crore ride';

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken to fix the responsibility for wastage of Rs. 1.84 crore of the National exchequer and failure to provide Alert Cooling Trolleys (ACTS) to IAF even after 15 years; and

(d) the arrangements made to provide Alert and Cooling Trolleys (ACTs) to IAF soon?

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

(b) to (d) HAL received an order of value of Rs. 184.29 lakhs for design, development and supply of Qty. of 8 Nos. Alert Cooling Trolleys (ACTs) in Jan. 1983. An advance of Rs. 156.64 lakhs was received against the order by the HAL during the period 1984-87. During the development, it became necessary due to developmental problems to carry out design changes and split the Alert Cooling Trolley into ground power unit and cooling trolley as separate items with the consent from the customer IAF. Accordingly, an amount of Rs. 122.02 lakhs had been paid back by HAL and the balance of Rs. 34.62 lakhs had been adjusted towards the supply of 8 Nos. of Ground Power Units (GPU's) and 8 Nos. of Cooling Trolleys as agreed to by I.A.F. As such there is no loss to the National exchequer.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Appointments in Navy

890. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the irregularities committed in appointments in the Navy as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated 22 September, 1998 under the caption "Mutiny in the Army";

(b) if so, whether the officers of Navy have expressed their discontentment against the Personnel Policy of Navy;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the whole affair; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The report which appeared in the "Pioneer" dated 22 September 1998, captioned "Mutiny in the Navy", has come to the notice of Government.

(b) Some statutory complaints have been received.

(c) All appointment proposals received from Naval HQrs. as well as statutory complaints are carefully examined by the Government and decisions taken in accordance with established norms and rules.

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

[English]

Train Accidents

891. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two rail accidents, one of Nizamuddin-Jabalpur Express near Ballabgarh and another between a passenger train and a matador occurred at an unmanned railway crossing near village Kherode in Udaipur;

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

(c) the number of persons killed/injured in each of these accidents and value of Government property damaged thereby separately;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted into these accidents;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of two accidents are as under :—

1. On 31.8.1998, 5 coaches of 2410 Nizamuddin-Jabalpur Superfast Exp. derailed between Ballabgarh and Asoti stations of Jhansi Division, Central Railway. This accident occurred due to disturbance in track during maintenance.

2. On 31.8.1998, 228 Passenger collided with a mini bus at unmanned level crossing between Mavli and Barisadri of Ajmer Division, Western Railway. This accident occurred due to negligence on the part of mini bus driver.

(c) (1) No. of persons killed/injured in accident occurred on Central Railway:

Killed—5, Injured—9

The value of Govt. property damaged in this accident is Rs. 67 lakhs

(2) No. of persons killed/injured in accident occurred on Western Railway:

Killed—30, Injured—16

There was no loss to the Govt. property in this accident.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The findings of Enquiry Committee which enquired into above accidents are as under:—

(1) The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle who has investigated into the accident occurred on Central Railway has held the PW Mistry, PWI (Incharge) and PWI (Section), Faridabad responsible for this accident. The action under D&AR rules has been initiated against them.

(2) The accident at unmanned level crossing on Western Railway was enquired into by a Committee of Officers which has concluded that it occurred due to negligence and failure on the part of bus driver to take precautions as laid down under Section 131 of Motor Vehicle Act, before negotiating the level crossing. No Railway staff has been held responsible in this accident and hence no action is pending.

[Translation]

Automatic Warning System

- 892. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
- SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :
- SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
- SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
- SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have developed an automatic warning system based on the latest modern radio technology which would rectify the errors committed by driver while signalling in case of any danger;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of the routes where this new technique is likely to be introduced initially on experimental basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
 (a) The Railway have not yet developed Automatic Warning System based on radio technology. However, it is proposed to undertake a pilot project of radio based European Train Control System (ETCS)—Level 2 on Delhi-Mathura section in co-ordination with UIC (International Union of Railways, Paris).

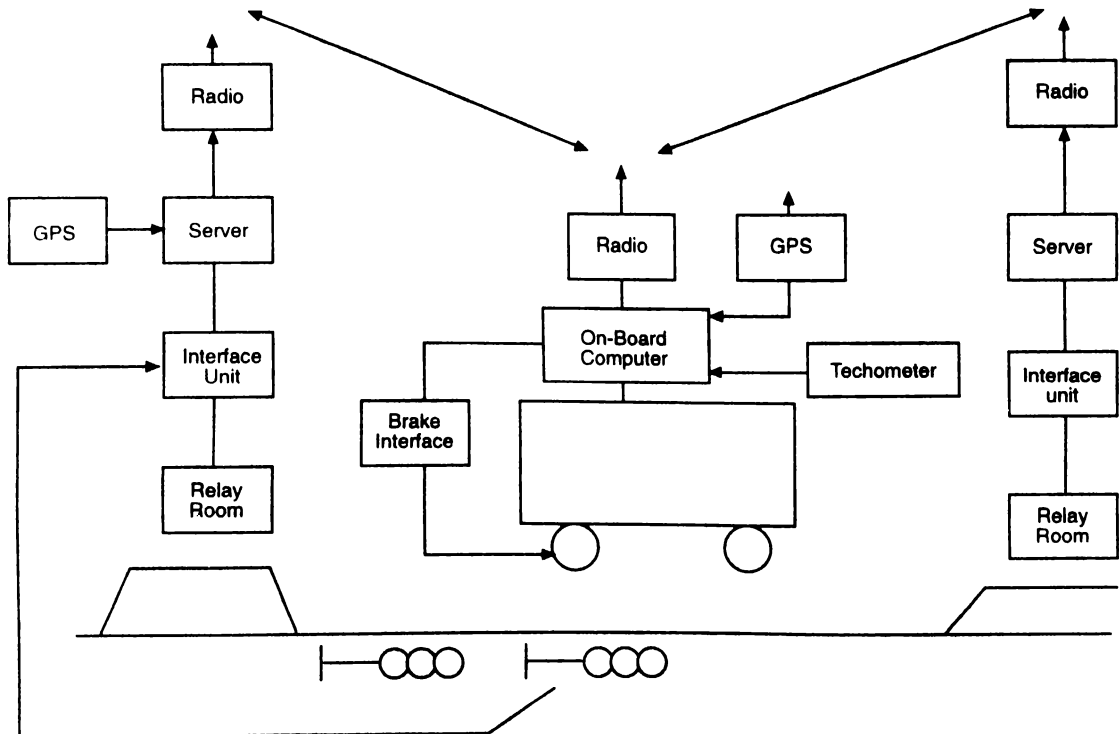
(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) The new technology is proposed to be taken on Delhi-Mathura Section.

Statement

(b) The details are as under:—

ETCS Level-2 system will be an overlay on the current signalling system as shown in the sketch.



From the station interlocking, the conditions about signal aspects are acquired and then processed for its transmission via radio to locomotive. Signal aspect conditions of auto signals, intermediate block signals and interlocked gates can be brought to station on signalling cable and connected to interface, scanning station signal aspect condition. Where more than one cabin are used for interlocking at station, signal aspects can also be brought at one cabin and then further transmitted via radio. Potential free contacts of signal aspect position of station and other signals between adjacent station can be made available at station.

Digital radios shall be installed at each station. Server at each station keeps track of all the locomotives in its jurisdiction. Software and hardware for inclusion of DGPS input for train position determination shall be included in ATP architecture. The train positioning module is connected to odometers and to DGPS-satellite receivers, which produce position information. The actual train position is determined logically and is based on a stored route map, differential correction data received from station and odometer on loco.

ETC-Level 2 system is envisaged to provide the following safety features:—

1. Automatic stoppage of train to 'Red' signal in case driver does not apply brake in time.
2. Enforcement of Permanent Speed Restrictions.
3. Enforcement of temporary Speed Restriction.
4. Approach Warning of train to Level Crossing.
5. Approach Warning of train to staff working at site.

[English]

Construction of Over Bridges in Maharashtra

893. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the Government of Maharashtra for construction of over bridges on the railway lines at Kedgaon, Kiraki Bazar-Aundh and Dapodi in Pune district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the local Members of Parliament have also requested the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the time by which the decision for construction of over bridges at said places is likely to be taken; and

(e) the time by which the construction work of over bridges is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Yes Sir. Hon'ble M.P. Sh. Ashok N. Mohol wrote to Minister of Railways in Aug. 1998 on the issue.

(d) Depends upon the fulfilment of necessary formalities by the sponsoring Authorities.

(e) Depends upon the approval of works.

Statement

(i) **Road Over Bridge (ROB) at KEDGAON** : The proposal is in regard to replacement of existing level crossing at K. 246/0-1 on Pune-Solapur section. The level crossing qualifies for replacement with ROB on cost sharing basis but the State Govt. has not yet sponsored proposal required under extant rules. However, it is learnt that State Govt. has directed IRCON to execute the work on behalf of Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation on deferred payment basis.

(ii) **ROB at Khadaki Bazar—AUNDH** : Proposal for construction of ROB in lieu of existing level crossing at Km. 185/13-14 on Lonavala and Pune section was extended by Pune Municipal Corporation/Cantonment Board in Nov. 1995. The Level crossing qualifies for replacement with ROB on cost sharing basis but neither the Pune Municipal Corporation nor Khadaki Cantonment Board has yet completed necessary pre-requisites to enable Railway taking further action. Khadaki Cantonment Board has been reminded in Sept. 1998.

(iii) **ROB at DAPODI** : Pune Municipal Corporation has extended a proposal for construction of ROB at Km. 182/8 in March 1993 who were asked to conduct joint inspection with Railway Engineers to examine feasibility thereof. But no

response was shown by them. In Oct. 1998 Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation now dealing with the case, submitted the proposal to conduct joint inspection to examine feasibility, after ascertaining the feasibility, action will be taken to execute the work on deposit terms.

Poverty Alleviation Scheme under UNDP

894. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any poverty-alleviation scheme under United Nations Development Programme has been launched in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of villages covered, district-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated and spent in each district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The United Nation Development Programme assisted Poverty Alleviation Project in India (RAS/96/600) is currently under implementation in 26 manuals in three drought-prone districts of Mahabubnagar, Kurnool and Ananthapur of Andhra Pradesh State since 1996.

(b) and (c) The number of villages covered district-wise and the amount allocated and spent in each district are given below:

Name of the District	No. of Villages (habitations covered)	Amount allocated	Amount spent
Mahabubnagar	290	Rs. 2,02,13,526	Rs. 1,92,99,930
Kurnool	176	Rs. 1,98,80,646	Rs. 1,62,74,707
Ananthapur	275	Rs. 2,04,86,295	Rs. 1,01,09,194

Metro Rail Project

895. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has requested National Physical Laboratory to conduct survey on the underground metro project;

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

(c) whether Archaeological Survey of India has raised objection over the proposed underground track near Jantar Mantar and Kashmere Gate;

(d) if so, the reasons advanced therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Physical Laboratory has been requested by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. to conduct survey/study for vibrations at five locations along the Metro Corridor, including locations at Jantar Mantar & Kashmere Gate Monuments. This survey/study would be conducted in two spell i.e. prior to the commencement of construction works (for approximately 3 months) and during the construction period, till end of the construction period.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Due to apprehensions of the Archaeological Survey of India of any kind of damage to the monuments as:

- (i) Alignment of Underground Metro Corridor runs close to Jantar Mantar/Kashmere Gate Monument/city wall.
- (ii) Alignment of Surface/Elevated Rail Corridor runs close to the Kashmere Gate Monument/city wall.

(e) The following remedial Measures will be taken by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.

- (i) Stabilisation of soil to improve its strength before taking up construction activities.
- (ii) Selection of suitable construction methodology to minimise vibrations during the construction period.
- (iii) Use of special track fittings to ensure that the vibrations caused due to train operation mostly gets absorbed in the track structure itself.
- (iv) Other remedial measures as may be suggested by General Consultants to the project and the National Physical Laboratory.

[Translation]

**Gauge Conversion of Pathankot-Jogender
Nagar Rail Line**

896. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had committed in Parliament last year to carry out survey in Himachal Pradesh for the conversion of Pathankot-Jogender Nagar narrow gauge rail line into broad gauge and for laying rail line from Jogender Nagar to Mandi and Kullu; and

(b) if so, the present status of these projects and progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) Yes, Sir, but only for gauge conversion of Pathankot-Joginder Nagar.

(b) The survey has been taken up and is currently targeted to be completed by 30.09.1999.

[English]

Retirement Age in Armed Forces

897. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :
SHRI C.D. GAMIT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval of the Ministry of Personnel has been obtained for enhancement of age in armed forces;

(b) whether the views of the expert defence personnel have also been obtained in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Fifth Pay Commission had never recommended an increase in the retirement age of armed forces personnel on the grounds of physical fitness and fighting efficiency; and

(e) if so, the reasons for enhancing the retirement age in armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) The Fifth Central Pay Commission did not recommend any general increase in the age of retirement for Service officers. However, it recommended an increase of 2 years in the general age of retirement for civilians, and recommended an additional weightage of 2 years in qualifying service for determining the pension entitlement of officers of the three Services.

2. The Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) thereafter recommended enhancement of 2 years in the age of retirement at each rank of the Armed Forces, clearly stating that such an increase will not impinge on their fighting efficiency.

3. When the proposal for enhancement of age of retirement for civilian employees was considered by the Government in 1998, the Department of Personnel sought comments of the Ministry of Defence with respect to Armed Forces personnel. The Principal Personnel Officers Committee (PPOC) reiterated that the enhancement of age of retirement by 2 years be granted to Armed Forces personnel across the board at all ranks, both for officers and Personnel Below Officers Ranks (PBOR). The Government considered all aspects and approved the proposal for extension of age of retirement by 2 years across the board for Armed Forces personnel.

Enquiry into Aircraft Crash

898. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had ordered probe into the crash of Indian Airlines Domier Aircraft (DO-228) after its take off from Cochin Airport on July 30, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the probe;

(c) whether the Government have adopted any fool proof strategy to avoid such accidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The accident has been investigated by a Committee of Inquiry, headed by Air Marshal P. Rajkumar, appointed by the Government of India under Rule 74 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. The Committee has since submitted its Report which is under consideration.

(c) and (d) Various safety measures viz. implementation of recommendations emanating from investigations of various accidents, monitoring of Flight Data recorders, dissemination of Safety Information, Surveillance by Flight Inspectors, periodic inspection of Aerodromes, Safety Audit of Operators, periodic spot checks etc. are taken on continuous basis to avoid accidents.

Crash of Army Helicopter near Simla

899. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Army Helicopter crashed at Sagni village in Kinnaur District (Simla) on October 19, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of loss of lives and property suffered therefrom; and

(d) the details of the inquiry conducted in this regard?

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

(b) Two Cheetah Helicopters had taken off from Village KARCHAM on the 19th October, 1998 at about 0945 hours on a mercy mission of dropping food and other essentials to a stranded Long Range Patrol in the area. After about 10 to 20 minutes of the take-off, one helicopter crashed, fatally. Eye witness from the nearby village has stated that the helicopter was seen rotating and coming down, until it hit a rope-way, strung across the valley.

(c) Both the pilots lost their lives in the accident and the helicopter was destroyed. There was no loss to civilian life or property.

(d) The Court of Inquiry (COI) is in progress.

GSI's Programme to generate more Foreign Exchange

900. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TAJIPURE :
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geological Survey of India propose to launch a programme aimed at generating more foreign exchange by providing its service to multinational corporations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of multinationals so far provided such service;

(d) the total amount of foreign exchange earned by providing this service;

(e) whether GSI is planning to expand this service to more multinational companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) There is no specific programme of Geological Survey of India (GSI) for generating foreign exchange through its services to Multinational Corporations (M.N.C.s). However, GSI earns in Indian currency from MNCs by way of providing field services and customised data packages etc.

(b) to (f) Question does not arise.

GSI Survey

901. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India propose to conduct any survey in various States, particularly in U.P.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A total of 241 surveys are to be conducted by Geological Survey of India (GSI) during the Field Season 1998-99 in various States. In the State of Uttar Pradesh 19 surveys are proposed. State-wise details are furnished in the attached Statement.

Statement*State-wise details of the different field Survey items of GSI proposed during 1998-99*

State	Mineral Investiga- tion	Specialised Thematic mapping	Environmen- tal surveys	Glaciological Surveys	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	2	—	3
Assam	1	—	3	—	4
Meghalaya	5	1	2	—	8
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura	—	—	1	—	1
Andhra Pradesh	18	5	3	—	26
Karnataka	15	1	2	—	18
Kerala	7	—	—	—	7
Tamil Nadu	5	—	2	—	7
Maharashtra	16	1	2	—	19
Madhya Pradesh	21	5	2	—	28
Rajasthan	24	1	5	—	30
Gujarat	5	2	1	—	8
Uttar Pradesh	9	2	7	1	19

1	2	3	4	5	6
Haryana	—	—	2	—	2
Himachal Pradesh	2	—	3	—	5
J & K	2	1	1	1	5
West Bengal	9	1	3	—	13
Bihar	13	2	1	—	16
Orissa	13	4	3	—	20
Sikkim	1	—	1	—	2
Total	167	26	46	2	241

[Translation]

Staff Strength of A.I.

902. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of permanent and temporary employees working in Air India and Indian Airlines as on March, 1998, category-wise;

(b) the aircraft and employees ratio in the Air India vis-a-vis four leading airlines of the world in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken to reduce the staff strength in order to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The number of category-wise

employees in Air India and Indian Airlines as on 31.3.98 is as under:

Category	Air India	Indian Airlines
1	2	3
1. Executive		
(i) Pilots	81	92
(ii) Engineers/Tech Off (Eng.)	189	263
(iii) Flight Engineers	7	3
(iv) General Officers/Tech Officers (Non-Engg.)	152	232
2. Line Pilots	318	311

1	2	3
3. Flight Engineers	54	35
4. Ground Instructors	10	17
5. Aircraft Engineers/Tech. Officers (Engg.)	643	661
6. General Officers/Tech. Officer (Non-Engg.)	2165	1417
7. Cabin Crew	1925	978
8. Technicians	1739	3060
9. Non-Technical Staff	7601	7572
10. Others (Grade 1/2)	3113	6359

(b) The details are as under:—

Airline	No. of employees per aircraft
Air India	659
British Airways	184
KLM	222
Lufthansa	179
Singapore Airlines	328

(c) Air India has taken following steps to reduce the staff strength :—

- (i) Freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories
- (ii) Abolition of 781 vacant posts.
- (iii) Redeployment of staff from non-operational to operational areas.
- (iv) Two voluntary schemes have been notified viz. shorter working week scheme and leave without pay/allowances scheme for a period of two years or more extendable upto five years.

Missile Programme

903. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the different missiles launched so far and the extent of success achieved by each of them, date-wise;

(b) the details of the Missile programme at hand presently;

(c) the details of the Missiles likely to be launched in the near future alongwith their present status; and

(d) the details of the Missiles which have since been inducted into the Army and also those which are likely to be inducted in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A statement is attached.

Statement

Missile Programme

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) had undertaken 'Integrated Guided Missiles Development Programme (IGMDP)' in 1983 envisaging development of a re-entry technology demonstrator Agni and four missile systems namely; Surface to Surface Missile—"Prithvi", Medium Range Surface to Air Missile "Akash", Short Range Surface to Air Missile—"Trishul" and Anti Tank Guided Missile—"Nag".

Flight Tests Conducted

First developmental launch of Prithvi was conducted on 25.02.1998 and last launch for 250 km range on 23.02.1997. Sixteen flight trials have so far been conducted. The first developmental launch of Akash system was conducted on 14.08.1990 and last on 05.09.1998. Twelve flight trials have so far been conducted proving all the sub-systems including guidance. First developmental flight to Trishul system was conducted on 16.09.1985 and last on 16.11.1998. Forty-three flight trials conducted so far, have proved various Trishul systems. The last flight was in full naval configuration against simulated targets and for anti sea-skimmer role. First

developmental flight trial of anti tank guided missile Nag was conducted on 07.02.1990 and last on 08.08.1998. Thirty-four flights have been conducted so far proving various sub-systems of Nag including tube launch.

Re-entry technology demonstrator Agni was first launched successfully on 22.05.1989. It's last successful launch was conducted on 19.02.1994. Three flight trials conducted have proved re-entry, accurate guidance and manoeuvrable trajectory. The objectives of the project have been fully met. Govt. has approved longer range Agni, as a missile system.

Current Status & Further Plans

Prithvi with 150 km range has been inducted into Arms Development of Air Force version of Prithvi with 250 km range has been completed and will be inducted into the Air Force. Work on Naval version of Prithvi is in progress. Trishul system is expected to enter into user trial phase for Army and Navy in first half of 1999. Development of Nag and Akash will be completed in 1999 after which it will enter the user trial phase. After completion of user trials these missiles will enter production/induction phase.

Use of Civil Airport for Defence purpose

904. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to make the Gujarat Kandla Civil Airport as an equipped air base for flying the Naval and Air Force aircrafts;

(b) if so, whether all the formalities have been completed in this direction;

(c) whether the Civil Aviation Ministry has given their consent for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which the said airport is likely to be declared as the army air base?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Funds for Ezhimala Naval Academy

905. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the matter of setting up of "Ezhimala Naval Academy" in Kerala and the stage at which the matter stands at present; and

(b) the expenditure incurred so far and the action taken to enhance the funds for its timely commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The infrastructure facilities to be provided by the State Government are in various stages of completion. A consultancy agreement with the Architect has been concluded on 9 January, 1998. The Architects have commenced detailed topographical survey to enable finalisation of the citing of various structures.

(b) A sum of Rs. 497.5 lakhs has been incurred so far and sufficient funds have been provided for this project commensurate with the phased implementation and for its timely commissioning.

Decline in Air Traffic Carried and Cargo Handled by Airlines

906. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been marked decline in Air-Traffic carried and cargo handled by Indian Airlines and Air India during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons for low utilization of the capacity; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Details of passenger carriage, cargo upliftment and seat factors are as under :

	Year	Number of Passengers (Million)	Cargo Carried (00/Tonnes)	Seat Factor (%)
Indian Airlines	1996-97	8.2*	79.50	69.8
	1997-98	8.4*	81.20	68.8
Air India	1996-97	2.91	66.57	65.9
	1997-98	2.97	68.01	67.8

*Including international carriage

Both the airlines have taken various marketing initiatives to improve utilization of the capacity.

*[Translation]***Bonus to Workers of Defence Establishments**

907. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of the Defence establishments had called on him on September 22, 1998 in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, wherein he had assured them for the payment of bonus in accordance with the new formula; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. I did not visit Jabalpur on 22nd September, 1998 and give any assurance for payment of bonus in accordance with the new formula.

Laying of New Railway Lines

908. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal under consideration to lay new railway lines under Western Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the survey for laying Bundi-Ajmer rail line is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Surveys for construction of new lines for Veraval-Kodinar, Indore-Bundi, Kodinar-Pipavav, Baran-Shivpuri, Dungarpur-Ratlam-Banswara, Palwal-Alwar, Chhota Udepur-Dhar, Porbandar-Porbandar Port, Ujjain-Ramganj Mandi, Jaipur-Tonk, Merta Road-Ajmer, Dahanu Road-Nasik Road, Linkage to Gandhi Nagar on Delhi-Ahmedabad main line and connection of Nadiad-Kapadvanj-Modasa railway line with Udaipur-Ahmedabad railway line are in progress. Further consideration of these projects will be possible once the survey reports become available.

There is however no proposal for undertaking survey for laying Bundi-Ajmer rail line at present.

*[English]***Discontinuation of Direct Flight on Trivandrum-Delhi Sector**

909. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the direct flight on Trivandrum-Delhi sector has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to restore it;

(c) whether the passengers from Delhi have to disembark at Bombay and obtain fresh boarding passes for travelling to Trivandrum although the same aircraft goes to Trivandrum;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there are complaints regarding missing of luggage of the passengers who disembark at Trivandrum; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to obviate such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Due to aircraft availability constraints and low passenger demand, services on many routes all over the network including the Delhi-Trivandrum service were temporarily discontinued in the Summer schedule. In the winter schedule, w.e.f. 26.10.98, facility has been provided for convenient connection to Delhi-Trivandrum-Delhi passengers over Mumbai.

(e) and (f) There have been some cases of mishandling of passenger luggage during the period when there was change of aircraft at Mumbai for passengers travelling between Delhi and Trivandrum. This problem has been controlled after commencement of direct flight from Delhi to Trivandrum.

Train Accidents

910. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestions to avert rail mishaps have been ignored;

(b) if so, whether the Lucknow based RDSO, has not come out with any foolproof system to avert accidents at the unmanned level crossings;

(c) whether the Government have received a number of suggestions from the enquiry Committee reports which went into each and every rail accident that occurred in the country during the last three years;

(d) if so, the main suggestions made in these reports and the number out of them implemented and implementation;

(e) whether the Government have received all the enquiry reports of the rail accidents that took place in the country during the last three years;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the number of reports are yet to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. All accepted suggestions/recommendations are implemented. Accidents at unmanned level crossings occur due to negligence of road users.

(c) and (d) Depending upon the extent of damages each accident is enquired into by a committee of officers or by the commission of Railway Safety. The accepted recommendations are implemented.

(e) to (g) During the last 3 years i.e. 1995-96 to 1997-98 1543 accidents had taken place. Enquiry reports of 1503 accidents were received and enquiry reports in 40 accidents cases are yet to be received.

Extension of Konkan Railway upto Mangalore

911. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the Konkan Railway upto Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal to extend the operating

jurisdiction from Panvel (in North) to Mangalore (in South) has been referred to a Committee. Further consideration of the proposal would be possible once the report becomes available.

Cost Cutting Measures

912. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to adopt cost cutting measures as suggested by the consultants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to realise outstanding dues from the defaulting industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Railways have not appointed any consultants to suggest cost cutting measures. It is, however, a continuous endeavour on the part of the Railways to contain the expenditure.

(c) In order to realise the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards/Power Houses and other Industrial Units, certain measures have been taken by the Railway Administration which are detailed below:

(i) Outstanding dues are closely monitored by the Zonal Railways and regular meetings are held with the senior officials of the State Electricity Boards/Power Houses and other Organisations to persuade them to pay outstanding Railway dues.

(ii) Railways also adjust their dues with the amounts, if any, payable to such Organisations, when normal efforts to realise the dues fail. Adjustment of railway freight bills with electric traction bills is also being done from time to time.

(iii) Past outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards are also being realised and adjusted by appropriation from the Central Plan Assistance at the rate of 15% of the total outlay. This is distributed by the Ministry of Finance *pro rata* on the basis of proportion due to Indian Railways.

Indian Airlines Employees Cases of ALC, Mumbai

913. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the dispute cases of Indian Airlines which are pending before the Assistant Labour Commissioner at Mumbai and Delhi; and

(b) the steps taken by Indian Airlines to get them resolved?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Indian Airlines has 16 industrial disputes

pending before the Assistant Labour Commissioner at Mumbai and Delhi raised by various Unions/Associations/Individuals. The details of these cases are given at the Statements-I and II respectively.

(b) The representatives of Indian Airlines have been regularly attending the conciliation meetings fixed by the Assistant Labour Commissioners for placing the management's view for resolving the industrial disputes. The Management has also been discussing with the recognised Unions/Associations regarding the disputes raised by them to reach an amicable settlement.

Statement-I*Pending Dispute Cases before ALCO Mumbai*

Nature of Dispute	Present Position
1	2
1. Dispute raised by Airlines Cabin Crew Association regarding denial of check cabin crew post to Mr. S.G. Chiplunkar Flight Purser (Sr. Cat).	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.
2. Dispute raised by Shri S.R. Kanchan regarding his removal from service following disciplinary action on charges of committing pilferage from a consignment.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.
3. Dispute raised by Shri S. Gopalkrishna, reg: payment of Gratuity.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.
4. Dispute raised by Mumbai Mazdoor Sangh reg: regularisation of the services of 69 contract workers.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.
5. Dispute raised by Mumbai Mazdoor Sangh, reg: termination of Service of 50 workers.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.
6. Dispute raised by ACEU* regarding Agitational programme against privatisation.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.
7. Dispute raised by ACEU* regarding strike notice dated 15.12.93 regarding 24 hrs. strike commencing night shift 16.12.93 till commencement of night shift of 17.12.93 in protest against repeal of Air Corporation Act.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.

1	2
8. Dispute raised by ACEU* regarding termination of services of Shri B.P. Panchal, Loader during his probation period.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.
9. Dispute raised by ACEU* regarding punishment of reduction in basic pay by two stages permanently given to Shri G.V. Jacob	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress. ALCO being advised of Shri Jacob's demise on 9.9.98
10. Dispute raised by ACEU* in the incident of Ms. Pooja Chinchankar, Airhostess for attempting to clear certain goods through a passenger on arrival of flight IC990 on 24.7.94 at Calicut. Besides warning, recovery of cost of hotel provided to her at Calicut and passage was debited to her account. She was also not rostered for any international flight for a year.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.
11. Dispute raised by ACEU* in the incident of Ms. Vatsala Choudhary Airhostess for attempting to clear certain goods through a passenger on arrival of flight IC990 on 24.7.94 at Calicut. Besides warning recovery of cost of hotel provided to her at Calicut and passage was debited to her account. She was also not rostered for any international flight for a year.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.
12. Dispute raised by ACEU* regarding dismissal from service of Shri Ajay Mukherjee by way of disciplinary action for fraud.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.

*Air Corporation Employees Union

Statement II

Pending Dispute Cases before ALCO Delhi

S. No.	Nature of Dispute	Present Position
1	2	3
1	Dispute raised by M/s Neha International, Contractor, who supplied ten employees at IGI airport regarding their payment of arrears on account of earned leave, bonus, overtime etc.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.
2.	Dispute raised by Shri Sahib Singh, Ex-Casual Typist, whose Services were disengaged pursuant to Interim Order of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in CWP 4113 of 1994. He prayed that his dispute be referred to Industrial Tribunal for adjudication	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.

1	2	3
3.	Dispute raised by Shri Om Prakash. Ex-Safaiwala, for re-instatement in service, who was dismissed from service of Indian Airlines for unauthorised absence from duty after due process of departmental enquiry.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.
4.	Dispute raised by ICPA* regarding interpretation of Memorandum of Settlement dated 2.3.1993.	Conciliation Proceedings are in progress.

*Indian Commercial Pilots Association

Railway Tracks damaged by Floods

914. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment to find out the damage caused by recent rains and floods to railway tracks in different zones;

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

(c) the steps taken to repair those railway tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Immediate steps were taken to repair the damaged track and restore traffic in the shortest possible time and the traffic has been restored at all the places except in some areas in, Northeast Frontier and Southern Railways.

Statement

(b) In the recent rains and floods, the damages to track occurred on all Zonal Railways, details as follows:--

Railway Zone	Damaged Section	Present Position
1	2	3
Central Railway	Kalyan-Karjat (South-East)	Restored
Central Railway	CSTM-Kurla	Restored
Central Railway	Khandwa-Itarsi	Restored
Central Railway	Kalyan-Kasava (North East)	Restored
Central Railway	Kurla-Kalyan	Restored

1	2	3
Central Railway	Itarsi-Nagpur	Restored
Central Railway	Banda-Kanput	Restored
Eastern Railway	Maledpara-Gaurmalda	Restored
Eastern Railway	Kanjihos-Chamarajapuram	Restored
Eastern-Railway	NTPC Katrapore-Dhulanbanga	Restored
Eastern Railway	Dhulanbanga-Nandalur	Restored
Eastern Railway	National Thermal Power Siding Vijaypur-Azimgang JN	Restored
Eastern Railway	Jaunpurcba-Kankariya	Restored
Eastern Railway	Mansurpur-Sangli	Restored
Northern Railway	Luksar-Dehradun	Restored
Northern Railway	Kalka-Shimla	Restored
N.E. Railway	Nandhana-Brahmavart	Restored
N.E. Railway	Darbhanga-Nirmali	Restored
N.E. Railway	Gainsari-Jarwa	Restored
N.E. Railway	Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	Restored
N.E. Railway	Gonda-Gorakhpur	Restored
N.E. Railway	Darbhanga-Siahari-Gaj	Restored
N.E. Railway	Saharsha-Purnia	Restored
N.E. Railway	Banmankhi-Bihariganj	Restored
N.E. Railway	Mona-Saharsa	Restored

1	2	3
N.E. Railway	Samastipur-Darbhanga	Restored
N.F. Railway	Lumding-Badarpur	Restored
N.F. Railway	Siliguri-Darjeeling	Restored
N.F. Railway	Dhemaji-Silapathar	Restored
N.F. Railway	Gogamukh-Dhemaji	Restored
N.F. Railway	Gohpur-Helem	Restored
N.F. Railway	Raiganj-Kaliaganj	Restored
N.F. Railway	Nagrakata-Chalsa	Restored
N.F. Railway	Dhekiajuli-Majbhat	Restored
N.F. Railway	Nalbari-Ghograpar	Restored
N.F. Railway	Rangiya-Goreswar	Restored
N.F. Railway	Forbeshganj-Jogbani	Restored
N.F. Railway	Rajabhathawa JN.-Kaichini	Restored
N.F. Railway	Ballpara-Dhalabil	Restored
N.F. Railway	Madarihat-Dalgaon	Restored
N.F. Railway	Monihari-Teznarayanpur	Work in Progress
N.F. Railway	Barsoi-Raiganj	Work in Progress
N.F. Railway	Tezpur Yard	Work in Progress
N.F. Railway	Sibsagar Town Moranhat	Work in Progress

1	2	3
N.F. Railway	Malda Court-Shinghaba	Work in Progress
Southern Railway	Trivandrum-Nagercoil	Work in Progress
S.C. Railway	Dabolim-Vascodagama	Restored
S.E. Railway	West Central Bay	Restored
Western Railway	Ivanpur-Navlakhi	Restored
Western Railway	Ivanpur-Dahimsara	Restored
Western Railway	Gandhidham-Old Kandla Port	Restored

Allotment of Surplus Land to Women

915. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision in the year 1985 to allotting 40 percent of surplus land to women;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure on the part of State Governments to allot ceiling surplus land, bhoodan land, Government wasteland to women;

(c) steps taken/being taken to implement the above decision;

(d) whether the Government propose to bring a law incorporating the above decision; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) However, the Revenue Ministers' Conference held in 1988 decided for allotment of 40 per cent of ceiling surplus land to women which has been reiterated at various fora including the subsequent Revenue Ministers' Conference held in 1992, 1995 and 1997 organised by the Government of India. The last

such Revenue Ministers' Conference was held on 17th September, 1998 which *inter-alia* had recommended that it should be ensured that out of the total beneficiaries at least 40 per cent should be exclusively women and in rest of the cases, the allotment may be jointly in the names of the husband and wife.

The recommendations of the above said Conferences have been forwarded to the respective State Governments for taking appropriate action. But responses from the State Governments have not so far been received.

(d) and (e) No such decision has been taken by the Government in the matter.

Urban Housing and Employment in the Country

916. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to improve urban housing and employment in the country during Seventh Plan and Eighth Plan period, State-wise; and

(b) the targets fixed for Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) In so far as Urban Housing is concerned it is stated that Housing being a State

subject, it is for the State Government to formulate and implement various social housing schemes in accordance with plan priorities and local requirements for which they can seek loan assistance from HUDCO.

In order to enable HUDCO to provide financial assistance for housing schemes, Government has provided equity support to the extent of Rs. 228 crores during 7th and 8th Plans. In addition, exemption from income tax was available to HUDCO upto 1989-90 and exemption from payment of dividend was available upto 1991-92.

HUDCO has set a loan sanction target of Rs. 8461 crores for Housing during 9th Plan. Out of which Rs. 4630 crores has been earmarked for EWS & LIG.

In so far as Urban Employment is concerned, it is stated that this Ministry has been implementing Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) since October, 1989 with the objective of providing opportunities to unemployed and under-employed urban poor living below poverty line,

during the 7th Plan and 8th Plan Period. The State-wise achievements under the scheme is enclosed as statement-I.

Also recognising the seriousness and complexity of urban poverty problems, the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) was launched in the country in November, 1995 and the scheme was in operation till 30th November, 1997. Cumulative achievement, State-wise, under the programme is enclosed as Statement-II.

At present the Ministry has been implementing the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) with effect from 1.12.97, after merger of all the three previous programmes, viz. Nehru Rozgar Yojana, Urban Basic Services for the Poor and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme. It is proposed to continue SJSRY during the 9th Plan. The matter pertaining to the fixation of targets under SJSRY has been left to be decided by the State Governments in conformity with the guidelines of the scheme.

Statement I

Physical Achievements under Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) during VIIIth and VIIIth Five Years Plans

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	No. of beneficiaries assisted under SUME	No. of Mandays created under SUWE (In lakhs)	No. of Dwelling units upgraded under SHASU
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	158658	32.87	150302
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	853	2.20	—
3.	Assam	9970	8.10	12749
4.	Bihar	22192	41.16	22703
5.	Goa	1473	1.90	—
6.	Gujarat	16958	13.26	508
7.	Haryana	18314	5.22	3560

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3660	1.95	637
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6161	2.79	3235
10.	Karnataka	48588	35.76	8277
11.	Kerala	27693	10.52	77842
12.	Madhya Pradesh	131885	35.40	3
13.	Maharashtra	87876	50.20	6200
14.	Manipur	5186	2.31	585
15.	Meghalaya	1961	0.77	203
16.	Mizoram	780	1.30	3900
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	28717	17.00	13178
19.	Punjab	23857	6.72	11171
20.	Rajasthan	57624	21.32	—
21.	Sikkim	1359	2.01	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	109665	31.11	95428
23.	Tripura	2251	2.18	2730
24.	Uttar Pradesh	209265	118.08	29575
25.	West Bengal	44153	26.94	34900

1	2	3	4	5
26.	A & N Islands	627	0.23	—
27.	Chandigarh	368	0.57	—
28.	D & N Haveli	210	0.12	45
29.	Daman & Diu	517	3.74	—
30.	Delhi	2122	NA	NA
31.	Pondicherry	2592	0.51	—
Total		1025535	476.24	477731

Statement-II*Physical Achievements under PMIUPEP upto 30.11.1997*

Sl. No.	Name of State/ UT	Townwise Project Reports prepared (No. of towns)	Household Survey conducted (No. of towns)	No. of applications under Self Employment Component		No. of applications under Shelter Upgradation Component		No. of beneficiaries given training for setting up Micro-Enterprises
				Forwarded to Banks/ Fis	Approved	Forwarded to Banks/ HUDCO	Approved	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	34	34	9651	1368	3286	152	1121
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Goa	1	1	275	84	—	—	38
6.	Gujarat	—	27	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Haryana	8	8	—	—	1090	1090	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7	7	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	390	390	50
10.	Karnataka	17	16	216	—	390	390	—
11.	Kerala	9	9	2951	907	1650	1650	1113
12.	Madhya Pradesh	26	26	9510	4155	1219	297	3618
13.	Maharashtra	28	28	3834	415	625	625	—
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	2	2	—	—	—	—	100
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	10	10	1169	466	—	—	273
19.	Punjab	5	18	1855	481	899	91	208
20.	Rajasthan	20	20	7228	1304	4100	3343	1172
21.	Tamil Nadu	41	41	6437	1144	1769	—	1599
22.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	225
23.	Tripura	—	—	253	253	139	139	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24.	Uttar Pradesh	53	50	5134	1142	8469	8469	444
25.	West Bengal	15	16	2470	625	1318	1183	1402
26.	A & N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Pondicherry	—	1	113	39	145	25	—
Total		303	317	51251	12383	25635	17844	ERR

Computerisation

917. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on computerisation Projects alongwith the name of projects implemented during the last three years, State/Zone-wise particularly in Kerala; and

(b) the details of the new projects the Government plans to undertake as part of computerisation venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Railways being a Central subject the budgetary provision for all projects including computerisation is made railway zone-wise. Similarly amount spent on various projects is also maintained zone-wise. The amount spent on computerisation of major railway projects during the last three years, i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as follows :—

Name of Project	Amount Spent (In lakhs of Rs.)
Freight Operation Information System (FOIS)	5,426
Networking of Passenger Reservation System (PRS)	14.17
Management Information System (MIS)	Sanctioned in the Current financial year

All the above mentioned projects are for all Indian Railways and for the present the Freight Operation Information System (FOIS) is to be implemented on Northern Railway in the first phase. The above mentioned amount on FOIS has been spent. Once it is successfully implemented on the Northern Railway the project will be extended to the all Indian Railways.

This would be presented to the Parliament as part of the Railway Budget 1999-2000.

[Translation]

Unauthorised Occupation of Seats

918. SHRI ANUPLAL YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unauthorised passengers cause a lot of trouble to the bonafide ticket holders in the Reserved Compartments particularly in the East bound trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of passengers prosecuted during the last one year;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the present rules or enhance the fine charges to punish unauthorised passengers travelling in the Reserved Compartments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) and (b) Some instances of persons who are mostly short distance passengers belonging to the local areas entering the reserved compartments unauthorisedly have come to notice. In order to curb this menace, checks are conducted regularly, as a result of which 1.62 lakh persons were prosecuted during the year 1998 (upto September, 98) for irregular travelling in trains.

(c) to (e) The provisions contained in the Railway Act, 1989 lay down heavy penalties in respect of fine and imprisonment for unauthorised travel on the trains. These provisions are considered quite stringent and deterrent for the present.

[English]

Mumbai Sub-urban Railway

919. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services and amenities provided to the Mumbai Suburban Commuters by both Central and Western Railway is inadequate and unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make travel on the Suburban Railway network of Mumbai Region more satisfactory;

(c) the Revenue earned by the Central and Western Railways on the Suburban network in Mumbai region separately;

(d) whether compared to the size of the Suburban Network of each of the Two Railway Zones in Mumbai, the budget allocation to the Central Railway Suburban Network is meagre and inadequate; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the budgetary support to the Central Railway suburban network in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) to (e) Augmentation/introduction of suburban trains EMU (Electrical Multiple Unit) in Mumbai area on Central and Western Railways is a continuous process depending upon the availability of EMU rakes and other reasons. The number of suburban trains have been increased from 1063 to 1077 on Central Railway and 953 to 961 on Western Railway during 1998-99. Out of these, the number of 12 Car EMU trains have also been increased from 71 to 90 on Central Railway and from 182 to 203 on Western Railway.

All stations on suburban section of Mumbai area are provided with amenities as per norms commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic. The adequacies of these are reviewed periodically and deficiencies wherever found are made good. At present there are no deficiencies in the amenities provided at stations.

For improvements in infrastructure, the Railways have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Maharashtra to establish Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) on an equity participation of 51 : 49 basis. The Corporation will be executing the Rail component of the Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II (MUTP-II).

The details of projects already sanctioned and under different stages of implementation in Mumbai under Metropolitan Transport Project (MTP) plan head are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

S No.	Name of Work	Total Cost	Exp. upto 31.3.1998	Outlay 1998- 1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Thane-Turbe-Nerul-Vashi part of Corridor	Rly. 131.47	40.56	20.00
	No. 2 in New Mumbai.	CIDCO 271.92	22.87	68.22
		Total 403.39	63.43	88.22

1	2	3	4	5	
2.	Belapur-Panvel Double Line	Rly.	92.34	42.52	26.34
		CIDCO	187.49	36.37	26.17
		Total	279.83	78.89	52.51
3.	Seawood-Uran Electrified Line	Rly.	163.49	0.21	18.00
		CIDCO	331.95	4.19	16.13
		Total	495.44	4.40	34.13
4.	Kurla-Thane (Phase-I) Additional pair of lines between Kurla and Bhandup.		49.84	14.26	25.00
5.	Kurla-Thane (Phase-II) Additional pair of lines between Bhandup and Thane.		46.69	0.00	5.00
6.	5th line between Santacruz and Borivali		64.17	23.40	20.00
7.	Quadrupling of Tracks between Borivali and Virar.		401.66	0.04	35.00
8.	Automatic Block signaling between Virar and Dahanu Road.		27.19	0.01	10.00

The Earnings from the 'Passengers carried on the Suburban system of Central and Western Railways for the last two years are as follow :—

	Earning from suburban Passengers (Rs. in crores)	
	1996-97	1997-98
Central Railway	328.21	385.75
Western Railway	280.67	294.21

[Translation]

Reservation Quota from Pratij, Kapadvang and Dehgam Station

920. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests from the representatives of people for providing reservation quota of berths from Pratij, Kapadvang and Dehgam railway stations under the Rajkot Division of Western Railway in Lok Shakti Express for Mumbai and in Ashram Express for Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received for allotment of reservation quota by 9144 Lok Shakti Express at Pratij, Kapadvang and Dehgam stations for Mumbai, allotment of quota by 2915 Ashram Express at Dehgam and Kapadvang stations and enhancement of quota at Pratij by this train for Delhi.

(c) A quota of 4 and 2 sleeper class berths at Pratij and Dehgam stations has been allotted by 9144 Lok Shakti Express w.e.f. 29.9.1998 and 3.9.1998 respectively for Mumabi. The sale of tickets at Kapadvang for Mumbai is too meagre to justify allotment of quota in this train. Similarly the sale of tickets at Kapadvang and Dehgam for Delhi is also too meagre and does not justify allotment of quota by 2915 Ashram Express. As regards enhancement of quota at Pratij by 2915 Ashram Express, an analysis of utilisation of the existing quota of 2 sleeper class berths has revealed that the same is being utilised to the extent of 85% only and as such, is adequate to cater to the present level of traffic.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report of the Commission of Railway Safety for the year 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commission of Railway Safety for the year 1997-98, under section 10 of the Railway Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1576/98]

Annual Report of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98 and review of its working by the Government

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1577/98]

The Railway Claims Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1998 etc.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 563(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 1998, under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1578/98]

- (2) The Railway Passengers (Cancellation of ticket and refund of fare) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 410(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 1998, under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1579/98]

- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual-Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1580/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 1581/98*]

- (6) A copy of the Errata to White Paper on Railway Projects (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 1582/98*]

Annual Report of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi for the year 1997-98.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 1583/98*]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Twelfth Report

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Twelfth Lok Sabha) (1998-99) on 'Cultivation of Cotton' relating to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Co-operation).

12.03 hrs.

Regarding Business of the House

MR. SPEAKER : Now, there is a small observation from the Chair.

Hon. Members are aware that a discussion under Rule 193 on the 'Rise in prices of essential commodities' is scheduled to be taken up at 2 p.m. today. The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Repeal) Bill, 1998, a small, non-controversial Bill, is also listed for consideration and passing before the said discussion.

I propose that the 'Zero Hour' may either be skipped today and the House may straightway take up consideration of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Repeal) Bill, 1998, or alternatively, the 'Zero Hour' may be concluded by 12.30 p.m. to enable the House to consider and pass the Bill by 1 p.m.

The Short Duration Discussion on price rise may be taken up at 2 p.m. or when the House meets after the lunch break.

I also propose that the House may sit up to 7 PM today to complete the Short Duration Discussion.

I hope the House agrees.

12.04 hrs.

RE : NEED TO BRING FORWARD A BILL FOR THE WELFARE OF DISABLED PERSONS

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I would like to request all the hon. Members that I wish to raise a non-controversial matter and I would like to have the kind attention of all the hon. Members here ... (Interruptions)

Sir, today is the World Disability Day. I must confess that I was shocked to learn—I have had the privilege of attending the National Disabilities Convention which is being held in the Capital today—about certain facts. There are over seven crores of disabled persons in this country and really I was very much ashamed to have heard that as Parliamentarians we had not done our duty and the Government is also not doing its duty. It appears that in the year 1995, the Persons with Disabilities Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full participation Act 1995 was passed.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

However, successive Governments have not really implemented this Act. I am told that the Central Coordination Committee which was to be appointed under the Act of 1995 was appointed only two-three days back.

Sir, these people have very serious problems. Many of them said that they cannot even go to the polling booths to exercise their franchise as the citizens of this country because of the problem of movement. They do not get jobs. They do not have even the minimal facilities so that they can live a somewhat decent life. I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Members here that we owe to these people much more than paying lip service for their problems. The Government has a special responsibility to these people who are our sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters. For no fault of theirs, they are unable to enjoy the minimal facilities that the Constitution of India provides for them.

I am told that there was a proposal to pass a Bill called the National Trust Bill for Mentally Retarded, for people with Cerebral Palsy, Autism and Multiple Disability Bill. But, I am given to understand, that the Cabinet has again postponed consideration of this Bill. A lot of representations have been made saying that this Bill should be expedited. The problems of the mentally retarded and those who are suffering from cerebral palsy are separate. We should hear the anguish expressed by the parents of mentally retarded children. They cannot look after themselves and they have no resources to provide for the future of their children. The mother of a mentally retarded child said to me, 'What will happen to my child when I die? Nobody will be there to look after my child!'

This is a very important matter. The National Trust has to be formed. I earnestly request the Government to bring this Bill soon so that it can be passed. I also request that the 1995 Act should be implemented with all vigour so that a little benefit can go to those people. I appeal to all sections of the House, which include myself, to really do something to see that these citizens of our country are given the minimum facilities that they are entitled to enjoy.

This World Disability Day should not be observed as a mere ritual. It should be observed with all seriousness and sincerity. That is my appeal to all sections of the House.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Sir, I support the proposal given by Somnathji. I request the Government to expedite the matter and try to bring this Bill as early as possible, if possible in this Session itself.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka) : Sir, we also associate ourselves with this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. The entire House associates itself with this issue.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Sir, whatever Somnathji and Leader of the Opposition have stated with regard to the World Disabled Day which is being observed today. I will convey the sentiments of the House to the concerned minister. A bill in this regard would be presented very soon in the House.

12.07 hrs.

RE : CLOSURE AND PROBLEMS OF
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government specially the attention of the Education Minister towards this issue. Aligarh Muslim University is the biggest residential university of India. This university is passing through a phase of trouble for a very long time. Today, three students are sitting there on hunger strike till death. I would like to tell the House, through you that this prestigious university has been closed down for three times during the last three years. The Management there is acting like a dictator. All the democratic institutions of the university are not functioning properly. There is neither any court nor an academic council not even a students union so that the students could voice their issues.

The University is passing through a very bad phase, so much so that the boys were forcibly evacuated from the hostel. Even the thousands of girls residing there, had to evacuate their hostels. The Vice-Chancellor or the Management are getting the university boys beaten by the criminal elements. The Government and the police there are committing excesses and atrocities on the boys.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Are you talking about Darbhanga?

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I am talking about Aligarh Muslim University. Nothing such is going on in Darbhanga. It is in Bihar.

The situation of Aligarh today is such, the educational environment has worsened and the university is closed down once in a year; you can imagine the condition of that university I want to submit that the existing budget

of the university is not even passed by the university court. I don't understand how the Vice-Chancellor sends the University budget and the Parliament passes the budget. There are irregularities in admissions, question paper for medical entrance test was leaked out. These things are to be looked into. That is we demand the Government to consider the demands of the students sitting on 'fast until death' and to reinstate the academic and democratic institutions there. CBI inquiry should be conducted on this entire affair. The vindictive attitude and action taken against the students should be withdrawn and action should be taken against those criminals thrashing the boys in the university. I would request, that the Union Government should reply now so that the boys on hunger strike discontinue their agitation and the university should be re-opened. The condition there is worse. It is India's biggest residential university. I would like the Government to respond something on this issue so that the condition there can be improved.

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL (Hingoli): He participated daily, I seldom get an opportunity. My issue is very important.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, on the same matter I have also given notice.

MR. SPEAKER : On the same matter, he is going to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Sir, the question raised by Shri Fatmi is very important. I understand that the students from Aligarh Muslim University have been meeting you and leaders of all the parties and that the university is closed since the last 4th November. The situation is quite explosive there. I neither want to go in details nor put any allegation on the Vice-chancellor or district administration but I certainly want the Government to interfere and get it reopened at the earliest and conduct CBI inquiry. Mr. George Fernandes is sitting here. I want to state the condition of minorities of Uttar Pradesh, three incidents have taken place. A separate incident in college had led to its closure. Ali Mian's residence was raided. You will deny it, but I am quoting from the newspapers. Police went there in the night. Not only this, said was also taken place in 1994 but what about that report? It is not right to insult somebody and Ali Mian is not an ordinary man. The Police went and raided his house at Raibareilly and this

was also happened in 1994. What happened to that report, no body has the information so far.

Therefore, we would like to know from the Government whether the raid has been conducted by the police or the R.S.S. or the Bajrang Dal. ...(Interruptions)

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : Whether the R.S.S. has started raids also? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : He will not tell, the hon. Minister would tell. If the hon. Minister wants to deny, he would do so. ...(Interruptions)

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : It should be expunged from the record. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Such things should not happen. The dignity of the House should be kept in mind.

Mr. Speaker. Sir, it should not happen. I urge upon you to get this word expunged. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister had said on 25th November that the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has not issued any order with regard to Vande Matram. Please go through the Jansatta of today in which it has been clearly written that the orders were issued by the Government. Therefore, Sir, it is not a minor thing that the Hon. Prime Minister of the country misguides the nation. The Hon. Prime Minister of the country says that he has talked to the Chief Minister and no such order has been issued.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Paswan, please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I speak very little. The day you have assumed office of the Speaker. I speak

[Shri Ramvilas Paswan]

only when you permit me otherwise I do not speak. I am not bias against R.S.S. or any other organisation. I would like to know this much only that whether the raid has been conducted or not. If so, then by whom it was conducted. Khurana ji, now when you give reply please first ask the hon. Home Minister and then reply. Please do not reply in a light mood.

My second submission is that the hon. Prime Minister has said that no order has been issued with regard to Vande Matram. While in today's Jansatta it has appeared that the order has been issued and it is applicable in schools and colleges. My third question is with regard to the C.B.I. enquiry in the Aligarh Muslim University. All these three questions are related to the minorities. Yesterday also, the question related to the minorities was taken up seriously in the Business Advisory Committee's meeting. I think that the Government should take it seriously and give the reply in the House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN (Bahraich) : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you very much. Sir, the situation is very serious in Aligarh. The university has been closed four times in last three years. The future of the young students is in the dark. University is of national importance as per the Constitution of our country.

The functioning of its bodies, courts and other faculties has been suspended while this university was set up by a law passed by the Parliament. It is not an isolated case of Aligarh only. Sir, for the last three days we have been saying that continuously a message is given as if the administration has been asked to harass the minorities, either by way of said on Ali Mian's residence or on the houses of Christians or with regard to their murders. Sir, three hundred copies of Bible have been burnt in Rajkot ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, three hundred copies of Bible were burnt to ashes ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum) : It is not correct ...*(Interruptions)* you are speaking on Aligarh Muslim University ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, this is the copy of the Bible set ablaze at Rajkot, it is before you ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, the minorities have been subjected to persecution. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : You have raised the Aligarh Muslim University issue. Please speak only on that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF. MOHAMMAD KHAN : The issue of burning the Bible is as important as the Aligarh Muslim University issue. For that matter, the Bible is as important as any other religious book. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : Sir, the issue of burning the Bible in Gujarat is a concocted story. I visited the place. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Do not divide the minorities. It is equally distressing to see the atrocities committed on the Christians. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : Sir, this is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called the hon. Minister Shri Khurana to speak please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Therefore, I urge upon the Government though you that the oppression of the minorities should be stopped ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : The issue raised by the hon. Member just now ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central): Mr. Speaker Sir, let him speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Just now the issue of Muslim University has been raised ...*(Interruptions)* the problems there ...*(Interruptions)*. This issue is related to the administration. For your kind information, I would like

to tell you that the hon. M.P. of that area is Shrimati Sheela Gautam. She has met the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Human Resource Development Minister on all those points. That problem ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There is no outcome ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM (Aligarh) : The result is coming out but you don't let it come out ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please let him complete. This is not proper. Let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete, Mr. Fatmi. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : You are farming it and do not want to resolve it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : My submission is that it is an administrative matter. It is an internal matter of the university. Be it the Muslim University or the Hindu University do not link it with communalism ...*(Interruptions)* Your sentiments would be conveyed to the hon. Human Resource Development Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen. He is giving the reply. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is giving the reply. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister is giving the reply. What is this going on? Are you objecting to the Minister replying to this?

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : My submission is that I would convey the sentiments of the hon. Members to the hon. Human Resource Development ...*(Interruptions)* I would talk to him to give a statement ...*(Interruptions)* But my submission is that, as Ramvilas ji has said that, the reply should be given seriously. They themselves read in between the newspapers and by giving a communal flavour to each issue.

[Translation]

When they raised the issue of atrocities on minorities in the Business Advisory Committee then we agreed to hold discussion on the issue. ...*(Interruptions)* let it be on Monday. But they will not miss any opportunity ...*(Interruptions)* I have objection to link every issue with communalism or to there up the issue ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on here? The Minister is replying. What is this going on?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : What happened to Ali Mian?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I said that we will reply ...*(Interruptions)* Your issue would raised on Monday. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The raid has been conducted at Ali Mian's residence was raided ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I personally talked to him ...*(Interruptions)* The Home Minister of Uttar Pradesh says that it is not in his knowledge that a raid was conducted ...*(Interruptions)* I personally talked to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Suryankanta Patil.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has already given the reply. He is asking the HRD Minister also about this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. HRD Minister is also going to make a statement in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is going to give a reply. Please understand. Please take your seat. Shri Fatmi, what is this? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Suryakanta Patil please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please take your seat. This is not good. Shri Banatwalla, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? You are all senior Members.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : What he has replied
...(Interruptions)

[English]

The University is closed for so many months. Goondas are used to beat the students. These are the allegations of the students. The Vice-Chancellor and the Government of India are not ready to take any decision for months together. I am not able to understand the reply of the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I am saying that a statement will be made tomorrow. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : When?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Tomorrow. I am saying the statement will be made tomorrow. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, I have given a notice.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have come to this House third time elected from the Congress party and also a Member of the House Committee. I am a Member of the sub-Committee of the House Committee. Despite the efforts being made for the last nine months, the defuncting of House Committee is continued. Every time, we raise the issue of accommodation of the M.Ps. Today there are 135 houses where their guests are living. It was decided in the House Committee that extension should not be given to any guest. ...(Interruptions) Sir, it was your decision also, you are our custodian. After making so many efforts in this regard lastly. I rise to speak before you on the issue concerning ourselves. It is a pity. The member of Parliament, who represents 1.5 lakhs of people has been staying in the guest house of his Government for last nine months. 40 members do not have residential accommodation. 135 members are living in the guest accommodations, some of them are living in Bungalows and some are living in twin flats. The notice of eviction was served two months back. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

Let me speak.

[Translation]

The Directorate of Estates says that there is pressure from the Prime Minister's office. If there is a pressure from the Prime Minister's office, why the residences are not being got evacuated. Hon. Member like Jaffer Sharif who has been elected nine times and are in the 'Z' category, do not have Govt. accommodation to live in.

The Hon. member of 'Z' category like Shri Buta Singh, Shri Lalu Prasad, and Shri Bhaskar Rao, who is the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, do not have accommodation ...*(Interruptions)* Please, have a patience to listen ...*(Interruptions)* Rani, who is elected from Assam and have been provided 'y' category security, have not been allotted Govt. accommodation. We do not have any other option except to occupy the open houses forcibly ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

Let me finish please. This is agony.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)* whatever I have been suffering for the last nine months. ...*(Interruptions)* I have been treated as a criminal. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call a meeting.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : The Congress Members of Parliament are being harassed intentionally. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call a meeting and set right things.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : But why? How could the Chairman of the House Committee live in his home like this? How could the Chairman of the House Committee write to my party in this manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Let me finish.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)* How can the Minister of Urban Development write to my party? ...*(Interruptions)* 135 persons have been given the extension ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam please take you seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur) : We are going to move privilege motion against him ...*(Interruptions)* You are member of this House Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, I will call a meeting and set right things. I have writer a letter to the Chairman.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL (Hingoli) : MP's belonging to SC Community ...*(Interruptions)* you are our custodian. You should take note of the treatment being meted out to MP's of Congress Party. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

12.30 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Suryakanta Patil and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

...*(Interruptions)*

12.31 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Suryakanta Patil and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I understand your position and I have written a letter also in this regard.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : You are our custodian, whomelse should we appeal to. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English] SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katihar) : Several months have passed, but MP's have not been allotted accommodations. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : You people do not pay heed to it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL (Hingoli) : You should pass order. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : The House Committee is on tour and we people are suffering here. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : He has also occupied. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into the matter and get it settled.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into the matter.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : A number of ex-Ministers are living in ordinary houses. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into the matter. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will call a meeting and settle the matter.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : I request the Union Government...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the House is not in order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : I want to make a point in one minute.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

At this stage, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq came and set on the floor near the Table

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat.

12.32 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq went back to his seat

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, on behalf of the workers working in the sugarcane industry and also the sugarcane growers, I would request the Union Government to stop import of sugar so as to save the sugar industry. The hon. Prime Minister has made an announcement to increase the excise duty but increasing the excise duty is not helpful. In India, we already have about 56 lakh tonne of sugar, and this year we are expected to produce about 155 million tonnes of sugar. Sugar required for our own consumption is 148 million tonnes. In these circumstances, there is no necessity to import sugar thereby killing our indigenous industry. The farming community, particularly four-and-a-half crore of sugarcane growers are in crisis. I would request the Government to take remedial steps and immediately stop the import of sugar. On behalf of my Party I would like to make this request.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The issue which has been raised by the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Leader of Opposition is on his legs. Please take your seat.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, the last year's carry over stock of sugar is more than 55 lakh tonne and this year there will be additional production of 68 lakh tonne of sugar. Keeping this background in mind, it would be very unfair to import sugar and that too from Pakistan. Till yesterday about 9 lakh tonne of sugar has already been imported. It is high time the Government of India should take appropriate decision. I have written a letter to the Government in this regard and yesterday I received a letter from the hon. Finance Minister rejecting my request. I think it is high time to take appropriate decision and save our domestic industry and the farmers. It would especially be unfair to bring sugar from Pakistan and other countries by those who claim to be the champions of 'swadeshi'.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : I would also like to add in this regard. We have already exported ten lakh tonne of sugar. We have surplus sugar in the country. The items that is required to be imported is not being imported. Yesterday it was said that the Government was going to import fertilizers. But today the farmers are asking for it. Suppose if there is a shortage of food items tomorrow, what action Government are likely to take? Even the Government are not aware of the time when the fertilizers are needed and when sowing is undertaken. If the sowing is to be done today, what is the use of importing fertilizer later on? You are saying that Govt. have two and half lac tonne stock of fertilizer, but the farmers are still agitating because they are not getting fertilizer. Then you are charging, four to five times more than the actual cost of it. Today there is shortage of onions. The Government could not keep the stock of onions from where would they bring foodgrains. The fertilizer is needed in some particular time, not after that.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Are you increasing the import duty or not?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. members and the leader of opposition have raised a question regarding import of sugar, particularly that is being imported from Pakistan. I do not know whether your letter was received yesterday. But yesterday Prime Minister had hinted and accepted that the import of sugar from Pakistan should be stopped forthwith because it is necessary to provide protection to sugar industry and also to safeguard the interest of sugarcane growers. Therefore the steps will be taken in this regard very soon. The Government are actively considering this matter. The decision is likely to be taken in this regard in the next one or two days. You had said that export as well import was also undertaken.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Export and import should be done as per requirement.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : This is what I am saying that you have said half the truth whereas you should tell the whole picture. The Government of India agree that our sugar mills are suffering as a result of import of sugar from Pakistan. It is necessary to provide protection to them. The Government of India is going to take step in this regard very soon.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : I would like to make two points. If Mr. Khurana wants to speak, I will take my seat with all humility.

[English]

I am raising a question of the Constitution. This House is the custodian of the Constitution and the Executive takes birth from this House. So, the Government of India cannot take the position that what is happening in Uttar Pradesh is a State subject. I am raising a definite question that what their Government is doing in Uttar Pradesh is the violation of the provisions of the Constitution of India. It is the violation of Articles 25 and 28 of the Constitution. Neither the State Governments nor the Central Government can promote any religion at the cost of the taxpayers' money. This is the Constitution of India.

Sir, Ali Mian has raised a question. I am not pained only as a Muslim, but I am doubly pained as I consider myself to be an Indian and a nationalist. My pain is that Ali Mian has given a appeal. He is not a *fatwabaaz* scholar. He is a scholar of Islam and he is a religious leader. He does not take interest in politics. He enjoyed respect from all Prime Ministers right from Jawaharlal Nehru unto this day.

Maybe, Atalji also respects him. Shri Kalyan Singh has provoked Ali Mian, the sovereign scholar of Islam to give a call to Muslim students to come out of the schools. It is a painful situation. We must reconsider that and we must request Ali Mian not to make such an appeal. But what happened in U.P. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Kindly listen to me for a minute. The Prime Minister convinced me that no circular was issued. But, verbal or written, instructions are given saying that Sanskrit has to be made compulsory; *Sarasvati Vandana* has to be made compulsory and morning *puja* is a compulsory thing. This cannot be done. I went to remind this House through you that in Kerala, two Christian boys had once refused to sing the National Anthem. They were then expelled. The matter came up before the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court held that the expulsion as null and void. Therefore, nothing can be done under compulsion in this country. Yes, anybody who wants to sing *Sarasvati Vandana* and enjoy that, he is welcome to do that. But it cannot be done under the order of the State Government. So, I raise this question. It is a violation of the Constitution of India. It is a provocation of sober scholar of Islam, Ali Mian who is not only respected in India but respected throughout

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

the world. So, I want Shri Khurana to say something on that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing the subject of 'Atrocities on Minorities' on Monday. We are discussing the subject on Monday.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It has been started for discussion on Monday ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, I want to raise a very serious matter.

[Translation]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Say, something now. The other minister would reply on Monday. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Premchandran, I will give you one minute.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : The Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy by virtue of their Resolution on the 'Policy on Exploitation of Beach Sand Minerals' dated 6th October, 1998 have made fundamental changes in the mining policy especially of beach sand minerals. It is to be noted that the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 which goes to say that Monocites, Illuminites, Rudites and Zircon, all these four beach sand minerals are described as "prescribed elements", on which only the Department of Atomic Energy has got any authority to do anything.

What has happened is, in the year 1991, the Industrial Policy Resolution has said that only the public sector undertakings are having the authority in mining and mineral separation of these beach sand minerals. In India, there are only two PSUs, one is the IRE and the other is the KMML, and both are in my constituency. What is important is ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude Shri Premchandran.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : It is a very important and serious matter. Monocide which is having an element of Thorium is used for bomb explosion. The national security of the country has also been threatened. What

the IRE have done is that they have invited a global tender ...*(Interruptions)*

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to speak. Now you have to complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, I would like to have a response from the Government. Recently a National Security Council has been formed and five members are there. The former Defence Minister is also a member of that Council. It is a threat to the national security and also it will affect the stability of the two public sector undertakings. So, I would urge upon the Government to cancel the global tenders issued by the IRE. It concerns the national security as well as the public sector undertakings which are in crisis. I would like to have a response from the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. Shri Premchandran, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I would like to raise a constitutional question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : The matter was raised in the National Security Council. Kindly give a direction to have a response. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I would like to raise an issue of Constitutional propriety. ...**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Shri Shailendra Kumar to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madan Lal Khurana to present the Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.46 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sixth Report

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : If the House decides, the submissions under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, what is this? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.30 p.m.

12.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

[Translation]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

(I) Need to bring Regulation and development of coal, lignite and methane materials under the jurisdiction of State Governments

SMT. BHAVANA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, there has been

*Not recorded.

**Treated as Laid on the Table of the House.

made a law in the 54 Number of the 7th Schedule-1 of the Indian Constitution for regulation and development of mines and minerals in India and on the basis of which the Union Government is empowered for regulation and development of mines and minerals in India. Besides, the regulation and development of other minerals is done by the State Governments as prescribed in the number 23 of the 7th Schedule-2 of the Constitution and in it from 1 to 23 Coal, lignite, Bed methane have not been incorporated.

The Advocate General had made suggestion after considering all the aspects that processing and development of Coal lignite, Bed Methane should come in the jurisdiction of the State Government.

The Chief Minister of Gujarat had convened a meeting on 13th May, 1998 keeping in view the suggestion made by the constitutional expert—Shri Fali Nariman, a consensus was reached to give powers to State Governments to make laws for processing Coal lignite, Bed Methane.

Therefore, I earnestly request the Union Government to take decision early in this regard and give powers to the State Government for regulation and development of Coal lignite Bed Methane.

(ii) Need for early Completion of work of sugar mill at Jahangirpur in Khurja Parliamentary constituency (U.P.)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Sir, the construction work at sugar mill at Jahangirpur in parliamentary constituency Khurja has been lying suspended for the last several days and the local farmers are facing a lot of troubles and they have been agitating and staging Dharnas etc. to get its construction work completed without any delay. I have raised their demand several times in the last Lok Sabha sessions, but no progress has been made in this regard so far as a result of which resentment is prevailing among the local farmers.

I would like to bring in the notice of the Government that there is not a single sugar mill functioning in my constituency, Khurja and the sugarcane is grown here at large scale.

As such I again request the Government to get the construction work of Jahangirpur sugar mill completed without making any delay and make it operational and permission to set up one more sugar mill there should also be granted in view of the production of sugarcane here.

(iii) **Need to look into the grievances of the employees of the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India (TIFCO) and textile mills under N.T.C. in Kanpur.**

SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : I have drawn attention of the Government in this House towards the labour-resentment and starvation followed by closure of industries under Central Government in Kanpur several time at earlier occasions in Lok Sabha, but no concrete step has so far been taken to resolve this problem. The employees of the Tannery and Footwear Corporation have not been paid salaries since 18th August, 1998 due to which they are on the verge of starvation. The Government have decided to close down this industry but the notice of the closure or V.R.S. has not been displayed there so far. I request that the Government pay the salary-*emolument's* in full immediately and announce any package so that the employees may come over these grave difficulties.

In the same manner uncertainty has been prevailing in regard to Kanpur Textile Algin Mill No-1 and Algin Mill No.-2 under N.T.C. The employees of these mills are being paid advance instead of salaries. The Government can make one or two mills profitable out of these by adjusting the employees but delay is being made in making decision in this regard. I request the Prime Minister that a meeting of Industry Minister, Textile Minister, Finance Minister and Labour Minister should be convened shortly to take decision in this regard and make arrangement for providing salaries of the employees of Tannary and Footwear Corporation from August 18, 1998 till date and for providing a good package to them through V.R.S.

(iv) **Need to look into the functioning of civil and E & M Department of Central Coalfields Limited.**

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEYA (Giridih) : Sir, in absence of proper allocation of funds in the civil and E. & M. Department of Central Coalfields Ltd. for construction and repair works development works are not being undertaken properly.

Civil and E. & M. department allocated about one crore and seventeen lac rupees for Bermo Central Colony under CCL during 1995-96 and 1996-97 although the allocation was not meant for Central Colony. In spite of that development work could not be undertaken out of this allocated amount.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to held a high level inquiry into the above said matter and take specific steps for the construction and repair of quarters for the employees of C.C.L.

[English]

(v) **Need to chalk out a centrally sponsored programme to save Paradeep Port, Hukitola Island and Lamp House in Orissa from sea erosion.**

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL (Jagatsinghpur) : Tidal onslaughts from the Bay of Bengal and growing destruction of mangrove forest are fast eroding Orissa's Northern Coast line and posing a grave threat to the Paradeep Port. The Nehru Guest House and its nearby residential flats and particularly the Hukitola island has been facing the greatest danger.

The Lamp House may lose its existence if remedial measures are not taken. The Lamp House was established in 1821 during British period at Hukitola of Jombu island near the Bay of Bengal. This island is in a dilapidated condition.

The mouth of Mahanadi is also silting day by day. The soil erosion has also been increasing every year. The findings of the Remote Sensing Application Centre through satellite picture reveals that the tidal bores started devouring the coast line about four decades ago. The break waters built to protect the port on its southern side have affected the movement of sea waters. As a result, sand and other materials carried by the sea currents are deposited in the southern area of the break water and not carried northwards where the tidal bores continue to break the shore.

Unless some suitable measures are adopted, the tidal bores will continue to pose a threat to the port. As such, I urge the Government to prepare a centrally sponsored programme to save Paradeep Port and Hukitola island as well as the Lamp House there from sea erosion and tidal wave. The desilting of Mahanadi river bed should also be included under that centrally sponsored programme.

(vi) **Need to approve the amendments made by Bihar Government to Bouddha-Gaya Temple Act, 1949**

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Sir, as you are aware Bouddha-Gaya Temple is one of the most important monuments of ancient India. This is the site of Buddha's enlightenment. Buddhist pilgrims and devotees all over the world visit this holy Mahabodhi Mahavihar.

It is but natural that the management of Mahabodhi Mahavihar be entrusted and monitored by Buddhist monks. Mahavihar Committee of Buddhist traditions constituted by the Government has not served the purpose.

The Government of Bihar has, therefore, amended the Bouddha-Gaya Temple Act, 1949 (Bihar Act XVIII of 1949) and submitted for approval of the Union Government. Shri Bhadanta Arya Nagarjun Suraj Sasai has sought immediate intervention of Union Government to approve the amended Bouddha-Gaya Temple Act, 1949 and entrust the management of the temple to Buddhist monks.

(vii) Need to enhance quota of essential commodities for the State of Orissa

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Berhampur) : The State of Orissa is not getting its due share of levy sugar, Kerosene oil, rice and wheat from the Central Pool. There is a wide gap between the actual requirement and Central allocation. As a result of that, the consumers in the State particularly the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society are facing a lot of hardship.

The poor people are not getting sugar adequately at the time of festivals due to less Central allocation. Due to shortage of firewood, the poor and middle class people depend on kerosene. As it is not allocated according to the requirement, the poor people are suffering untold misery.

The allocation of rice and wheat has been reduced drastically. The State Government has been demanding additional allocation of rice, wheat, kerosene and levy sugar from the Central Pool. But adequate allocation has not been made by the Union Government.

Keeping in view the severe drought prevailing in the State, I demand that the allocation of rice, wheat, kerosene and sugar quota for the State of Orissa be enhanced during the current year as well as for the year 1999.

(viii) Need to declare support price for copra at rupees four thousand per quintal

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : The support price for Copra proposed by the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission is inadequate. I urge upon the Government to declare the support price for copra at least rupees four thousand per quintal.

[Translation]

(ix) Need to compensate farmers of Punjab whose crops have been damaged due to unseasonal rains.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State of Punjab is famous for agriculture and it contributes maximum in Centre pool, but the farmer

who is taking all the pains to feed the nation is in debt. The outstanding debt amount against farmers of Punjab is Rs. 5,700 crore and they are not able to return it on time. Besides that, the farmers of Punjab have been hit hard by natural calamities this year.

On the one hand unseasonal rain has destroyed their standing crops and on the other hand the remaining produce taken to the grain market for selling has also been damaged due to which they have to suffer financial loss. The foodgrains lying in the grain markets, particularly paddy have been damaged due to rains and the Government agencies purchased these damaged paddy on lesser rates than the ones fixed by the Government which has caused heavy loss to the farmers this year.

Therefore, I request that the Government should immediately provide compensation to the farmers atleast to the extent of the amount they might have got, if their produce has not been damaged by unseasonal rains, so as to support the farmers in a time of crisis.

[English]

(x) Need to provide better communication facilities to Javvathu hill region in Tamil Nadu

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur) : Javvathu hill region in the borders of Thiruvannamalai Vellore Districts contain villages like Jamunamuthur, Pudumadu, Nellivasa Nadu, Arsavalli, Kovilar, Kalyana Manthai, Thoppur, Kootathur, Athipet, Verrappanur, Komuteri, Koppiretti, Pudhupet, which are about 28 in all. For many centuries these habitations are there in the deep jungles.

Even after 50 years of independence basic amenities like drinking water, road communication, primary health centres and Public Distribution System have not entirely reached the people of these regions. Even the efforts of the State Administration could not meet with success due to lack of road communication.

Vehicles like jeeps even of the State agencies cannot reach the people living there. It becomes difficult for Government officials to reach those villages. The tribal people of those regions face great economic difficulties and some do not have even minimum clothing facilities. The development of these villages depends on the non-Governmental organisations to a large extent.

The situation must change. All the twenty one Integrated Rural Development Programmes must reach them. For this, road communication must be ensured. Let the Union Government continue to have control over Javvathu hill region and help the State Administration

with adequate road communication facility to uplift the poor people by relaxing the norm for construction of road through the jungles.

(xi) Need to increase duty on imported sugar

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Ahmednagar) : I would like to draw the Government's attention towards the news item captioned "Finance Minister rejects proposal to increase import duty on sugar" which appeared in the 'The Indian Express' of 21 November, 1998. Sir, sugar import is under Open General Licence. So, naturally, sugar will be imported by the traders as long as imported sugar is cheaper than the Indian sugar. The Minister of Finance rejected the request from Minister of Food to increase the import duty substantially so that the Indian import of sugar may be competitive. This step may be a protection for Indian sugar industry, and farmers in particular.

I do agree that sweetening agents always give a boost for inflation. It is not fair to reduce inflation by importing sugar at the cost of Indian farmers. I, therefore, strongly appeal to the Minister of Finance that the Government may increase the duty on imported sugar. In the world market, a number of other countries are imposing higher import duties to protect their domestic industry and farmers. So, I would appeal to the Government that the issue should be reconsidered and the import duty on sugar may be increased substantially and justice should be done to the Indian farming community immediately.

[Translation]

(xii) Need to change the date of 6th December being observed as "Polio Eradication Day" with a view to observe 42nd Annual death ceremony of Dr. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on that day

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bharat Ratna Dr. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar was a great man of India and messiah of Dalit-backward-revolutionary society. Every year on his 'MAHAPRINIRVAN DIWAS' 6th December tributes are paid to him in the entire country. 20-25 lakhs people from every part of the country gather at 'Chaitya Bhumi' Mumbai to pay their homages. Crores of people live in our country who revere Dr. Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar. He has graced the democracy of India by preparing the constitution of this country. The Government of India have announced 6th December 1998 as 'Pulse Polio Campaigning'. This is 'Mahaparinirvan Divas' of Dr. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. Therefore, this date should be changed to 13th December. The Government of India should accept our demand.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.30 P.M.

12.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past thirteen of the clock.

13.39 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-nine minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : I want to raise an important and urgent matter. *...(Interruptions)* In Mumbai, a very popular film and a prestigious film, which has won many international awards, was being screened and that *...(Interruptions)* They have ransacked theatres *...(Interruptions)* The Chief Minister has congratulated them. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, you can raise it tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Compulsory Jute Packaging Order has been upheld by the Supreme Court. Now, even after this Order has been upheld by the Supreme Court, the Cabinet has decided not to pack urea and cement in jute bags. This will not only destroy the jute industry, but it will also affect the ecological balance. In Europe, now-a-days it is punitive on the part of any entrepreneur to pack anything which cannot be recycled and biodegradable. The packaging by polluting agents is an offence in the European and American societies. This is a very serious matter. We demand that the Prime Minister should respond to this matter now. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. The Minister will reply now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are a senior Member. The Minister wants to reply. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is already on his legs. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of workers of the jute industry are suffering now. The jute industry in West Bengal is facing a lot of problems by the decision of the Union Cabinet not to pack urea and cement in jute bags. This is a very important matter. The Prime Minister is present here. We are raising this matter due to the decision of the Government. The Prime Minister should respond to this matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this decision of the Cabinet will destroy the jute industry of West Bengal. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I have already called the Minister. Please understand. You are a senior Member. The Minister is already on his legs. Please take your seat.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter and the Prime Minister should respond to it. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

It is not a question of Industry, it is a question of the universe, it is a question of the country. The Prime Minister should consider over it ...(Interruptions) It is a question of environment too. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Please take your seat.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I will collect data regarding the issue being raised by our friends from the West Bengal and I will discuss with them. No such work would

be done, which may have adverse effect on the Jute Industry. I would like to assure them.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : It is a question of Environment.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : There are many questions, but the question of maintaining peace in the House is also there. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : The disturbances created by the Shiv Sena in Mumbai during the demonstration is a wrong thing. You must collect the data immediately in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I appeal to the Hon. Member to please take their seats, Shri Kashiram Rana.

COTTON GINNING AND PRESSING FACTORIES (REPEAL) BILL, 1998

13.44 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925, be taken into consideration."

The repeal of the Act will, we hope, provide a thrust and incentive to the modernisation efforts in the cotton ginning and pressing sector. This, in turn, will encourage quality processing of cotton. Ginning and Pressing factories will be able to charge appropriate price commensurate with the service provided.

In the present liberalised industrial scenario, many of the restrictions laid down in the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925 are not required any longer.

It is felt that the Cotton Control Order of 1986, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 would, after necessary amendments, take care of the provisions considered essential to regulate the working of cotton ginning and pressing factories in future.

As hon. Members are well aware, we are also pursuing other incentives to help the textile industry to become more competitive. For instance, there is a proposal to launch a Technology Mission on Cotton Development, which is in an advanced stage of finalisation. In fact, the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech announced allocation of Rs. 60 crore for the Mission. Activities under this proposed Technology Mission would cover both pre-harvest as well as post-harvest operations. While the proposal for the Mission is being

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

piloted by the Ministry of Agriculture, my Ministry will be responsible for two Mini-Missions relating to marketing infrastructure and processing of cotton. Under the proposed Technology Mission, we also propose to provide an incentive to cotton ginning and pressing factories to encourage them to modernise.

Similarly, we are working on another proposal for a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for the textile and jute industries. Here again, we are keen to encourage different identified segments of the textile industry to go in for technological upgradation and to modernise in order to be better equipped to meet international competition in the post-MFA era.

The present proposal for repeal of Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act should, therefore, be seen in a wider context. I hope that these measures will lessen some controls. It will also, in its own way, encourage modernisation in cotton ginning and pressing factories. This should help in availability of cleaner and uncontaminated cotton. This should also help farmers on the one hand as well as the units which consume the cotton on the other.

I hope the hon. House will be pleased to approve the repeal of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925.

This Bill was also introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Tenth Lok Sabha passed this Bill unanimously on 13th August, 1997. This Bill was also introduced in the Rajya Sabha. But the Lok Sabha was dissolved. So, I again come here for repeal of this Act. I request all the hon. Members to pass this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to repeal the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925, be taken into consideration."

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : It was the Eleventh Lok Sabha and not the Tenth Lok Sabha.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Yes: the Bill was passed by the Eleventh Lok Sabha. It was introduced in the Tenth Lok Sabha also.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, the logic advanced by the hon. Minister is not convincing. In the first place, this is an offshoot of liberalisation to meet the requirements market economy. They would then find a solution that the Act itself may be repealed. But

there are certain provisions in the original Act, that is, the Act of 1925, which safeguards the interests of the cotton industry as a whole. Now, the hon. Minister would answer that this could be safeguarded by the Cotton Control Order, 1986 which was issued under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. That order was an executive order. That was issued under the provisions of the statute of 1955 and required certain changes. I hope the hon. Minister will bring forward an amendment to that order retaining the provisions contained in the Act of 1925.

There are certain provisions which are helpful to the workers engaged in the factory and they will be thrown out. You will have to safeguard their interests. I do not stand in the way of modernisation. I think, that modernisation could be achieved even by retaining the Act. The Act itself could be modified to such an extent giving a complete provision for modernisation. Instead of doing that, what you propose to do is that the Act itself may be repealed to suit the changing conditions. That logic is not convincing.

Sir, at any rate, the hon. Minister has agreed to make amendments to the Cotton Control Order of 1986. Will you please come forward with amendments at an early stage giving protection to certain provisions in the Act of 1925, in the Order itself which was issued in 1986 under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955? So, I would request you to bring certain amendments which are essential, which are useful to be retained. If you find it difficult to retain the Act of 1925, those provisions can be retained at least in the Cotton Control Order issued under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

If the Government has taken a decision, I do not stand in the way. But if you are very pertinent, if you insist that the Act itself should go, you make a provision in the Cotton Control Order by suggesting amendments which have to be retained in the original Act.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (Surendranagar): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to support the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Repeal) Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* Speaker, Sir, I request you that there should not be any comment during the speech.

Speaker, Sir, I extend my gratitude towards the Minister and the Government for bringing this Bill. The old Bill of 1925 would be replaced after passing it and there would be many benefits due to it. I thanked because

the area wherefrom I come, is a biggest producer of cotton. The maximum number of ginning and pressing factories are in my area. This Bill will provide many advantages because owners of ginning and pressing factories were bound to declare their stock on the weekly basis. Now this practice would be discontinued and the work of ginning and pressing factory owners would become easier.

There are also so many other advantages of it. The owners of ginning and pressing factories had to pay fee to the Government so far. This fees was being paid to the State Governments through the collectors. After passing this Bill they would not have to pay fee and the ginning and pressing factories would be benefitted due to it. Not only this, their quality would also improve the optimum capacity would be utilised and it would benefit the industry. The export would also increase as a result thereof and there is a possibility that our economy would also be benefitted due to this bill.

Not only this, our Minister have said here that some more schemes and also coming and that is why we want to undertake modernisation. The work of ginning and pressing factories would get simpler as a result of modernisation. It would stop hoarding or rather it would not be required. When the work goes on smoothly, and no obstacle comes into the way, then work goes on speedily and it registers more progress, I would like to thank the Minister again and again because he has done a great favour by bringing this Bill here. I would also like to add that now the quality of cotton will also improve.

Since you have given me an opportunity to speak I must say that it will be better if some relief is provided in the section of Essential Commodities bill, there has been bumper cotton crop this year in my parliamentary constituency even more than the expectation. This is all gift of nature. It would be better if you provide more relief for the export of cotton. Again I thank you for doing a good job for the farmers, traders and all others by presenting this bill. I welcome you for this act.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill has been brought in order to repeal the old Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925. No doubt it is very much old. This Bill has been brought for repealing the old Act on the basis of so many reasons. As per the hon. Minister's version, this Act is no longer required due to the modernised and liberalised industrial scenario.

There is another Act called Cotton Control Order, 1986 which has come within the purview of the Essential

Commodities Act, 1955. As far as the Cotton Control Order, 1986 is concerned, I think, there is no sufficient material to properly regulate the work of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing works. We have no objection to repeal this old Act because a new scenario has come. We are not disagreeing with the ground which has been stated by the hon. Minister. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister regarding the pathetic condition of cotton industry as well as the condition of the cotton growers.

The hon. Minister comes from a State which is famous for cotton industry. The cotton industry of the entire country, namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, etc., is being ruined day after day. ... (Interruptions). The entire cotton industry has fallen in a deep crisis and so many cotton mills throughout the country are now closed. Thousands and thousands of cotton worker have been thrown out from their jobs. The Cotton industry is a key and old industry of our country. Cotton is very much popular not only within our country but outside our country also. Just like the jute industry of the West Bengal, the fate of the cotton industry is also the same. The jute industries are being closed down. Thousands and thousands of workers have been driven out from these industries.

14.00 hrs.

I want to just draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to the fact that whatever was happening regarding jute packaging, the same thing is happening in the case of the cotton industry also. Cotton industry mills are getting closed and thousands and thousands of workers are being thrown out of their jobs. It is a matter of regret that the Government has not, up to now, taken any suitable and proper steps or measures to overcome the problem. They should take some steps so that the cotton mill workers can get back their jobs, they can increase the production and the mills could be run smoothly.

The same thing has been mentioned by the hon. lady Member who has spoken just now and who comes from the same area where cotton is growing. The agriculturists are not getting any remunerative prices. The future of the entire industry is now bleak. It is in a pathetic condition.

I urge upon the hon. Minister to take suitable steps to improve the condition of the cotton industry because it is a matter of shame that the cotton growers are suffering all over the country.

MR. SPEAKER : We are not completing the Bill today. We will take it up tomorrow.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : I will just mention one point.

I am not against repealing this order; I am not against this Bill which is for repealing the Act. I only apprehend that the idea behind this should not be like this. Cotton ginning and pressing should be modernised. This has to be coordinated with the new policy that is coming. The old textile policy has to go and a new Textile Policy has to come. This must be coordinated with the New Textile Policy where it must be ensured that raw cotton should not be exported as is being done now.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, statement by Shri L.K. Advani.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Controversy Over a Religious Shrine Near Chikkmagalur (Karnataka)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : There is a religious shrine atop a hill, 30 kms from Chikkmagalur in Karnataka. This is under the control of the religious and Charitable Endowment Department, Government of Karnataka. Both the Hindus and the Muslims regard the shrine as sacred and it is a unique example of Hindu-Muslim harmony.

The Muslims visit the shrine dedicated to the Saint Baba Budhan throughout the year. They also celebrate Urs at the site three days every year in the month of Rabi-ul-Avval, the third month of the Islamic Calendar. For the Hindus, this is the shrine of Guru Dattatreya and they accordingly call it Dattatreya Peetha. A large number of Hindus observe Dattatreya Jayanti every year at the site during Kartik Purnima celebrations and also during other festivals.

An attempt was made sometime back to have it declared as Waqf property but the Supreme Court ruled in 1991 that the shrine did not belong to the Waqf Board.

The Government of India and the State Government of Karnataka have been keen that nothing should be done to disturb the present character of this religious shrine, which is a part of our rich cultural heritage in the country. This year, the Dattatreya Jayanti was scheduled to be observed from December 1st to 3rd. To maintain peace in the region, the State Government have made elaborate arrangements. Prohibitory orders also have been imposed by the District Magistrate, Chikkmagalur from 1st to 7th December, 1998 in the town within a radius of five kilometres and around the shrine within a radius of 10 kilometres. All precautionary measures including deployment of State Reserve Platoons and also the Central Police Force have been taken.

The observance of Guru Dattatreya Jananti has started peacefully on December 1st. It has passed off smoothly on December 2nd. Today also, which is the last day of the festival no untoward incident has been reported from Chikkmagalur and it is expected to remain so throughout the day.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : The hon. Minister has not answered. ...(Interruptions) Is it true that the Bajrang Dal has announced that there will be a speech at the shrine? Are you aware of that? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Discussion under rule 193. Shri Rajesh Pilot.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No clarification please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the procedure. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us take up discussion under rule 193. Shri Rajesh Pilot.

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are a senior Member. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : What is the problem ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. This is not proper.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : The most important question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER : Now I have called Shri Rajesh Pilot. Shri Ajit Jogi, please understand this is an important discussion.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : There is a slogan given by Bajrang Dal.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not think that price rise is an important matter?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : That is the most important aspect. That is most worrying the nation.

MR. SPEAKER : As per the desire of the Hon. Members only, I have asked the Minister to make a statement. He has made a statement. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Price rise is an important subject that we have to discuss. Please take you seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not create a new precedent.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, please do not create a new precedent. I have called Shri Rajesh Pilot.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He has not mentioned anything about ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, the hon. Minister is going to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central): We want to know what action is being taken against Bajrangdal and V.H.P.

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, in the other House, because of the tradition and practice of that House, I replied to all the questions that were raised yesterday evening. But I have no objection, I would have no difficulty in clarifying the points. It is the question of the Chair and the tradition of this House. I would only like to emphasize that this is

a matter otherwise exclusively belonging to the domain of the State Government. But we are concerned about it. The Central Government is concerned firstly that this is an example of communal harmony and it is a unique example. So, no attempt should be made by anyone to alter the character of the place.

Further because of certain other reasons—whether it is Waqf property or not—the matter has gone to the Court also. The court had also given certain pronouncements. We are very keen to see that the Court's pronouncements are honoured by everyone including the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, or the Bajrang Dal or anyone else.

The moment we came to know about it, I immediately spoke to the M.P. concerned. I was more concerned because there was a statement in the name of an M.P. belonging to our House and belonging to our party. Therefore, I spoke to him personally and he said that the report in the Press was not correct and that he had not said anything of that kind. Further, I ensured the State Government that whatever assistance they wanted from us, we would be willing to provide. And not only was this communicated to the State Government but two senior officials of the Home Ministry were deputed yesterday morning to go to Kamataka themselves, to go to the spot and do whatever was necessary to be done. Today I would like only to assure the House that the whole thing has passed off very peacefully. The State Government also has done its bit by talking to the people concerned and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad also has issued a statement that they want perfect peace and harmony and the present tradition to continue. All these things have been done and, therefore, this brief statement I have made before the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Rajesh Pilot to initiate the debate on price rise.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, he has not mentioned anything about the *Rath Yatra*.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat. I have called Shri Rajesh Pilot.

14.11 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Rise in prices of Essential Commodities

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that you have allowed discussion under

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

rule 193 on the price-rise in the essential commodities. This matter does not concern any single party. The entire House was worried about the matter and all the M.P.'s wanted that a detailed discussion should be conducted in this regard.

Whatever Government are formed in the democracy, it has always mainly two or three issues like a normal life, an ordinary citizen may have food at reasonable rates and the country should move to the path of development and security arrangement should be proper in the country. These three issues are such on which ever an ordinary person keep an eye and every Government are tested on these three issues. Common man is not bothered about how many roads had been constructed. But the country and the public keep an eye on these main three issues. We are proud that in last fifty years as the people have given us votes and the votes are given in such a manner that the Government should not think that it could misguide and befool the public. The public know very well as to which party is to vote.

During the election held recently, we went to the public. Most of my colleagues and those from other side must have gone to the public. In that election campaign, the discussion on price rise was so dominant that we all MP's were waiting to raise the matter in Parliament and submit the public demand before the Government.

When this Government was formed, Shri Madan Lal Khurana took much time in preparing a five-hundred pages manifesto ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : What was Madan Lal ji's role in that matter? ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Stop this discussion lest it should become an issue like issue of onion.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : They took much time just to highlight that nothing has been done in the last fifty years and normal life has been futile. He mentioned and described all things about which I will talk later on. But the people did not believe them and did not vote for them. The Government was not formed on this B.J.P. manifesto. All my colleagues must accept this fact.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Whether you are speaking by reading the text?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Today I am reading it. The people did not trust them and they did not get majority. They had won 180 seats. Thereafter they thought that

Govt. had to be formed. They kept it aside and handed over to Shri Advani to keep in speaking on these items. They prepared a new paper for Atal ji and named it as 'National Agenda' of which all of our friends, particularly Shri Nitish Ji are making fun of me. I have not still forget the speech delivered in 1993, when Nitish ji used to sit and speak from this side and Khurana Ji would be present here, Nitish Ji used to look him intently as if he would swallow him. This is democracy. Think over it a little. What had happened in March this year, I do not know. All the parties came under one umbrella. They were 18 in number and national agenda, which they gave was of four pages. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Onion cost us dearly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I will speak on it later on. They have stated in it that they will ensure the price stability. Everybody is part of it. It makes no difference whether Shri Barnala agree with me or not but he is also a party to it at that time.

(English)

"We will ensure price stability by all appropriate means, if necessary, by necessary legislation."

(Translation)

You have said it in March. You have stated that we will bring the legislation, if necessary, but we would not allow the prices to rise in this country. We will strengthen P.D.S. All these things have been written therein in detail. I will not go into them. One bill was also introduced about which I will speak later on ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Earlier it was their slogan that they would bring down the prices in hundred days.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I will reply to each of your points as forever. You may not agree with me. Agenda has been prepared and dual policy has been adopted. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Advani Ji kept on repeating it, which is harmful for this country. We have stated this on that occasion also, when you were in the chair and budget was being presented. We have worked that time also that this would lead to price rise. The two former finance ministers belonging to two separate parties had also cautioned and Shri Manmohan Singh in Rajya Sabha as well as Shri Chidambaram in Lok Sabha had said in clear terms and all opposition members apprehended that it would hike lead to price-rise and increase in inflation rate. But our friends from treasury

benches did not agree with what we said and kept on repeating that this budget would set everything right. Only one man gave right statement, who had become Chairman to Planning Commission. Shri Jaswant Singh, somewhat hesitating said it in balanced manner but the leaders were adamant that this budget would proved to be a best budget. ...*(Interruptions)* A calling attention motion in this regard was also been moved in Rajya Sabha. When it was asked during the Budget session, the reply came was that everything would be stable. The finance minister in each of his interviews kept on stressing this point that everything would become stable upto month of May or by the end of June.

[English]

I quote the Mid-term Review.

"The high rate of monetary growth is inconsistent with the objective of maintaining general price stability."

According to him, in this situation, a case could be made out of monetary tightening through measures such as increase in the interest rate or further increase in the cash reserve ratio.

What did the Governor of Reserve Bank of India say? He was also concerned. He said, "The rate of inflation as measured by the Wholesale Price Index on a point to point basis is currently ruling at over eight per cent, which is significantly higher than the rate which should not exceed five to six per cent."

Even the Governor of the RBI was worried, Midterm Review was worried, all people who are concerned about the financial position of the country were worried, but the Government did not listen to them. In Parliament, we had been raising the issue that the prices were going to rise, but the Government did not pay any attention to it.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, despite these warnings the budget-session has passed, the budget also got passed and slogans were raised. However, nobody has taken care to see the plight of common man. This reflects the policy of the Government and also the intentions of the Government. This budget has made all these things amply clear. The policy may be wrong but the intentions of the Government were also not benevolent. Had the intentions of the Government been benevolent, it could have been to control the price-rise after eight-nine months, after if

flared up in April. Our colleagues started saying what could be done in a period of eight-nine months.

Shri Khurana sahib, there is no seed in India which does not yield crop in eight nine months. You are a family person, in nine months period even the Child is delivered. But you kept saying that you did not get enough time and what could be done. At times, the weather goes bad you did not make any policy to control it ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Barnala Sahib, the Government was formed in March and the figures I am quoting, are not that of mine, there are Government figures. The Government was formed in March and you can see the difference in the prices of the commodities. I would refer to only three four items such as Atta (flour), vegetables, edible oil and pulses. There are common man's items. The price of Atta in March was Rs. 9 per Kg which has gone up to 16/- per Kg today. The pulse of arhar, the lowest price pulse which was Rs. 20.75 per Kg. is now Rs. 41/- per kg. Shri Khurana Sahib, if you goto the market in the evening, you won't get the 'arhar' pulse less than Rs. 41 per Kg. likewise, the price of rice was Rs. 8.50 per Kg.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Are you telling the price of these commodities per Kilo?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : These prices are of Kilos.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : You should also tell them the prices of Atta and salt.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The rice was Rs. 8.30 per Kg which has gone up to Rs. 16 per Kg. The mustard oil is the common man's commodity which was Rs. 560 per 15 Kg. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : You go to market and see that Atta is Rs. 80 per 5 kg. ...*(Interruptions)* After becoming the Railway Minister, he gets free meals from the Railway's catering canteen, therefor, he does not know the prices of 'Atta' and salt.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You should go to market and see. Did anybody not say it to you in the election? Today the price of mustard oil is Rs. 1000 per 15 Kg and that of groundnut oil Rs. 900 per 15 Kg. Earlier it was Rs. 640 per 15 Kg. It is very sad that the price of mustard has not gone up but the price of the mustard oil has increased substantially. Likewise, the price of Soyabene did not increase but that of its oil has gone up and it got increased of less than 15 times in such a short span of time. Shri Khuranaji, you must be

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

remembering that you had brought in a Bill, though I wanted to refer to it later on, but I was pained after going through it. It had a clause—

[English]

"tackling the genuine hardship of the traders, when there is minor variation in stocks"

[Translation]

He had brought a Bill on it in July but we did not allow it to be passed and finally he had to withdraw it. It reflects your intentions. ...*(Interruptions)* You had introduced it intending to get it passed but we together raised our voice against it. Shri Bamalaji is a nice person. He did not go through it and you did not brief him. He withdraw it finally.

Sir, today I am grieved to say if that the country is reeling under unprecedented price-rise. Today, the politicians should go to the masses and see as to what they are saying. This was their policy. What they wanted to do by bringing this Bill. In fact, they wanted to reduce the punishment and fine, make the non-bailable warrant bailable one. You never wanted to help the traders. In fact, you were helping the P.D.S. consumers. The P.D.S. customers want the commodities, they do not have to do anything with traders. In fact, you wanted to help the traders as you had made promise in the elections. Shri Khurana Sahib, the use of money in election is the matter of all evils which is really taking a heavy toll on the country. You are a nice person, therefore, I am drawing your attention to it ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, it was the condition of the prices. Prices kept rising but this Government did not bother. How it could bother, the way Government was being run is known to Bamalaji and Nitishji. If a voice was raised from Tamilnadu, two Ministers visited Tamilnadu but nobody is concerned about price-rise. If a voice is raised from West Bengal, two Ministers visited the state. Such a condition is in the country that every body is concerned about the future of this country. In the elections held recently "Non-Governance" was the main issue. Today, every villager know how the country is being ruled. We are taking the public so lightly. You are committing an error. You ask a common man. Everybody know in which direction they are leading the country. Prices are rising, security is not being strengthened and where are we heading for? What is the situation in the country?

Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to express my concern. This Government is not ready to talk. They called the meeting of the Chief-Ministers, when the prices

of onions shoot up to Rs. 60 per kg. and flour Rs. 16 per kg. Could the meeting of the Chief Ministers not be called up earlier. They were aware of the Index in March, April. They knew it when inflation began after budget. At that time the meeting of the Chief Ministers could have been called, but this meeting was called only after much hue and cry was raised from every corner, elections were declared. If elections were not at hand prices might have gone up. At the time of elections they started imports. I will take the issue of onions later on and tell how they imported it and how the prices of onions kept rising, but the common man has suffered due to it.

Keeping in view all these things, I was talking about the situation prevailing in the country today. What were their priorities. Their attention was towards their manifesto. On one hand prices kept rising and on the other hand our honourable Atal Bihari Vajpayee was saying that farmers become poorer during the last 50 years.

[English]

The last five decades of Congress and Quasi-Congress rule have been virtually a wasted opportunity. In these 50 years the absolute members of the people living below the poverty line almost doubled.

[Translation]

I want to say that we did not make the farmers poorer in 50 years. He said in his speech that

[English]

"In the last 50 years, the majority of *Kisans* have become poorer and have become an outcast in their own country."

[Translation]

I want to say that if the farmers have earned prestige it was in our regime of 50 years. Today their troubles have increased. If you ask the farmers today, their problems have increased in these eight months. The farmers of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have told us that during our regime their status rose high. Today they are facing a cyclone.

[English]

Today they are on the margins of India's economic, social, cultural and political life.

[Translation]

Barring one or two incidents the farmers had never committed suicide like this. You just go through the figures of the last eight months and compare it with the figures of the last 10 years. You will come to know about it. Our friends from Karnataka are sitting here ...*(Interruptions)* I am happy that our brother Yashwant Sinha has also arrived. You might be knowing that in a prosperous State like Punjab, the incidents of suicide have taken place. Your anti-farmer policies are responsible for it. You were even hiking the prices of Urea, if Yashwant Sinha had not been the Finance Minister. We fought and our M.P.s from BJP also supported us in our fight. That's why there was roll-back over the price hike of urea. Otherwise you have burdened the farmers. Here some of our colleague were mentioning that you will change the syllabus in schools. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : The farmers in Andhra Pradesh committed suicide during the Congress rule.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : That is not correct. Farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh during the rule of the Telgu Desham Government in the last four years, never during the time of the Congress.

SHRI VAIKO : The farmers in Andhra Pradesh committed suicide during the Congress rule also. You have forgotten facts.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, you have been elected from Andhra Pradesh. One or two such incidents might had taken place in our times and those may not have come to notice but generally speaking the number of farmers who committed suicide in the last one year or so has never been so high in the entire country. It is a matter of sorrow that a prosperous state like Punjab farmers have committed suicide. Chandumajraji is sitting here. The farmers of Punjab feeds the entire country by the dint of his hard work but there also, the farmers have committed suicide, so we will have to look into the reasons and think over them. Kindly state the steps taken by you for the welfare of farmers. I have to state with deep sorrow that only politics has been going on like syllabus would be changed, we would change the education system, would rewrite the country's history. Whether there is a need to rewrite it? The entire world knows our history and many countries of the world take lessons from us. Today the reasons are only political. I ask you to go to the common man. Their thinking about you are changing day-by-day, because there is a

difference between your policies and intentions. You cannot run this country till you do not clear or specify policies and your intentions.

These days everything is becoming expensive. Prices might have somewhat risen in our times too, but our intentions were clear, right.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Did the Ministers in your period have very clear intentions? That is why they lost elections. Did your Prime Minister and his son have very clear intentions. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You see the inflation rate. When a party runs the Government they do face the problems. I want to say intention should be clear to overcome these problems. This seems missing in your Government. If your intentions were clear, what was the need to bring this bill? By helping the traders you made non-bailable a bailable one. This is very true. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : We are not helping someone at the cost of others. You are making wrong statements about traders. Even traders are our brothers. Whether some of the Congressmen are not traders. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I am not against traders. I am against hoarders. How will you distinguish them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Why did not you implement the laws framed in this regard in Madhya Pradesh? That law awards seven years imprisonment and seizure. The draftsman has all the rights. It also mentions about imprisonment. Why did not you enforce that law in Madhya Pradesh?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Onions cost Rs. 40 a Kg. in Orissa. Why did not you lower it's price over there?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I would like to say something with regard to whatever Vijay Goelji had said that all traders are not alike. Those are hard working, honest people. There is a trading community. As far as hoarders are concerned, how would you distinguish them? That bill was not for traders, that was in force since the

*Not Recorded.

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

Essential Commodities Act 1955. We wanted to amend it. When it was not successful in 1955 we amended it in 1981. We dealt with firmness. We are sorry that it might have been enforced against genuine traders.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : That is an Act. The Bill you are talking about was sent to the Select Committee upon my recommendation and not on yours.
...(Interruptions) It was sent to the Select Committee after discussing with you.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : We objected to it.
...(Interruptions) You are saying wrong.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Shiv Shanker ji is here. I asked it to be sent to the Select Committee.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : You introduced it and you withdrew it. ... (Interruptions) speak the truth. It is not fair.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Indrajit Gupta, Shiv Shanker ji and I were sitting here. ... (Interruptions) I had this thing in mind and my colleagues would understand that it happened due to leniency of the Government shown towards the hoarders. The Government did not show strictness where it should show it. And there this Government has failed. It could not show strictness which resulted in hoarding of every item from the month of April.

Khurana Saheb was raising a hue and cry about onions. The situation had come to such a pass in whichever meeting we used to go, people greeted us with the garland of onions. I don't know whether Khurana ji was greeted with it or not. Wherever you would go, would be greeted with a garland of onions. People did not use the flower-garland. I asked one of the person why he spends so much amount on that because the cost of onion was Rs. 60 per Kg., even half a Kg. would cost them Rs. 30 whereas one will have to spend only five rupees for a flower-garland. He said that traders remember flowers and forgot onions. Therefore we want to garland them with onions at the expense of our pocket. This was the spirit during the entire elections. Now the question is why the prices of onions rose so high? Things were normal from March to June but prices begin to rise from June, 1998. That time it was Rs. 6 per Kg. its prices rose to three fold in July that is to say Rs. 18 Kg. Its prices were Rs 26 per Kg. in August, Rs. 33 in September, Rs. 40 in October and in November when the elections were to be held, people bought onions at the rate of Rs. 60 per kg. Scarcity of anything is understandable if it continues for one-two months, due to shortfall in production and loosening of control over that also but the Government could not estimate the

consumption of onion for a long period i.e. from March to November. But the Government had neither any policy nor its intentions were good to check the prices of onions. Where did you export onions? In April 64 thousand and seven hundred tonnes of onions were exported, in the month of June and August also it was exported. And in September the Government realised that elections were near and things might go out of hand. Then its export was stopped. Then it was decided that the onions should be exported. One gentleman has given me papers to this effect, I don't want to disclose his name. They decided to immediately import the onions otherwise it would prove very dear to them in the election. There is a saying among village people that if one wants fever, one should keep an onion under his armpit and fever would automatically rise and there is no need to go to a doctor. And Sahib Singh ji placed an order then and there with a firm and an agreement was signed to purchase onions and the rate of Rs. 10.70 per Kg. one firm was dealing in catering items and L.C. was issued to it but later on its L.C. was cancelled and orders were placed to another person to purchase onions at the rate of Rs. 30 per Kg. And when the other Chief Minister of Delhi was changed, its prices came down to Rs. 10 per Kg. I have got the papers. This is not the reporting of newspapers. The person who has been the victim of all these things, he, himself has given me all these papers. And this L.C. order is in written. Onions were available at the rate of Rs. 10.70 at that point of time but on the change of guard its rate became Rs. 30 per Kg. Who gave this money, after all? Then that contract was cancelled.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : It involves a scam of Rs. 13 crore. And this matter should be looked into.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly ask Sharad ji in the matter of onions. Nasik, Kolhapur, Dhulia fall under his constituency. Let him tell that how much onions come from above places.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, having entered into agreement to purchase onions at the rate of Rs. 10.70, what was the reason to cancel that agreement and to make a fresh agreement to purchase it at the rate of Rs. 30 per kg.?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: From Nasik 600 tonnes of onions used to come but it was reduced to 25 tonnes. Then how it would have served the purpose?

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir when a hue and cry was raised, the Government realised the fact.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to tell one thing to my colleagues that these papers which I have...

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, if this is true that rate was fixed at Rs. 10.70 per kg. and the documents to this effect are with him, then it should be authenticated with them.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the documents are with him and he is ready to lay them on the table....

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT Sir, I am on record...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Let the Government come and reply...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Kindly permit me to lay it on the Table of the House. I am ready to lay it on the Table. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Shri Digvijay Singhji, you have been in the Government. I have also been in the Government. The Government records can tell you whether the LC for Rs. 10.70 a kilo was released or not. Then whether the LC of Rs. 30 a kilo was released or not. It is on record. You find out from the Government. Why do you need papers? ... (Interruptions) These are the papers given by somebody. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : We can send you the papers. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Rajesh Pilot says.

... (Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sharing an information with my colleague. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, what is your point of order?

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : My point of order is this. Shri Rajesh Pilot has made some allegation. He said something about the LC. He said that there were

two types of dealings. If the information which Shri Rajesh Pilot is having is correct, then in that case, whatever documents he is possessing should be authenticated. If they are tabled here, it will be useful for the entire House.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is very right ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : My point of order is that whatever he wants to say, it should be properly supported. Otherwise, he should not make such allegations.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sharing an information with my colleagues. It is a Government information and not a trader's information or some shopkeeper's information. I have an information. Let me tell the Government that some LC had been issued to Dubai at the rate of Rs. 10.70 per kilogram and the contract was signed. The LC was supposed to reach there but it did not reach there. The LC went over to somebody else at the rate of Rs. 30 per kilogram. The one who got the LC does not deal with the food products also. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : You are making allegations. And you have to prove them.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is a very serious matter. You find out from the Government whether the LC was issued or not. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : The Government should deny this.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Is this the speech of Rajesh Pilot or Ajit Jogi. There should not be any running commentary here.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Other members are also speaking from your side. But you are ignoring this thing. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Let me make by humble submissions to the House. We are all public representatives. I am not running the Government. I cannot get an authentic report from the Government. I am putting before the House whatever information I got

*Not Recorded.

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

from my sources with total responsibility. Somebody has briefed me on this. I do not know which LC of what number was being referred to.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : I was asking to you for this only that you would speak and the Government would deny that. We have nothing to do with that. We want to say that if you really have got documents, then lay them on the table for the knowledge of us and the entire country.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I agree with that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the moment the Government comes out with an answer to this information that I have given, it will be clear. Naturally, if I am speaking about it, I have some information. This is why I am speaking. I do not know what 'LC' means or what these people are doing. Somebody has given me some information. It is my duty and right to share that information. If I do not share it, why do I get elected here?

[Translation]

My submission is that had the Government been concerned about the onion and the citizens of the country, they would have tried to check the price rise. The price rise started from April and reached three times in June. The Government did not make efforts to check the price rise from June to November. Besides the export of onion continued. I saw for the first time that onion was being exported by ship and imported by air. A mockery of the country was made in such a way. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Congress is in power in Delhi. You ask for all the documents ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER He should be allowed to speak. Shri Goel, why do you object every time? Please allow him to speak.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I am talking about the month of October, when you were in Government, both in Delhi and in the Centre.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Now there is your Government in Delhi. You get all the documents examined ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : Mr. Speaker Sir, perhaps onion has hit him therefore he stands upon mentioning anything. Please make him understand that now he is a Member of Parliament of the treasury benches and he must tolerate. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is all right. We exchange our views very openly.

[Translation]

I mean to say that the Government was not concerned about the price rise. Neither the Government took any steps nor any efforts were made to make up the shortage of essential commodities. Besides it attention should be paid towards production also. The increase in production also leads to check price rise. No effort was made in this regard also. Why the production declined what should be next step, what sort of help should be provided to the farmers and rightly speaking if the farmers gets more for his production then it can be understood that the cost of production has increased. The cost of production has increased but the value of the product has not increased. The Government will have to look into the policy which is wrong and is adversely affecting the country and the common man. The Government is happily saying that they are marching ahead. You can see any sector. Leave aside price rise, where is the industrial growth, where is the rate of inflation and where your G.D.P. is going. You have said that the G.D.P. will be 6 but you just see where is our G.D.P. going. I do not know much about the money floating but they have said that 20 percent money floating would be there in the country while it should not be more than 15 percent, the same has been informed me by someone. The hon. Finance Minister is present here. He should know the reasons. Items like cement, iron and steel are easily available but the prices of essential commodities are increasing. It is very serious for the country. This situation is called stagflation in English.

[English]

I do not know about it. Shri Yashwant Sinha may know about it. Somebody said that the situation should never come in a country where the prices of the essential commodities go up. It is a very wrong situation. I have a few suggestions.

[Translation]

One can speak to any extent on price rise but it is certain that the burden on the common man is increasing. It is very difficult for him to make both ends meet. The

Government had mentioned in the budget. Shri Yashwant Sinha ji had taken some steps and it was also said that kisan credit-card will be issued. I am happy that he had said here yesterday or the day before yesterday that the same has been implemented in some States. Bank of Baroda and other banks have implemented it. But the main purpose for which it was issued to the farmer, a limit has been imposed, the limit of 60 thousand has been imposed on some, and on some other this limit has been imposed of one lakh. Our suggestion was that it should be fixed while taken into consideration the value of land ceiling. If the farmer has 20 bighas of land and its value is 20 lakhs then a formula should be evolved on that basis so that the farmer may have the benefit as the farmer would be unable to attain growth of over 40-50 thousand rupees. Our idea was not only to provide assistance to the farmer in regard to crops, we wanted that the farmers should share in the agro-based industries also. He should be self reliant by participating in poultry farms and dairy farms besides, agriculture. Some shortcomings are there in those Kisan Cards, the hon. Finance Minister should rectify them after some time.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Rajesh Pilot ji, I would like to submit that no limit has been fixed with regard to the Kisan Credit-Card. I myself have distributed these cards to the farmers. I know that no limit has been fixed. We fix the limit individually keeping in view the criteria, which we had laid down.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I had read in the newspaper that the Bank of Baroda has issued credit card of Rs. 60 thousand and Rs. one lakh.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : It was said in the House.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sompal ji had said
...(Interruptions)

[English]

That is why I got slightly confused.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to clarify the position. No limit has been fixed by the Government and the banks have been given the liberty to issue the credit-cards keeping in view the personal assets of the farmers, their requirement, their production capacity and their capacity to repay the loan. So limit has been fixed by the Government
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Speaker Sir, yesterday you did not say so, you said something else.

SHRI SOMPAL : I would like to submit again that the banks have been given the freedom they can do so on the basis of their own experience since banks are autonomus bodies Allahabad Bank has issued such sort of card. The Bank of Baroda will issue another sort of card. The main thing is that the procedure would be simple and the cash credit limit of the farmer would be fixed by the bank keeping in view the points which I have mentioned.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a suggestion that if the prices go on increasing this way. The burden on ordinary man will always be increasing. It is not a matter of concern for one party, rather it is a matter of concern for all the members of this House. It is the duty of the Government to control the prices because the Government is elected for this purpose. First of all, I ask Mr. Bamala ji to withdraw this Bill and some strict clause can be incorporated therein. The Government should promulgate the ordinance that hoarding will not be tolerated. By these amendments in this Bill, they think that general problems of the people are being tackled but the fact is that hoarding is increasing. This is true that the hoarding of onions is increasing at some places as Vijay Goel, has just said it. When the Government was aware that the price of onions have increased two, three and four times and the people were hoarding the onions as the businessmen always do hoarding and earn money. Government should have made an announcement with regard to ordinance against hoarding.

[English]

Then we will withdraw these amendments which we have moved.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : I did not say that the hoarding of onion is increasing ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : This Amendment should be withdrawn by the Government. The Ordinance is already in existence and that ordinance should be further strengthened. We are not going against any individual.

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

[Translation]

.. (Interruptions) You should not worry? The Government knows how the ordinances are promulgated. Secondly, my submission is that unless you help the farmers to increase their production, it would be difficult to control the prices of these commodities. When we were in power, the Government had made an agriculture zone, and determined that which crops were grown where and we helped the farmers accordingly. There was a major problem of seeds also. Today there is a shortage of seeds in the country why the problem of onion was created, it was created because onion was grown in excess earlier and now there was downfall in its production in 1998. The decline was, because the seeds were not good as there was no tested seeds available

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : It is a national issue ...(Interruptions)

[English]

He knows that I will puncture him.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You can puncture me if you so wish.

SHRI SOMPAL : I have never insisted, if I am not allowed by the hon. Member.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Since you said that you will puncture me, I am ready to get punctured. You may tell me where I am wrong.

Storage facility is one of the demands that has been made. For the last so many months people have been crying.

[Translation]

The storage capacity has not been created anywhere. The fertilizer production is being discussed. Mr. Barnala ji, you were late yesterday, the Prime Minister had given an assurance in this regard. Mr. Barnala, today, there is line for the fertilizers. The fact is that when there is queue for it, the hoarding automatically starts and the faith of common man is shaken and he starts thinking that gas is not easily available. Yesterday also we had said all these things and the Prime Minister had said in a lighter vein that they had also signed an agreement with Jordan. This agreement has been signed today and the farmers say that it will take 20 days to reach fertilizers here from Jordan.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pilot, there are 30 speakers to speak.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I will just take two minutes time.

[Translation]

Secondly, I had given a suggestion that a circle has begun. During the first ten years, there is an average, crisis of the items then their availability increases, again it decreases. It is directly controlled by the production. I think that you should help the farmers by increasing production by providing them fertilizers, seeds and inputs.

Finally, I would like to request the Government to pay more attention to the problems of the country and pay less attention to their own problems. Today, the Government is worried about their own problems. Sometimes two of your coalition members are leaving your coalition and sometime four are joining your coalition. This country has not handed responsibility to you rather you have taken it forcibly by shouting slogans. In the manifesto, at one place, you say that you talk of development of the country. The first line of your manifesto says:

[English]

"The BJP is convinced that Hindutva has immense potentiality to re-energise this nation."

This is a secular country. BJP wants to re-energise the nation with Hindutva whereas for the last 50 years we have been fighting to re-energise the nation by secularism. BJP is saying that Hindutva alone can re-energise the nation. If this is their attitude, I do not know whether they can really carry the country forward or backward.

[Translation]

Finally, your party used to make tall speeches on ethics. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee used to visit this House. He used to make fiery speeches by making different gesture with his hands and neck, closing both his eyes. There is neither any moral value nor ethics today. When we were defeated in an election in Andhra Pradesh, he stood here and began saying that we should resign. We said let us sit ourselves. We will listen to you for a while and go out. Firstly, Mr. Khurana is a short statured, so when he is sitting here, we are not able to judge whether he is present or not. He would always stand up. He went to Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Khurana, you had given a slogan ...(Interruptions). Now he has forgotten ethics, yesterday, our colleagues made a demand Shri Somnath ji also went there ...(Interruptions) What are you saying, you were with us. You had given a slogan before the elections that Shri Atal Behari will be P.M. this time. Today we have given a slogan which

you people must pay an attention to Mr. Atal could not complete his full term, so be prepared to lose reign.

[English]

This is my last advice to the BJP, 'listen to the public sentiments and be prepared'.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : There is one report about a rail accident. Is there any information with the Government?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Where?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : It is on the Kurla-Howrah line near Jalgaon at 5.30 a.m., in which 15 people have died and 100 injured. Is there any information with the Government?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the State Minister for Railways has visited the site. He told us that an accident had taken place and he was going there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The accident took place at 5.30 a.m. and you are telling now. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : He had left at ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, the Minister of Railways was here. He was enjoying the speech of Shri Rajesh Pilot. It is a very serious matter. In these days of Internet, the Government could not get information from Jalgaon. Is this the way Government function?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Minister has gone there, you will get the information very soon. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Minister was here half-an-hour back. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Government is getting the information. Shri Jogi, please take your seat. They are getting the information.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, you have to protect the honour of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central): Nothing is happening despite the death of fifty persons. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, the Minister for Railways was present here ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I thank you for allowing me. I thought that Shri Rajesh Pilot would at least say that this motion was in my name. Being his elder sister, he could at least have given me thanks. But that is how these people some time behave.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is the reason for bringing Women Reservation Bill.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Before coming to the subject under discussion I would only say that when the meeting will be called for the Women Reservation Bill, all of you have to give unconditional support to us. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : We were ready at that time also but the Bill was not introduced. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : An open deal is taking place. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Shri P. Shiv Shanker said that they are not ready to support us.

MR. SPEAKER : You please speak on the price rise.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I had never said that I was not ready. We were not against the introduction of the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Actually, our party said that we would support it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please speak about the price rise.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I hope you have the courtesy of not disturbing me. I do not disturb anybody. Therefore, I beg of you not to disturb me.

Firstly, one thing has to be stated here that during the last Budget discussion. I stated very clearly about the price rise. I showed my apprehension that it would rise sky high unless some steps are taken. Therefore, nobody can say that we did not point it out to the Government. Unfortunately, at that time the Government did not take any steps which could help to keep the prices under control.

15.00 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

Shri Rajesh Pilot has given some figures about the prices prevailing prior to Budget and now. I will not go to every detail. But I would surely point out at least one or two things.

It should not be forgotten that the pre-Budget price of onion was Rs. 6 and it went up to Rs. 60—a ten time increase. The pre-Budget price of potato was Rs. 8 and it went up to Rs. 24 or in some places it was sold at Rs. 28. The pre-Budget price of tomato was Rs. 18 and now it is being sold at Rs. 40. I am not going to say about edible oil as my predecessor has already said about it. He has also talked about the mustard oil. The position of mustard oil is very funny. In the name of Dropsy, it was stopped and the price was allowed to go up. It is a very interesting situation.

Just now we saw that the puncturing was going on between two sides. I am standing here only to represent those who are really punctured in this game, that is, the poor and the middle class people of our country and the real beneficiaries were the rich traders, black-marketeers and hoarders. This is the position. Was there any attempt made to take any step against those people?

I quote from the *Indian Express* dated 14th November under the heading Look Now—Traders-Middlemen Mafia is Fleecing :

"The vegetables which are brought by the traders at the Azadpur Mandi in New Delhi are sold in the retail market in Delhi at four to five times the price paid by the traders at Azadpur."

It was happening in New Delhi, the Capital of our country. Was any action taken. The poor people had to pay through their nose. How can the Government say that they did something? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : We are just discussing not the price rise but we are discussing about the loot.

[*Translation*]

If the prices are risen from 4 to 5 rupees, it is called price rise but if it rises upto forty then it is loot. We are discussing about the loot or the price rise?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That stage of price rise is loot.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Can they say that any step was taken at any time against these kind of things? They cannot.

About the Essential Commodities Act, the most interesting thing that was decided was that, if necessary, it would be done away with. Secondly, it was decided that there will be no imprisonment and only a fine of Rs. 2,000 would be imposed. Those who are making crores of rupees, for them paying Rs. 2,000 is nothing. What is the use of having such a thing? It is just encouraging these people to pay Rs. 2,000 and make as much money as they can.

I would also like to point out about the new Act. There also, the fine that will be paid has not been increased appreciably.

Of course, they increased it to some extent. But then the imprisonment period which has been there in the Act to be repealed is for seven years. But in this new amendment Bill, it has been reduced to two years. The two-year sentence has been prescribed in the present Bill which has been brought forward by the Government. If anybody is to be hanged, it is these people who have to be hanged. Let me tell you straightaway one thing. What is it that you achieve with the two-year imprisonment provision? Who does not know how these gentlemen manage to have all the comforts in the jail? Though Charles Sobhraj is not a hoarder but that he is a dacoit. How he managed it is all well-known to us. Therefore, I think the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill is also not properly drafted. It should be more stringent. Our Chief Minister has demanded that it should be a stringent Bill.

The Government has taken a new decision. I read it in the newspapers where it is stated that the Government is to remove the ten per cent import duty on pulses and four per cent special import duty on vanaspati. This is their latest decision. Well, so far, so good. Better late than never. But when this import duty is removed, what is the guarantee that the benefit will be passed on to the actual consumers? Our general experience is that all the middlemen ultimately take the advantage of any duty that you do away with. Unless there is a special arrangement to see that people get the essential commodities at a price which is within their capacity to purchase, it will not solve the problem. That alone really can solve the question of rise in prices. I do not see any commitment made to introduce the regular public distribution system throughout the country. Through that channel only, people can be given their essential commodities at a proper price.

Our demand has always been to give 14 essential commodities through the public distribution channel so that the prices can really be brought down ultimately. But I am sorry to say that that has not been attended to. Among the decisions of the Conference which was held by the Ministers, one of the decisions was that the Centre is to fund large-scale market intervention in the commodity market. What is meant by that? How much will you fund? Up to what time will you fund? I would like to know whether this funding will be really for establishing a full chain of public distribution system. That has not been committed here. That is not clear.

Shri Rajesh Pilot has started with BJP's promises. He has gone away now. ...*(Interruptions)* But I am not repeating it. We are all the time sick and tired of the so-called promises and promises. The election promises are there which are not implemented. There are some other promises. We do not know what will happen to these promises. At least, I am not having an assured feeling that it will really bring down the prices substantially.

I now come to the question of providing cold storage in all the blocks. It is all right. But who will be the owners of the cold storages? Will it be only in the cooperative sector? If so, it is very good. Then, I would like to know by what time we are going to have the cold storages in all the blocks, because, at present, our experience about cold storages is not very good. The owners of cold storages have also participated in many kinds of manipulations due to which ultimately the poor peasants have been denied the benefit for keeping their crops and the consumers have also not benefited with proper prices. So, what is the guarantee that these cold storages would function properly unless they are in the cooperative sector?

Then, there may be a monitoring system. But I would like to know how this monitoring system will work in consultation with the State Governments, because the 'monitoring' is one word which is just like one medicine which can cure every disease. But ultimately, when it comes to actual implementation we will find that there are problems. So, without clearly specifying as to who will be monitoring and how people will be associated with that monitoring, if it is left only to the administration, it will never work. Therefore, I would very much like to know what is the idea of the Government with regard to the question of monitoring.

Sir, I have already raised the question about the Mandi sales and I do not again want to go into what had happened during all these months after this Government came into power. But I would surely like to say that it is high time that, instead of shouting and screeching from here, our friends on the other side should search their mind really how they functioned during this period with regard to the question of price and whether they have had to pay for it in the recently concluded Assembly elections. I think, if they do search their mind, in the heart of heart they will have to admit that the people's verdict in the Assembly elections is actually against the Government's functioning particularly on the question of price rise and on many other fronts. Keeping that in mind, I hope that at least now some measures would be taken to arrest the increase in prices.

On the question of importing of onions to bring down its price, why did it take such a long time? Moreover, I understand that a lot of onion, which was imported, has become rotten. How has it become rotten? Who was given the contract to import onions? Therefore, at every stage, not only the people's money has been wasted, but the people are also being cheated.

So, I do hope that these will be attended to. Unless these are attended to, let me tell the present Government that they will have no question of coming back in the near future even if there is an election. Of course, I do not want any election now because the people would not like it. Their money is misspent like this. Even then, I would say that if these things come to that, ruling condition will have no possibility unless immediate and very quick intervention is made on the price front. I hope the Government will seriously think and take such steps on which they have promised and on which they have not promised but are always there.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, now we are discussing price-rise. Prices of some essential commodities have risen during the last some days before holding elections. We have given three reasons for that. The first reason was the anti-farmer policies of the previous Governments. ...*(Interruptions)* Secondly, bad weather created problems for us two times. Thirdly, this issue of price-rise arose all of a sudden and it took some time to handle the situation or make arrangements to resolve it. I have no hesitation in accepting it. Now, I can say that price-rise has been stopped we have taken steps whether it is inclusion of essential commodities under O.G.L., reduction of import duty or tone-up the system of distribution of these commodities. Now, it seems to me that the prices will come down within some days and I think that the issue of price-rise will prove to be a temporary issue and there is no need to think more about it. Our friend, Shri Rajesh Pilot has spoken about it and some other friends have gone to this much extent that this is the verdict of the people against this Government and they should resign over this issue. Some people says that this Government would come down automatically. You are sitting in the Lok Sabha and you better know what does democracy means. I must say that Government is functioning smoothly at present and there is no vacuum and we are not going to oblige you. Our allies, our friends and we are not going to say that we are leaving and you can occupy our seats. Government is neither given in charity nor in alms. Mass support has to be mobilised for it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Parties get power turnwise.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Yes, it changes. But our friends should also realise this fact that they have been unable in mobilising mass support and thus, they are sitting in opposition. I want to say that they should have same patience, there is no need to be in a hurry ...*(Interruptions)* sometimes I feel that if the issue of onion would not have been there, Congress would have no place to go to.

Sometimes, it seems quite incredible that the Congress Party had won the elections of 1980 and 1988 on the issue of onion. It has certainly got a catch. Why this issue? The issue of onion did not reach Mizoram and therefore the Congress Party lost there. If the issue of the price-rise was every where then why did the Congress Party lose there? I must point out that among the national leaders only Smt. Sonia Gandhi went to Mizoram for canvassing of the Congress Party has lost there than the Congress Party must admit that.

[English]

It is a direct verdict against Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is wrong. Many leaders have gone there ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Let us accept that Delhi verdict is against Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. ...*(Interruptions)* He had addressed so many meetings in Rajasthan also. ...*(Interruptions)* I am ready to accept it.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : If you would have admitted it first than you would have said it, I would have listened to you. The second thing I would like to point out is that after 1967 the Congress Party had indulged in political stunts in order to mobilise political support and win elections.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Like Rath Yatra!

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : The Rath Yatra is one issue. Whether the poverty is being eliminated since the 1971 when the 'Garibee Hatao' slogan was raised. Untill all the poor people are brought above the poverty line. The Congress Party will keep on removing the poverty. The Congress Party should respond that to what extent the poverty has been removed and how many people have been brought up above the poverty line since 1971 when the 'Garibee Hatao' slogan was raised. The Congress Party must answer to the people. The Congress Party have won as many as four elections on such issues. They have won one election on the slogan 'Garibee Hatao', other two on the slogan of onion and finally the fourth one on the sympathy wave. Today we are discussing the issue of the price rise. Was the price-rise did not occur in the Congress rule.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : They have followed the Congress very assiduously. Is it the answer to this problem? Shri Sharma, I know, you are also concerned. You are now the main spokesman for the Ruling Party. The country is waiting to know how the price rise can be controlled.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Yes, I will come to that. But I will have to explain every point.

[Translation]

Where from the issue of the price-rise had started? We would like to do some comparative analysis from 1971 onwards. We are prepared to do comparative analysis making the 1977 as the base year for the level of rates of the main commodities such as, sugar, wheat and Atta. Let us have comparative analysis as to in which period the rates were minimum and whose Govt. was at the centre? If you people are interested for a discussion on these lines than we are prepared for it.

The price rise is going on. Shri Chidambaram ji is also present here in this House. We also talk of inflation. The price-rise is an universal phenomenon of course, a lot needs to be done in several discussion. The loopholes needs to be plugged. We shall make earnest efforts in this regard. The Congress ruled from 1991 to 1996. I have data with me regarding price rise during that period. In that period, the prices of sugar rose up by 50 percent, wheat by 300 percent, rice by 350 percent, that of 'Urad' pulse by 150 percent, 'Arhar' by 47 percent, that of 'Masoor' by 43 percent and that of patato by 75 percent. The price of onion increased by 75 percent. The price rise is usual thing but what happened in Orissa in the Congress regime. People died of starvation.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : By diluting the provisions, reducing imprisonment from seven years to two years. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : This has been reported in the newspapers in the entire world. The significant fact in it is how sugar and wheat were imported in the Congress regime? This was stated by our leader of the opposition and other Hon'ble colleagues that the deal was made on lesser price but the contract was awarded to one who had quoted higher rates. The similar issue had cropped about the sugar scam to which all of us are witness. I would earnestly request the opposition that if any such thing had happened during our period then it should be brought into the notice of the Government. I can admit several things about the price-rise but I would claim that no such scam has taken place in our rule during the eight months.

If there is any such thing, it could be considered and investigated into. We would like the facts to be placed before the House. You had removed the minister over the matter of wheat and the then Government had confessed about that.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : But that Minister is on your side now.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : He might be but you have accepted that scam did take place at that time. I have no hesitation that further amendment to the Essential Commodity Act has been sought. You should appreciate the fact that you raised that issue and we shelved it. I want to say this thing forcefully on behalf of my Government, my party that we will not hesitate to take stern action against hoarders and black marketeers in the country. No leniency would be shown in this matter.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : If you swear it by the *Gita* I would accept it.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Then you will have also accepted that.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : If you give a commitment that action would be taken against the hoarders and would not take side with them, it would be good for the country.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : If you have any way out, you could move the court. You have got facts, and we have also got facts, then we could further consider over it.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You have brought an Amendment Bill, which itself is a signal. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

If you say that you are withdrawing it.

[English]

We will be happy that your intention is honest.

[Translation]

Bring in an ordinance.

[English]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : That will be decided now.

[Translation]

So far as prices are concerned, it is a world-wide phenomenon and this thing is not happening only in India and you all people know about it. Now they say that price-rise could be due to the Pokharan test and the

[Shri Krishan Lal Sharma]

sanctions imposed by America, it could be so. ...*(Interruptions)* Congress could get mileage out of the onion issue and it cannot be affected by any other thing. Some people have suggested....

AN HON. MEMBER : Congress has been benefited from that.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : The onion issue could have benefited the Congress Party, therefore it has become a party which express concern only about onions.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It has benefited us but it has done harm to the country more.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : In all, we will have to think over one aspect and that is if there has been a price-rise, it could be due to some mistakes committed earlier. If there has been any short comings in the policy formulated for farmers, we will have to rectify that. If there has been any shortcomings in the system and distribution, we will have to rectify them. We all know that farmers did not get remunerative price of onion in 1995-96 and 1996-97 as a result of which the stock of onions perished. And the next season, farmers did not sow onion on large scale which led to shortfall in its production. And nobody can deny this fact. Similarly the bumper potato-crops perished in 1996-97 as the farmers did not get its remunerative price which resulted in ~~damper~~ dampening of the spirit of farmers in its cultivation in the next season. And the same was the case with sugarcane also. The question of such types of shortcomings are not refunded to any party or the Government. Every Government will have to think over it. For the first time, after our Government came to power 58 percent plan outlay has been increased for the agriculture and rural development. No other Government provided so much amount in the budget. We have done that because we are really concerned about farmers, we want to tell this thing to all. Congressmen could talk such things. If you think that we are their well-wishers, then we have no objection to that. If you are also their well wisher as we are, there is nothing to object about it but you should also think what you say. Elections are being held one after another. Elections to the Lok Sabha have also been held and elections to the Legislative Assembly have also been held. You just see where you stand in Punjab.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We have won in Punjab.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Your party has won only one Assembly Seat and that too by a margin of six votes only. You have not won even a single Lok Sabha Seat from there. Despite your winning an Assembly seat from there, it has hardly made any effect on the

Government there. Our Government is very much intact there and there has been no effect on the stability of the Government there but in the predominantly agriculture states like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, how your party was completely wiped out? Your party could not manage to win even a single Lok Sabha Seat in the largest state, Uttar Pradesh of the country. They got 33 seats out of 425 seats in the assembly and if they take everything into account and that too in such a hurry. ...*(Interruptions)*. It is a matter of recent past in Delhi, the Congress was in power for seven to eight years in Delhi since 1993. We snatched away majority of assembly in Delhi from Congress and the game of power in Delhi keeps on changing. If you find it a major change and you start deriving conclusions out of it then I do not have any objections. It has a long history. History does not conclude here. It does not end with Delhi and Rajasthan. Whatever has happened in Delhi and Rajasthan we find lapses on part of the then State Governments.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : You have accepted that all the Chief Ministers are inefficient in the States governed by you.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : All were not inefficient. Then you should also accept that at the states where you have lost, like big states, your Chief Ministers were inefficient therefore you have lost there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Sharma, please address the Chair.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : We are also pointing out our shortcomings. We are not hiding it but we want to make it very clear that these elections were for states. It is irrelevant in the context of Centre. There was by-election for one Lok Sabha seat in Gujarat. We have just won the Gujarat from you. The Lok Sabha seat of Bharuch where we have won in the last election by a margin of 10-12 thousand votes this time we have won by the margin of 51,000 votes which shows the confidence of the people of this country in the Parliament, in our Government and in Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This by-election has proved that.

When such things take place, we should think over it. Sometime I feel surprised, everybody take some precaution but some time few people start saying collectively. Shri Mulayam Singh ji is not present today, he used to said that vacate the Chair immediately for us. We are 20 members. Now we will rule. I want to say that you were also in power. In 1996, we governed for 13 days, we could not managed it any further thus we stepped down. Now you do not have the numbers but you are causing disservice to the nation. Every day you

want to create an environment of instability in the country. You do not have the required numbers, there is no alternative, you cannot form any Government, mid term poll is ruled out. But every day such statement that this Government will not last, is being issued. When you will have the numbers then who will stay here, you would form the Government. As long as this Government is continuing, it is for the benefit of this country, farmers and the people; creating instability is not in the favour of this nation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Chairman, debate is going on on price-hikes, but he is speaking on Government and elections. He has not spoken so far on price-rises. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : You might have taken a note of what I have said on price-rise. You should understand that there is one speciality about our Government and our allies that our allies are strongly with us. They feel that they can shape the future of this country by binding together with this Government. You people are not united. Your positions are not clear. I have to make a thing clear that Congress is like "Frankenstein", whomsoever it touches is bound to perish. Whichever Government it has supported never let it run and always caused down fall. They have ruled the country and country also had paid a heavy price for it. Whether it was emergency or issue of Punjab or Kashmir Affair or the '84 riots of Delhi, we all are paying prices for Congress-rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Speak on price-rise, you are not speaking on price-rise. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : You have hiked the prices. There was a time when the price of a pant was 40 rupees, now you cannot purchase even a half pant at that rate, this is what you have done. You have raised the train fares from Rs. 12 to Rs. 120. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Rama Nandji, your party is not allowing you to speak.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : They are getting restless. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You allow him to speak. Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Chairman Sir, I would like to make one or two requests. I am also

reminding the Government that a decision was taken in 1974 that there would be no state barriers on the movement of foodgrains. Our Government also took this decision. But still we get this information that these barriers have not been removed even now. They are working, the Government should pay attention to it and the States should be instructed that these barriers should not be there. If the movement is free. Steps should be taken to check the corruption and the troubles borne by the farmers because of these barriers. As far as the question of further Amendment of the Essential Commodities Act is concerned, I would like to state that no innocent person should be unduly harassed. Hoarders and black marketeers should be awarded strict punishment keeping this in mind. If the Government and the Opposition together formulate a comprehensive bill and take steps in that regard it would be beneficial. Public would be relieved by it and trust would be generated in the people.

Secondly, the more expert people, the economically experts, try to compare it sometimes with the inflation rate. Yashwant Sinha ji is not sitting here, Chidambaram ji is here. One thing I would state quite emphatically that sanctions against India is a very major decision. Whatever may be the reason. We have taken the right step, and we are not going to change our decision under any pressure. But I would also like to state that at that time inflation had gone upto 20 percent at the time of first nuclear test in 1974. If somebody has the inflation figures of that time he may study and see. Congress has been in power for many years. Many times inflation has gone upto double digit. Even now Congressmen can say that when we came to power the digit was double but we gradually brought it down, inspite of sanctions which were never there during any regime. Now, when there are such type of sanctions, we are facing even them but we count it as our success that inspite of all pressures, all international and internal pressures. We have contained the inflation to single digit. We have checked it. You should acknowledge it. I agree that inflation has risen-fallen. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : In 1989 you took it to 23 percent and we brought it down to 4 percent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Let me tell my friends that I seek their affection. I do not mind your interruptions. I do not have any objection but I request you to listen to me. I have heard inflation figures also.

[Shri Krishan Lal Sharma]

[English]

I shall give you the figures of inflation for the various years, both point to point at the end of the year as well as the average of the 52 weeks. These are :

Year	At the end of the year	Average of 52 weeks
1990-91	10.3 per cent	12.1 per cent
1991-92	13.7 per cent	13.6 per cent
1992-93	7 per cent	10.1 per cent
1993-94	10.8 per cent	8.4 per cent
1994-95	10.4 per cent	10.9 per cent

Then it decreased to 4 per cent, 6 per cent, 5 per cent and now it is 8.6 per cent or something like that. You can say that it has increased, but you will definitely accept that it has not exceeded the single-digit point. Therefore, this is our achievement and I think, should be appreciated that, in any case, we have been able to contain inflation to a single-digit point.

Again, I will say that as far as wheat is concerned, it is not in the category where the prices have increased too much.

[Translation]

But I want to say that matters related to vegetables are temporary. It sometimes rises and sometimes falls. It will not be right to firm any opinion on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH (Bhiwani) : They formed the Government merely on the issue of vegetables. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : It seems to us that the Government formed on the issue of vegetables would be seasonal only and would not last long. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Whether the Prime Minister has been changed? Who has been offered the Chair of Prime Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : I am going to conclude. I am to submit one or two points. The farmers should get the assurance of support price, fertilizer, power and water in time. Now the Government's decision with regard to the crop insurance scheme would strengthen the farmers in such a way that they would have no apprehensions in sowing any crop. Keeping all these things in mind I am to submit that my friends have to cover a long distance. Today we are discussing about the price rise. Your positive and constructive suggestions would be pardoned over seriously. But if you feel that due to losing elections in Delhi and Rajasthan on account of this price rise, do not add Madhya Pradesh unnecessarily, in that case the status-quo remained, our expectations did not come true, then also we have not suffered any loss. Mizoram is the net loss of Congress. They should admit it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : That is your gain.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : It may or may not be our gain but it is your loss.

Therefore, the price rise should be taken as a national issue by all the parties and all the parties should ponder over it seriously in the national interest and a future policy in this regard should be formed. There can be one or the other Government, many times the policies of the Government can also be blamed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : What is the criteria of seriousness? The discussion is going on seriously. Earlier Rajesh ji had said that every thing would be decided above party line.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : The criteria of seriousness is that you should not have stood up.

If all the parties collectively ponder over the price rise and the security of the country, it would be beneficial. I take this price rise a temporary phenomenon. The Government have controlled it. It would add to the credit of the Government and the Government would function smoothly for the next five years. With these words, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West) : Respected Chairman Sir, as Shri Krishan Lal Sharma said on behalf of the ruling party BJP, I on behalf of the Trinamool Congress assure our support to the Government. That is beyond question. But we must say that so far as the price rise issue was concerned, the Central Government could not rise to the occasion.

Kumari Mamata Banerjee, Chairperson of All India Trinamool Congress had categorically requested the Prime Minister and the Home Minister in this House to assess the situation by convening a meeting of the Chief Ministers.

But it was not taken seriously and, by the time the meeting was convened, everything was over. What I mean to say is, beyond doubt, there was utter negligence and mismanagement on the part of the Government of India. We would also like to say that there was laxity on the part of the Government. Now, statistics and datas will be produced by the Government, but they will not satisfy the people. It appears that a battle has started between the Central Government and the hungry people of this country.

Earlier, it was discussed in this House that the export of agricultural products produced in this country should be stopped. The export of agricultural products should have been stopped much earlier.

According to the *Economic Review* and the *Economic Survey*, last year, our country's total exports were of the order of Rs. 1,18,870 crore, out of which, agricultural products worth Rs. 2,121 crore were exported. It constitutes 15 to 18 per cent of the total exports from India. We repeatedly requested the Central Government to stop the export of agricultural products. By the time that decision was taken, it was too late. Similarly, the question of importing onions was repeatedly discussed on the floor of the House, and we said that the restrictions have to be lifted. That decision has been implemented now, but it is too late.

Sir, it is not that the prices have risen very suddenly. On the Wholesale Price Index certain selected commodities such as onions, *arhar*, milk, fish, tea, *gur*, ground-nut, mustard-oil, dry chillies etc., have registered a relatively higher price since the beginning of this year.

When potatoes were produced in large number in our country, particularly in our State, last year, the State Governments could not provide the cold storage facilities. For example, in our State, West Bengal, a large quantity of potatoes were produced. As there was shortage of cold storage facilities, the farmers were compelled to go in for a distress sale and they sold the potatoes at the rate of one rupee or one-and-a-half rupees. This time, when potatoes were produced, a huge quantity of it was smuggled through the West Bengal border into Bangladesh and Nepal along with rice. There was no check as such and as a result people had to suffer a lot.

The issue of controlling hoarding operations is a State subject. The Central Government cannot go straightaway to a State and stop hoarding operations. The State Governments also have some responsibility. We can challenge that no State Government has made any effort to control the hoarding operations and dealt firmly with the black-marketeers, hoarders, traders and unscrupulous businessmen.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : We took that challenge.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Arrests have been made in the morning, but the hoarders have been bailed out in the afternoon by bribing the police officials in the police stations. If you ask the different State Governments as to how many hoarders or black-marketeers have been imprisoned, then you will find that their number is much less. In some States, their number is ten, and in some other States, the number of those who have been imprisoned is 15. There was no punishment or any conviction.

Nobody is being convicted. They are only being arrested and are being bailed out. Our feeling is that the issue of price rise has caused a tremendous hardship and loss to the common people of our country. Naturally, the Central Government must have to share some responsibilities for this.

Sir, I met the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister regarding resignation of Ms. Mamata Banerjee, I repeat, regarding the Chairperson of the All India Trinamool Congress on the 4th of the last month, who resigned from the Coordination Committee in protest against the issue of price rise. It was the demand of Ms. Mamata Banerjee that a meeting of the Chief Ministers and of the Coordination Committee, which could be considered a Government-sponsored Committee, be convened to discuss the issue. The impression I gathered after talking to the Prime Minister is that—though it was a private discussion, yet for the interest of the country I would say—he was very sorry about the rise in prices but he also categorically said that he was not informed properly by the Economic Advisory Committee and by the Office of the Prime Minister and that is why he could not get the information at a proper time.

I do not know whether it was a failure on the part of the Government or not but I must say that the Central Government should have been much more serious about it. They could have taken more dynamic and effective steps to control it; they could have consulted with the different State Governments and the issue of price rise could have been discussed on top priority. But the Opposition has achieved the result to this failure of the

[Shri Sudip Badyopadhyay]

Government in the last elections and now they have started asking for the resignation of the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. But we must say that in the present political set up of the country, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is, no doubt, the best person to be the Prime Minister of this country.

Now, it is surprising that the communists are rejoicing when the Congress have won the elections in the States. These communists who accused the Congress earlier and even wanted to defeat the Rajiv Gandhi Government by joining hands with Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Shahid Minar/Maidan have started saying now that let the Congress come forward to form a Government and they would extend their support. A politically bankrupt party is saying this.

15.58 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

We would like to request the leader of the Congress Party, Shri Sharad Pawar, who is present here, to tell his leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi not to go to Jyoti Basu at Banga Bhawan and compare him with the late Bidhan Chandra Roy. Shri Jyoti Basu is the destroyer and the late Bidhan Chandra Roy was the founder of the State.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, what are we discussing here? We are not discussing Shri Jyoti Basu or the late Bidhan Chandra Roy. Let him confine his speech to the issue of price rise.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, the issue of price rise was converted into a political issue. It is not an issue of personalities. This issue was converted into a political issue when people started talking about how a Government could be formed. The seriousness of this discussion is reflected by looking at the Opposition benches and what importance, after the elections are over, is being given to this discussion on the issue of price rise?

The issue of price rise has to be considered on priority. But we have categorically stated that the Essential Commodities Act, which had not yet been implemented, has to be implemented immediately by which the State Governments could get more and more powers in their hands to tackle and deal with the unscrupulous and dishonest traders.

16.00 hrs.

The State of West Bengal has become a paradise for unscrupulous and dishonest traders and businessmen. No de-hoarding operation is taking place. Why is it so?

If you pay money, you will get the articles you want. In my constituency of Calcutta City, Bara Bazar is a place which is known as one of the biggest markets in Asia. There, if you pay the price, you will get the articles you want. You do not have to wait for them. No de-hoarding operation is taken place. De-hoarding operation is a necessity. The Essential Commodities Act has to be implemented very strictly. Cold storages have to be built throughout the country on top priority during the Ninth Plan period. Without cold storages we cannot serve the interest of common people and the poor farmer who is inspired to produce more will not get an economic price for his produce.

The Government of India should admit the truth of what has happened. The ruling party, BJP, has suffered only because of the negative vote and not because of a positive vote. It has to be admitted that only the rise in prices has caused their defeat. They have to go to the people and tell them that such and such are their faults. We should also inform the people about the State Governments who could not discharge their responsibilities to the desired level. We are all concerned over this issue of price rise. We hope that by joining hands we will see to it that the people will get relief.

16.02 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Price Policy for Rabi Crops of 1998-99 to be Marketed in 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to make a statement with your permission regarding the price policy for Rabi crops for the year 1998-99 to be marketed in 1999-2000.

The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat of Fair Average Quality at Rs. 550 per quintal for the crop of 1998-99 to be marketed in 1999-2000 season, marking an increase of Rs. 95 per quintal over the MSP of last year which was Rs. 455 per quintal. The increase would, however, be Rs. 40 only when compared with the effective procurement price of Rs. 510, i.e., Rs. 455 MSP + Rs. 55 bonus, paid last year per quintal. The MSP fixed is also higher compared to Rs. 490 recommended by the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this has already come in the newspapers. What is the point in making a statement now?

SHRI SOMPAL : No, this has not come in the newspapers. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to correct, this has not come. ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I repeat that this has not come in the newspapers.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What has come out then?

SHRI SOMPAL : Please Achariaji, you are a very senior Member. I never interfere when others speak. It is an important factual statement on policy.

Sir, the MSP of Barley of Fair Average Quality has been fixed at Rs. 385 per quintal which marks an increase of Rs. 35 per quintal over the price of Rs. 350 per quintal fixed for 1998-99 marketing season.

The MSP of Gram of Fair Average Quality at Rs. 895 per quintal marks an increase of Rs. 80 per quintal over the previous year's price of Rs. 815 per quintal.

The MSP of Rapeseed and Mustard has been raised by Rs. 60 per quintal over the previous year's price and fixed at Rs. 1000 per quintal.

The MSP of Safflower has been fixed at Rs. 990 per quintal which is higher by Rs. 80 per quintal over the price of Rs. 910 fixed for the previous marketing season.

It is expected that these MSPs will provide sufficient inducement to the farmers for raising production and productivity of these crops.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, hon'ble Minister of Railways please give information about rail accident.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

AN HON. MEMBER : What about the issue price? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : What has happened to paddy and groundnut?

The hon. Minister may say something about the paddy also.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the announcement of the policy for rabi crop. Paddy is a kharif crop.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, I want to make one submission that paddy also is grown during the rabi season. It is not only kharif. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no need for any submission in this matter.

[*English*]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, let the Minister hear me. He is talking to somebody else. I am only asking for an additional information about paddy. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, the Minister for Agriculture may kindly listen to our submissions.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble minister has already made a statement. Now what point do you want to raise;

[*English*]

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharward South) : What about jawar? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever information the hon'ble minister had he had furnished. Now, you please take you seat.

[*English*]

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : What about jawar?

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please listen about Jawar.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The hon'ble minister will please tell as to whether the MSP announced by them is based on the old formula?

[*English*]

We have pleaded that this formula of the Planning Commission should be modified.

[*Translation*]

Is this based on old formula or the modified formula? Has it been worked out on the basis of inputs suggested by us or on the basis of old formula?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please work it out.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the prices are not announced on the basis of formula laid down by the Planning Commission, but it is announced as per the formula and recommendations of the Agriculture Costs and Price Commission. Here I have stated that till now in the modified formula 10 percent managerial profit is worked out on C-3 prices and that too was 490 as compared to the present 550.

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, Paddy is also grown twice a year. It is not only a Kharif Crop. It is also a Rabi Crop. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble minister does not want to say anything in this regard. He is stating about Rabi Crop and he is asking about Paddy Crop. All the questions could not be asked about the statement which the hon'ble minister has made. There is no scope for such points now as per the rules laid down in the House.

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, I think, the hon'ble minister is trying to avoid reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : The hon. Chairman is a former minister. He knows everything. That is why he is not allowing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, I know, when you sit here, how you elicit information. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister does not want to say anything on the point, you have raised. You, therefore, please do not waste the time of the House.

16.08 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Deraiment of Kuria-Howrah Express in Manmad-Jalgaon Section of Central Railway's Bhusaval Division

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, 8029 Dn. Kuria-Howrah Express from Kuria to Howrah derailed at 5.40 hours of 3rd December, 1998

between Mhasawad-Shirsoli stations on Manmad-Jalgaon section of Central Railway's Bhusaval Division.

The train engine and 11 coaches next to it derailed, of which five coaches capsized. *Prima facie*, the cause of the accident is weld failure of rail. As a result of the above accident, five passengers died, eight suffered grievous injuries and 10 passengers suffered simple injuries. Some more passengers—whatever information we have got, it seems not exceeding three—are trapped inside the coaches.

Only the down-line has been obstructed and single line working has been introduced *via* the Up-line.

Stranded passengers of the train involved in the accident have been cleared to Bhusaval from where they will continue their onward journey.

The DRM, along with Divisional Officers from Bhusaval and AGM, along with Heads of Department from Mumbai have gone to the site. The Minister of State, Shri Ram Naik, along with Member (Engineering) and Member (Electrical), Railway Board and General Manager, Central Railway have also rushed to the accident site by air.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a tragic accident.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We have got information about it beforehand. But as soon as we entered the House just before ten O'clock, I got the information and talked to the people there. Either I would have gone there immediately or Shri Ram Naik would have gone to the site of accident. But we could not do so because today is fixed for the questions of our ministry in Lok Sabha and tomorrow in Rajya Sabha. I, therefore, asked Shri Ram Naikji to visit the site. He has gone there today in the morning accompanying Member (engineering) and member (electrical) as the route is electrified and the loco which derailed was also an electric loco. All these people have gone there. We have taken some steps as everybody is concerned about the safety in such accidents.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All these points should be stated while there is discussion on rail accidents.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I would like to request that rail accident or safety measures whatever subject be selected should form part of the discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is already in the list.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : This accident occurred early in the morning. Why did you take so much time to share this information with us?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I thought, I should give detailed information. My colleague, the Minister of State has gone to the site. So, I thought, I would collect the detailed information and share it with you tomorrow through a *sou motu* statement.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : As soon as you knew it, you should have shared the information with us when we are sitting here.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We have given notice for a motion for discussion on rail safety.

[Translation]

This suggestion of hon'ble Minister should be accepted and discussion should be held on it. Many suggestions will come during discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has been decided in the meeting of BAC that discussion would be held on rail accidents and on the issues related to safety.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It has neither been accorded priority nor any time has been fixed.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : We have no objection to it. If you want to take it up first, you may go on. Monday is fixed for discussion on minorities.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You please take it up after discussion on minorities.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : You please see the hon'ble Speaker and get fixed the day for holding discussion on it.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Prices of Essential Commodities—Contd.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Price rise, particularly rise in the prices of essential commodities

has been a chronic phenomenon for quite some years. The previous Congress Government had also failed to control the price situation because of the wrong anti-people policies pursued by them. Ultimately they were rejected not only because of the wrong price policies but also because of the disastrous economic policies pursued by them.

The inflation rate, in 1995, had reached 8.86 percentage or something like that. Now, during the last eight months, our experience is that the inflation rate is the highest in the last three years. Only in November, 1997, it was 3.7 per cent during the time of the United Front Government. What has happened in the last few months? The rate of inflation has more than doubled. The least that could be said is that the situation is not only grave and alarming but it has also become a matter of national concern for all of us.

Sir, this House as the highest sovereign body in the country has a responsibility to save the country from this situation and also to save the country from the economic ruin that we are fast leading to. This price situation can never be seen as a case in isolation. It cannot be a case that shortage in the production of onion of the extent of 10 per cent, a little more than that or less than that, has resulted in the 800 per cent increase in the onion prices. I was told that in Agra at one point of time one kilo of onion was sold at Rs. 100. It has become a luxury item. During Deewali, in Dubai and other places, the people of Indian origin gifted onions along with other items to their friends and relatives. Actually the Government has failed miserably not only in the price front but also in the macro management of the economic policy.

The Government had promised price stability in the NAG. But they had contributed to this price rise. I would like to emphasize that they had contributed. It is not that they were not cautioned. On the very floor of this House, immediately after the Budget was presented in July, we have said that it is inflationary. Of course there have been roll back in excise, in special additional duties and in many other items. But traders are traders. They understood two things. One is that they have got a friendly Government. They are out to dilute whatever provisions was there in the existing Essential Commodities Act and allow them to loot at their will. Secondly, they came to the conclusion that this Government is not determined to rule the price line. This Government has neglected another very important instrument, that is the public distribution system. The UF Government has shown to the country that appropriate intervention and better and timely supply of essential articles at half the usual price through the public distribution system can contribute a lot towards stabilising the prices.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

It is not the case of onion, potato or for that matter tomato. In the case of onion, maybe there was a shortage in production. But the onion that is coming to the market was produced last year.

The price of pulses has also gone up. What is your argument for that? The production of pulses has gone up. The production of potato has gone up. The people could see for themselves that it was a case of connivance between the scrupulous traders and the ruling party at the Centre.

References have also been made about the Government and that how at that time they have decided to import onion at the price of Rs. 10.75 and that with the change in the Chief Minister, the import price has gone up to Rs. 30. Till the elections were announced no step was taken. Only when elections were round the corner they took some steps which were belated, hesitant and inadequate.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : What was that? Was it, changing the Chief Minister?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Yes. They have rightly been punished. Not only in the States ruled by the BJP and their allies, in Madhya Pradesh also, their position was not good. There was no anti-incumbency factor working. It was all against BJP. My hon. friend from Trinamool Congress was vexing eloquence about what has happened in my State. Very recently we had three by-elections for the Assembly. One of the seats was held by a Trinamool Congress candidate which was won by a large margin. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Elections in West Bengal have never been peaceful. There have always been booth capturing. ...*(Interruptions)* In General Elections we will show what Trinamool Congress can do. By-elections are rigged. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I did not disturb him.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Silence Please. You have already spoken and now you are disturbing others. This is not fair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Their Party members also disturbed me. It should be taken note of.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : In Howrah Corporation elections, which is one of the largest corporations after Calcutta Corporation, they got 56 seats. How much did they get in the election held last week? It has come down to two. The support of Left Front has gone up both in number and percentage of vote.

Not only people of Delhi or Rajasthan, people throughout the country are totally disillusioned. They feel that the Government is unable to rule. They feel that the Government is incompetent. They talk about the ability and stability. They are totally incompetent in the matter of governance. It is not a simple case of price situation. It is mis-Government and bad-governance as a result of which they have been punished. As has been said earlier also, they have no moral right to continue in Office.

The former Finance Minister is here. I would now talk about inflation. I would rather like to call it hyper-inflation because throughout the world the prices of essential commodities are low. Everywhere you will find the prices are coming down but here in India prices are going up. Majority of the indices are going up. Some time the argument is given that it is because of the increase in money supply because of the Fifth Pay Commission. Of course, money supply has something to do with it. Reckless borrowing of the Government has something to do with it. Failure to cut the avoidable expenditure has also made its contribution. What contributed the most was the unholy alliance between the ruling alliance, particularly the BJP and the unscrupulous hoarders. It was said by the Prime Minister, 'Aasmani and Sultani', that is, 'aasman' or climate is to be accused. But for the last so many years, our monsoon has been good. We had an average of 5 per cent and it was widespread throughout the country. Here or there, there may be some cyclone or flood. Even in the case of flood or cyclone, there has been a mechanism of forecasting. Areas like, what is the shortage, where is the shortage, how much export can be allowed and what all is to be imported, all these things were monitored. The Government has done away with that because they wanted deliberately and planfully their traders to have unscrupulous trade affairs.

Sir, the index in the case of primary articles has been 18.24. We find that cereal index is 13 plus and in the case of oilseeds it is 23. We see that we are fast heading towards double digit inflation. The price situation is not to be seen in isolation. You just look at the mismanagement in the economy and the industrial production. Some time back we had an occasion to meet the captains of Indian industry at Mumbai when we were there on a study visit of a Standing Committee. Everyone of them was complaining that there was no capacity

utilisation, there is no domestic market and that no one is lifting the goods. The export front was giving signals of our economic ruin in the coming days.

Apart from this, there is a decline in the growth rate, there is a decline in capital inflow and there is uncertainty prevailing in the capital market. I think it has something to do with the speculation and hoarding that had taken place. Those who did not like to go to the uncertain capital market but had surplus money, preferred to speculate on food articles. They were patronized by this Government. We do not know what is going to happen. The Indian economy is being discussed in the World Economic Forum. You would find that the country is leading towards the 1991 type BoP crisis.

Sir, perhaps on 27 November or something like that, there was a meeting of the Chief Ministers. The Prime Minister had called meeting. A number of decisions were taken in that meeting. But I have a great doubt if any of those decisions is going to be implemented. It is because on the very floor of this House we had said that you stop the export of onion. But it was not stopped. It is not the case of onion alone. We had repeatedly said that this desperate export facilities which are being given in respect of food articles will affect our food availability. But there was no one to listen to us. In the meeting of the Chief Ministers, it was decided that a Cabinet committee will be set up and some monitoring cell would also be set up. It was also decided that a National Forecasting Centre would be set up with the help of National Informatics Centre. It is about a week now. Has any progress been made in this regard? Has anything been done about the implementation mechanism?

Sir, the Essential Commodities Act was diluted and we had made a strong plea that what you are doing will be ruinous for us. Now it has been referred to the Joint Select Committee. We have come to know from the newspapers that it had only recently started working. My grave concern is that they cannot submit any report before the Winter Session concludes.

After the Bengal famine due to which about 50 lakh people died, Pandit Nehru had said that the black marketeers and the hoarders should be hanged to the nearest lamp post. No such thing had happened during several years of our Independence. But what have they done? Leave alone the question of hanging and punishing, they collaborated and colluded with the hoarders and the common people had to suffer as a result of that.

About PDS, this Government has taken steps to provide to the people living below the poverty line, 20 kgs. of cereals a month. That should be done. We have been demanding 14 articles of daily consumption to be

included in the PDS. Kindly supply in adequate number including strengthening the system of joint monitoring by the State as well as the Central Government. These suggestions have come and many of them have been accepted. But this Government does not look as if they are very serious about them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps that have already been taken towards fulfilment of the promises made at that particular meeting of 27th November.

With these words, I thank you very much.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the debate which was commenced by my good friends Shri Rajesh Pilot and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has so far focussed on the supply side management of the Government. It is now more or less clear, although many in the Treasury Benches would not be willing to publicly admit that management has been incompetent, inadequate and as my learned friend Shri Rupchand Pal has just said, in many cases, perhaps collusive with traders, hoarders and profiteers.

Onion represents or symbolises just a deep-seated malady. If you wish to take comfort in the fact that the Congress Party has succeeded by focusing on onions, you may do so. If it is onion this time, it will be something else the next time. If it is only supply side management, onion prices should not have risen by 1000 per cent. It is not the first time that the onion crop has failed. It will not be the last time either. It is not the first time that the potato crop has suffered and it will not be the last time either. But if you look upon this debate as a debate on onions and potatoes, I am afraid the Government will lead this country to further economic ruin.

I wish to take the debate to another plane and go back to the day when the Budget was presented. What did we say? In a sense, I am glad the Prime Minister is not here, the Finance Minister is not here so that at least Members can react to what I am saying without the fear of the Prime Minister and without the fear of the Finance Minister. You can introspect on what I intend to say and at least in your party forum you can ask the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister whether anything that Shri Chidambaram said made any sense to them.

Today, markets have become completely integrated. Thanks to opening up, thanks to the world becoming small, thanks to our integrating with the world economy, and thanks to removal of a number of barriers, markets are integrated. When markets are integrated, what determines prices, is sound fiscal policy and a sound monetary policy. When the Budget was presented, in my speech, I said, "this Budget is inflationary. This Budget

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

will fuel inflation." Shri Rupchand Pal said the same thing. Many others said the same thing. But the Finance Minister was unwilling to listen. The Prime Minister perhaps trusted his Finance Minister's judgment in the matter rather than our assessment of the situation. What are my credentials to speak on the subject? The *Economic Survey* 1997-98 was not published by the United Front Government. It was published by the BJP-led Government. This is what the *Economic Survey* says in Chapter-V, page 66.

"Overall price stability characterised 1997-98."

It is not a self-tribute. It is a tribute you paid to the previous Government's management. I quote again :

"Overall price stability characterised 1997-98. The annual rate of inflation touched a eleven-year low of 3.4 per cent in August 1997. This decline occurred despite the increase in the administered prices of petroleum products and electricity. Towards the end of the year, some untrend was seen. But this uptrend was rather mild and by the end of March, 1998, the growth in prices again showed some declaration."

16.36 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

It is with these credentials that we stood up and said that your budget is inflationary; your budget is protectionist; and you seem to have lost control over fiscal instruments. While intervening briefly at a later time when the Finance Bill was passed, I also cautioned the Finance Minister that he seemed to have lost control not only over fiscal instruments but he seemed to have lost control of monetary instruments also. He vigorously denied that charge. Today, all that has come true. Why did we say that his Budget is inflationary? Firstly, Mr. Minister, your fiscal deficit was pegged at a far too high level of Rs. 91,000 crore. No Finance Minister should start a Budget with such a high fiscal deficit. It may be at the end of the year that he will slip one or two decimal points. But to start a Budget with Rs. 91,000 crore fiscal deficit sent a signal to everyone that this Government had no interest in fiscal control. You also imposed taxes of Rs. 9000 crore by way of excise duties and customs duties. We cautioned you that in one year if you impose additional taxes of Rs. 9000 crore, it would be inflationary. You also revised some of the railway rates. Perhaps, that was unavoidable. All together, we said that your Budget was inflationary and by the end of the year, the inflation would cross eight per cent. Just look at the record. The Government, in defence, said that inflation would not cross the six per cent mark. That is also on

the record. In innumerable interviews, innumerable statements, the Finance Minister said that he would not allow inflation to cross six percent. He pooh-poohed us when we said that inflation would cross eight per cent. Now, inflation has crossed eight-and-a-half per cent. That figure is three weeks old. The figures that are being reported are three-week old figures. And believe me, if you do not take adequate steps on the fiscal side and on the monetary side also, inflation will cross nine per cent by the end of the year. That is the Wholesale Price Index. At the retail level, the Consumer Price Index crossed twenty five percent increase in Delhi. It is not onions which brought you down. Onions is just a symbol. The twenty five per cent increase in the Consumer Price Index in Delhi brought your Government down. Neither a change of the Chief Minister nor swearing on the *Bhagavad Gita* could save your Government. People eventually vote with their stomachs. People eventually voted on what they see is the concern of the Government, the care of the Government to their problems. Your Government came through as a callous, careless, unconcerned and incompetent Government. That is why, you were defeated in the three States.

I spoke earlier about the integration of the markets. This is what the *Economic Survey* says :

"With the increasing integration between different segments of financial markets facilitated by liberalisation, the conduct of monetary and credit policy has become critical for the efficient functioning of the financial system. In India, monetary policy is to be evaluated in an integrated framework based on the inter-relationship among money supply, interest rate, exchange rate, credit output and prices. The changes of output and prices have exhibited wide variations over a time."

"Studies have shown that acceleration in inflation broadly coincided with acceleration in monetary expansion."

Let me repeat that.

"Studies have shown that acceleration in inflation broadly coincided with acceleration in monetary expansion."

Now, what is the record of this Government as far as monetary controls are concerned? In 1995-96, the last year of the Congress Government, Dr. Manmohan Singh contracted money supply rather too sharply. He had good reasons to do that. But he was criticised later for doing that. Be that as it may, it is widely accepted that broad money growth should not go beyond 15 or 15.5. In 1996-97, we maintained M-3 growth at about 16 and in 1997-98, M-3 growth went up to about 17. The

reason was that there was a net addition to the foreign exchange assets of the country.

When the United Front Government took over, the foreign exchange assets were 17 billion dollars. When we laid down office it was 26 billion dollars. Anyway, we were concerned that M-3 growth was moving between 16 and 17. We tried our best to bring it down to 15 or 15.5. We succeeded only partially and the M-3 growth remained between 16 and 17. Excepting the last two weeks or so,—the Finance Minister will, I am sure, correct me when he replies—M-3 growth has been hovering around 20 this year. If broad money supplies are growing at 20, how do you control inflation? This is what I cautioned the Finance Minister in the last Session. I said: "You seem to be losing control over monetary instruments; please reassert control over monetary instruments." I do not know what is the understanding between the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank. But if M-3 growth is at 20,—it seems to have slipped a point or two in the last two weeks, I do not have the latest figures—it is bound to stoke inflation.

When you peg fiscal deficit at Rs. 91,000 crore, you virtually gave notice that you have no control over fiscal instruments. When you allowed M-3 growth to go upto 20, you gave another signal that you have no control over monetary instruments. Add to this, the policy of the Government. A thousand times this Government has said: "We believe that the economy can be kick-started only by spending more." Both Dr. Manmohan Singh and I have repeatedly cautioned the Government that you cannot buy growth through a little more inflation. But the signals that were coming from this Government were that it does not matter if there is a little inflation and let us buy growth through inflation. Now, what have you got? You have inflation, but no growth. Where is your growth in the manufacturing sector? If you could have bought growth through inflation, at least you can be congratulated for getting growth, even while you will be criticised for stoking inflation. Today, you have inflation and no growth. What will be the next step? The next step is what Shri Rajesh Pilot alluded to. You will have inflation and declining growth and that is stagflation. I would still urge the Government to learn the lessons.

Sir, it is not a matter of getting a few more tonnes of onions from Dubai or transporting potatoes from some place. But how did you insult the people of this country? In Krishi Bhavan or in one of the Bhavans you have got a few tonnes of onions, sold to about 10,000 Government servants and said that you have solved the problem of onions. What an insult to the people of this country!

Have the people of this country to come to Krishi Bhavan to buy onions and are the 10,000 Government servants of Delhi alone the people of this country? What about the people who have to buy onions in Agra, Chennai and Mumbai? You have trivialised the issue. The issue is not a trivial issue. The issue is macro-economic stability. The issue is controlling inflation, taming inflation. I urged you then and I urge you now to keep inflation control as the highest item on your agenda. You pushed it down. You said that inflation control is not so important, it is kick-starting the economy which is important and you gave up control over fiscal instruments and you gave up control over monetary instruments. Figures were read out by my respected friend, Shri Sharma. He is right about the figures he has read out. I too have the figures. But before you blame the Congress Government, please remember the kind of economy inherited in 1991. Who was in the Government in 1990-91? There was neither Dr. Manmohan Singh nor I. You know who was in Government and who was in charge in 1990-91. I do not wish to take names.

In 1990-91, it was the worst fiscal situation in India. The fiscal deficit crossed eight per cent and the current account deficit was 3.2 per cent. It is after great effort of Dr. Manmohan Singh—Believe me, generations of Indians will be eternally grateful to Dr. Manmohan Singh for turning the economy round. Whatever you criticise, it will not take away from the remarkable job that he did in the first three years. It is after tremendous effort that Dr. Manmohan Singh turned the economy round. And after three years of high inflation, the average inflation was ten per cent in upto 1994-95. Shri Sharma did not read those figures although he said that he had the figures with him. In 1995-96, the average inflation came down to 7.7 per cent. In the first year of the United Front Government, that is 1996-97, the average inflation came down to 6.4 per cent. In the UF Government's second year, that is 1997-98, the average inflation came down to 4.8 per cent.

Once we put inflation on a downward trend, was it not the duty of the new Government to maintain that trend? I am not saying that you alone are responsible for the situation in which the country found itself. But after six years, when we put India's inflation on a downward trend,—I ask you: search your souls; search your hearts—was it not your duty to maintain the downward trend and not allow inflationary expectations rise in India?

By wrong policies, wrong statements, wrong pronouncements, by a defensive attitude, by trying to be critical of previous Governments, you gave up your first duty. Your first duty was to tame inflation. You have

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failed in that duty. We, therefore, charge you with betraying the confidence of the people of India and in immiserising and impoverishing them.

There are dangers ahead. I will quickly allude to them in one or two minutes. Firstly, the current account deficit is again moving beyond three per cent. We have figures of current account deficit. The current account deficit is a percentage of GDP. In 1990-91—the worst year—it was 3.2 per cent. Then, in Dr. Manmohan Singh's years, it was 0.4 per cent, 1.8 per cent, 0.4 per cent, 1.1 per cent and 1.8 per cent. It never crossed two per cent. During the period of the United Front Government, it was 1 per cent and 1.5 per cent. This year, by all indications, it will perhaps be close to three or may even cross three per cent. Now, what will happen when the current account deficit touches three per cent or crosses three per cent? Your exchange rate will come under pressure. When the exchange rate comes under pressure, when the rupee depreciates further, as it has depreciated in the last eight months, it will be inflationary because we are dependent on imports. As the rupee depreciates, there is inflation. And as the rupee depreciates further, there will be more inflation. What are you doing about the deficit in the current account? There is an even greater problem. You are going to face a BoP problem like you did in 1990-91. The BoP is again coming under pressure. The total BoP deficit is estimated at \$ 22 billion. Even if invisibles this year are the same as last year—about \$ 10 billion where are you going to make up another \$ 12 billion?

The FDI has virtually dried down. Last year, the FDI was the highest. It was \$3.2 billion. You will not cross \$ 3.2 billion this year. You will be lucky if you cross \$ 2.2 billion. So, from where are you going to make up the deficit? Are you going to run down the reserves? The UF Government added \$ 9 billion of reserves. The Congress Government, in five years, added \$ 16 billion of reserves from \$ 1 billion to \$ 17 billion. We added from \$ 17 billion to \$ 26 billion. I am not saying that you will not add. I am only asking this question. What do they expect reserves to be at the end of the year.

I have a few pointed questions. Some time, during this debate, I hope the Finance Minister or the Prime Minister, will answer these questions. What do they expect the current account deficit to be at the end of this year? What do they expect the trade deficit to be by the end of the year? What do they expect the BoP deficit by the end of the year? How, do they expect to fill the gap? Do they intend to run down the reserves?

If that happens and the exchange rate comes under pressure, it will be even more inflationary. Their taxation policy, their fiscal policy, and their monetary policy have all contributed to the stroking inflation. I would request them not to think that this problem can be solved by importing onions or banning the export of potatoes or transporting the tomatoes. It is not a problem of onions, potatoes and tomatoes. They are simply manifestations of a deeper problem. The deeper problem is fiscal management, monetary management and proper tax policies.

I am afraid, Sir, this Government has failed on every one of these accounts. Unless they make a radical change of fiscal policies and monetary policies, I am afraid, there is no way in which they can tame inflation.

What is worse than inflation is inflationary expectations. Inflation is bad, but inflationary expectations are worse. When people get the feeling and people begin to expect that prices will rise, then prices will rise. When people begin to think that tomorrow will be worse than today, they will begin to store or hoard or buy a little more. People will put up their prices. Inflationary expectations are worse.

The successful management of the inflation part of India's economy between 1995-96 and 1997-98 was not concerned with taming inflation alone, but was concerned with breaking the back of inflationary expectations. We succeeded in doing that substantially. We brought down average inflation to 4.8 per cent. We brought down year end the inflation to 4 per cent. Today, they have allowed people to put up price because they are stoking inflationary expectations.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : In spite of the fact that he is claiming that they could contain or keep the downward trend to inflation, it is a fact that they could not contain the downward trend of the depreciation of rupee.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Shri Sharma is wrong again. I will come to depreciation.

The Indian rupee was stable for many-many months. India's average inflation is higher than the inflation of our trading partners. If your inflation is say, five per cent or six per cent, and your trading partner's inflation is say, two per cent, which is what is in Europe or in America, the Indian rupee will depreciate by three per cent to three-and-a-half per cent every year. That cannot be stopped, that cannot be avoided, unless you control inflation again. But we cannot hope to go to two per cent inflation in the near run. It will take us a little more time.

What happened when the rupee declined from the stable level of 37:37 to 39 was the direct impact of South-East Asian crisis. It may be remembered that despite, the South-East Asian crisis, India's rupee remained stable at 39 rupees. There are a number of reasons. We did not have full convertibility. We did not allow short-term debt and all this has been acknowledged by the Finance Minister.

I am grateful to him for saying that much, both in the World Economic Forum day before yesterday as well as when he addressed the New York Stock Exchange. He did acknowledge the role played by the previous Governments, both the UF and the Congress in keeping the value of the rupees reasonably stable. I am not blaming him for the decline in the value of a rupee from 39 to 42. Throughout my speech, I did not blame him for that. Perhaps it is again the spill over effect of the South-East Asian crisis. So, some exchange rate depreciation was unavoidable, was inevitable.

I think, the Reserve Bank of India, both under Dr. Rangarajan and Dr. Bimal Jalan, managed the external value of the rupee reasonably well, given the unprecedented nature of the crisis of South-East Asia.

What I am now saying is that if your reserves run down, if your Current Account deficit moves beyond three, your exchange rate will come under further pressure. This has nothing to do with South East Asia. This has got to do with North Block and South Block. If you allow your Current Account deficit to go to three and beyond three, will your exchange rate come under pressure or not? If your exchange rate comes under pressure, will it not be inflationary? It will be inflationary because all imports will be costlier. If imports are costlier, it will spurt inflation.

The other aspect is interest rate. We had brought down the interest rate. Last year, if you look at the Budget figures, you will find that we had a saving on the interest rate of about Rs. 2,500 crore and the average interest rate come down in the U.F. Government. Again interest rate started moving up. It is not for me to tell you what you should do. What you should do is to come to a consensus on some matters on which I believe there was a consensus, namely that taming inflation must be the highest item on any Government's agenda. Sir, any Government worth its salt, any Government which is concerned about the poor of this country, any Government which recognises that 30 per cent of the people are below the poverty line, any Government which is sensitive, any Government which has some heart must place inflation control number one on the agenda. This Government has failed to do that. It is paying a price for that today.

I urge them to push inflation control to the top of the agenda. Once you place inflation control to the top of the agenda, then you fashion your fiscal policies and your monetary policies accordingly. If you do not do that, you will face this trouble again and again. It is not for the sake of record that we are saying this others are also saying these things. The World Economic Forum said it day before yesterday. ICRA said it yesterday that we are going back to the crisis year of 1990-91. We are not wishing that you should go back to the crisis year of 1990-91. It is like a *deja vu* high fiscal deficit, a high current Account deficit, a depreciating rupee, a depleting reserve, what else is it but '1990-91'.

I do not want my friend to face another '1990-91'. So please reconsider your policies.

Sir, let me conclude by saying one thing. I saw a television programme in which, I think, Shri Yashwant Sinha, the Finance Minister was sitting with Shri Rajesh Pilot and Shri Somnath Chatterjee—a very revealing body language and words. Shri Somnath Babu and Shri Rajesh Pilot were virtually pleading with the Finance Minister, 'Why do you not call us for a meeting or a discussion?' and the Finance Minister of the BJP Government cannot bring himself to say, 'Yes, let us meet tomorrow or day after. I will call you.' Simply that was not coming. I was glued to the television set watching, 'Will he say that?' Where is the attempt to reach across the dividing line here? Where is the attempt to call the Congress Party and talk to them? Where is the attempt to call other parties and talk to them? You call the Chief Ministers. Well and good, but where is the attempt to reach across the dividing line and talk to the people who have managed this economy in the last seven or eight years, try to understand what the problem is. May be we will not be very wise to advise you but at least you can hear our stupid advice before you come to your own conclusions. That attempt is not there, Shri Sharmaji. That is the failing of this Government. A Government which is cloistered, which closes all its doors and windows a Government that will see that you will have to talk to the people in this country, you will have to travel, you will have to talk to the people in this country. If you do not do that, you will come to this pass.

Sir, I would urge the Government, in the interest of the nation, to please take a good hard look at its fiscal policies and monetary policies, look at the dangers ahead. There are grave dangers ahead. Now at least, it is only amber lights which are flickering but sooner than later, amber will change to red. I do not want that to happen. We all love our country too much and we are all concerned about the people of our country. We should not let that happen. Let us not have another '1990-91'. Let us not face another unprecedented crisis.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

I would urge upon the Government to revise its policies. If necessary, you will have to admit failure, you will have to admit your weaknesses, you will have to admit that you have gone wrong and then drastically alter your fiscal policies and your monetary policies. It is still not too late to pull this country back from the brink of a catastrophe.

17.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no wish to intervene in this debate. Even now I am not intervening. As we are aware, Shri P. Chidambaram has been a Minister. We were listening to what was happening in the House even when I was sitting in my room in the Parliament House. When I heard that Shri Chidambaram was speaking I put on the volume of the TV set and started listening intently. When he referred to the fact that I was not present in the House, I decided to come and be physically present in the House and to advantage of the guidance that he was giving to the House and to the Government.

As I said, the Motion before the House is a "Discussion regarding rise in prices of essential commodities" and Shri Chidambaram, more than anybody else is aware that this is a subject which falls within the jurisdiction of my Cabinet colleague, the Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs. Shri Chidambaram has changed the nature of the debate because he has brought into the argument—(An hon. Member: He has co-related)—and there are a whole lot of things which were co-related. But in the other House, the nature of the subject was different and that is where I will stand up and answer one of these days when all these issues are raised, which Shri Chidambaram has raised here.

It is not my intention here to meet the points raised by him, point by point. But I would like to reply, because a former Finance Minister has spoken and has spoken in a manner which would spread panic in this country and that is what worries me. ...*(Interruptions)*

Just listen to me. When the former Finance Minister talks about a three per cent current account deficit, when the former Finance Minister talks about the depleted foreign exchange reserves, when the former Finance Minister talks about lack of fiscal control, when the former Finance Minister talks about lack of monetary policy, it will be taken seriously and I stand here to correct that impression.

The Government is fully in control. There is no question about it. I do not know from where he got the figure that the current account deficit in this year was going to cross three per cent. He is going by newspaper

reports. I am sorry. The current account deficit this year will not go beyond 2.3 per cent. That is my assessment as of now. The fiscal deficit—I have said repeatedly in this House and outside—shall be controlled at 5.6 per cent. I have said that inflation has gone up. But I have figures here. Where has inflation gone?

Shri Chidambaram was the Finance Minister last year at this point of time. There were three categories in the Wholesale Price Index, WPI, namely, fuel, light and lubricants manufactured products and primary products. As the figures before us show, in his time the growth rate of WPI in the first category was 13 per cent. This year it is one per cent.

As far as manufactured goods are concerned, in his time the growth rate was 3.7 per cent and this time it is 4.7 per cent which is an increase of one per cent. Where is the inflation growth? The growth is in primary products which we have admitted. It is in agricultural products. He has taken money supply, M-3, he has talked about fiscal policy and monetary policy being absolutely out of control. If that were so, then it would be reflected in the manufactured category, it would have got reflected in petrol, light and lubricants, etc. But, where has the inflation this year taken place? The inflation this year has taken place in primary products.

Let us not forget this fact and as far as the deficit is concerned, I can do no better than saying that if Shri Chidambaram had controlled the deficit last year, if he had not allowed the fiscal deficit to go beyond the budgeted target of 4.5 per cent, if it had not crossed six per cent as he allowed it to do, if the deficit had not increased in absolute terms to go beyond Rs. 20,000 crore, then we would not have been facing this situation. Anyone who knows a little of economics knows that this always impacts—M-3 always impacts—on prices with a lag. The lag is six to eight months. Therefore, if there is some little price increase as a result of what happened recently, it is as a result of what happened in Shri Chidambaram's time.

It is true that in his case the money supply went up because the reserves went up. In our case also, for a few weeks, the money supply went up to 20 per cent as a result of the reserves going up. We had the RIB receipts but they are far behind us. As he has talked about it, I may tell him that every year as the needs have been pressing forward, we would be better off as far as M-3 is concerned than what it was in 1997-98.

Let us not spread panic in this country. The economy of the country is too precious for all of us to spread panic and do long term damage.

That is the spirit in which when I have spoken in New York or I spoke in that World Economic Forum here, I gave where credit was due. I am not niggardly as far as that is concerned. Where credit is due to the Congress regime, I have given it with full throated approval. Where it was due to you, I have given it with full throated approval. Let us not do that. The kettle cannot be called by the pot black. Let us remember that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Please give me a minute to respond. Sir, if this Government, speaking through its Finance Minister, wishes to believe and wishes to convince the people of this country that neither fiscal policy nor monetary policy nor interest rates nor the exchange rate has any impact on inflation, let them hold these beliefs and let them sink in these beliefs. I am not willing to buy this argument. Inflation is primarily determined by the fiscal policy that you pursue, by the monetary policy, by the exchange rate that prevails and by the interest rates. Tomorrow, I am sure economists, writers will begin to debate whether I am right or Shri Yashwant, Sinha is right. And let us wait for the judgment of those who know more economics than certainly I do, perhaps not more than what Shri Yashwant Sinha does.

Secondly, the fiscal deficit of every year is deficit of that year. It has no impact on the next year. Why should it have any impact if you make your Budget properly? If you budget for a lower fiscal deficit, why should a fiscal deficit of the previous year have any impact upon the next year? Have we not brought the fiscal deficit down year after year from 8.2 per cent to 5 per cent? It was 8.2 per cent in 1990-91. Dr. Manmohan Singh left it at 5.5 per cent in 1995-96. We brought it down to 5 per cent in 1996-97. The provisional figure may be 5.1 per cent. In 1997-98 we did slip. We slipped because revenues did not come as we expected the revenues to come. In 1997-98, there was a slippage as far as fiscal deficit is concerned. We slipped to 5.5 per cent. Small savings increases added 0.3 per cent. So, it became 5.8 per cent. The new Government's generosity of giving away the entire VDIS money in one year took it to 6.1 per cent. Sir, everybody knows these figures. And, those who know the figures are listening and watching. It was 5.5 per cent. 5.8 per cent is a statistical increase because of small savings. 6.1 per cent is because the new Government wanted to take Brownie points from the State Governments. I do not grudge them that. But this year you should have started with a low fiscal deficit budget. But you started with the fiscal deficit budget of Rs. 91,000 crore. It is 5.6 per cent. I will be happy to commend him. I will congratulate him. I wish him all the best if he can keep it to that level. But to stand up in this House and say that fiscal instruments, monetary policy, interest rate, exchange rate has nothing to do with inflation,

nothing to do with the problems today, it is only a matter of tomatoes, onions and potatoes. Well if he wants to believe that, let him believe that. I am not buying that argument. I am extremely sorry.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir. We are convinced with the speeches made by both the learned persons, but it is not going to benefit the people of the country. The masses of this country will go to bottom and the price rise would go on like this. The speeches made by these two learned persons are not related to the inflation, but it indicates that what will be the fate of the masses of this country.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I participate in the discussion on price hike in the essential commodities, started in this House by my friend Mr. Rajesh Pilot. I feel that it is main duty of the Government to provide food, cloth and shelter to the people. Therefore, even our Hon. Prime Minister has also admitted it and if the rise in price have been controlled by taking administrative steps then I feel that the Government have taken this matter seriously. This is true as the Hon. Finance Minister have also said that the discussion going on here is on primary products and the truth is that there is no hike in the prices the manufacturing goods.

There is no need of monitoring or any fiscal policy in it but what is needed, is to find out the reasons for rise in prices. I feel unless we find out its reasons, we won't be able to solve the problem. Our friend Mr. Rajesh ji was saying that everything gets riped in nine months but I think they have created price rise only in four months and they themselves have created it. I agree with Mr. Sharma that there was the rise in prices during the period of earlier Governments. I don't have time because our party is given less time, otherwise I would have told as to how the prices have gone up in many states. But when the Congress were blaming the present Government, I was smiling. I was recollecting a Punjabi saying that when a mother-in-law wants to reprimand her young daughter-in-law she forgets her own days, when she was young. The Punjabi saying goes like this "Sass nun ko kare tagdaiyan, apne din bhul gai."

They have forgotten their faults and start levelling charges against them. I want to say that what is the reason behind it, it is needed to be found out. I think that in last fifty years rich become richer and the poor become poorer which has caused a lot of problems in the country. The wealth of the country has been transferred to other countries like Switzerland and nothing remained with the poor people. The poor is struggling for

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survival. We have to look into it and find out the reasons why the rise in price took place and how it could be arrested. I feel that the main reason is that the agriculture sector has been ignored. 70 percent people are depending on agriculture. During the last 50 years a sector wherein 70 per cent people are engaged has been ignored. Irrigation is essential for the agriculture sector. Only 36 per cent area of the total arable land is being irrigated and two-four or six months old Government is being blamed for the shortage of onions. 36 per cent land has been brought under the irrigation during last 50 years. 54 per cent water of the rivers goes unused and we are not able to tap that. Whether the Government could solve this problem in four-six months only.

Godowns are also required for the agriculture produce. I think if proper storage facilities are available for the onions, vegetables and other agricultural produce, then the prices will not rise in like this. Five to seven months duration is quite less to construct Godowns, one year, two years, ten years are required for the purpose. Earlier Governments could not create required storage facilities for the agricultural products during the last 50 years. Today thousands of tonnes of wheat, rice is rotting in Punjab and in the whole country due to the lack of proper Godowns. We are unable to manage vegetables. Likewise, no research work has been done in the agriculture sector. Stagnation has come in the matter of yield. There was Green revolution in the country. The condition of farmers improved due to it but after the Green revolution not a new project has been launched, no research work has been conducted. Hon. Jakhar Sahib left, he has been an Agriculture Minister. He said that they have done a lot but not a single new variety has come up and there is adulteration in pesticides and weedicides etc. and these have become quite expensive in the wake of the entry of multi-national companies, therefore what the farmers could do? Production would be costly. Therefore, we have to find out the ways and means to check all these. The unplanned schemes were formulated during the previous years and these are the only causes for all the problems. Once the plans are unplanned these will give wrong results.

The other sector is of Industry. Industries are important for the economy of a country. We do not have any infrastructure in the country. When the infrastructure is not available then how the industry would progress. There are neither roads, nor the means of transport. Telephone facilities are not available in seventy percent villages. More than one lakh villages have no roads. Foodgrains worth more than three hundred crores are rotten on the ports. The ships keep on standing for month altogether and more than 15 per cent of the oil gets wasted as fuel. More than sixty thousand deaths take

place on the roads of the country. When there is no infrastructure, how will the industries prosper?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the irrigation is badly required for both industries and agriculture and during the last fifty years only 31 thousand crore rupees have been spent so far whereas 56 thousand crore rupees are required. Whether this Government can spend 56 thousand crore rupee within six months? Should we wait for next fifty years as well? I think the Government would have never imagined that the power would be so costly due to introduction of eight schemes of fast track system for which multinationals were invited and power sector was privatised. If we look at the rate of power in the international market, the average rate is two rupees per unit. If this system is introduced, the power will be costly. If the power is costly, how will the industries compete? The farmers can not get full production due to not providing adequate power to agriculture sector, the dearness will increase automatically. So there is need to improve infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, secondly I would like to say that the multi-national companies have entered into the field of consumer goods. This has also worsened the situation. I think that the situation has been created because of the policies implemented by our hon. colleagues Shri Chidambaram and Sardar Man Mohan Singh who had been the Finance Ministers earlier. All the set up worsened because of these policies.

You can take the case of edible oil today, the poor people used to sell edible oil earlier. Now the multi-national companies have entered into this sector. They wanted that edible oil should be sold in packets. Some mischief was done and huge quantity of mustard oil was adulterated so that an ordinary man might not sell his oil and their oil packets should be sold. It opened the way for multi-national companies. The ordinary producers and domestic industries of the country have been ruined and ousted from the economy. I think it will impoverish the country and can not prosper. It will create problem which can not be solved by monetary and financial policies. We will have to improve our infrastructure. If it is not improved, the problem will increase further. Putting blames on each-other will not do. My friend Rajesh Pilot ji was saying that the farmers had committed suicide in Punjab. Nobody bothered to think whether this extreme was the result of five or ten days or one or two months. The Congress has been adopting anti farmers policies for the last fifty years on account of which all this is happening. The farmers are committing suicide because they were made debtors. They could not get the cost of their crops even. I want to emphasize that Punjab is such a State not only in the country but in the entire world where the

farmers get power free of cost. The farmers get maximum facilities in Punjab and the same colleague is putting the blame on us that this is farmer's Government which is working for their welfare. He is putting such blames on us there and here now says that the farmers are committing suicides. I would like to say that unless the farmers get the remunerative price of their crop, such problems will always be created. Therefore, there is a need to make improvement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reforms policy will have to be modified. Noble-prize winner Dr. Amartya Sen has also said that the present economic reforms in the country can not go in interest of the country rather these will have adverse affect. Unless we raise the standard of the people, the reform policy can not go in the interest of the country and I think that this reform policy has created a lot of problems. It has been said that zones should be created. The Congress men had made zones. Now we do not know why we are being reminded of zones. Rajesh ji, you remember it. But please do not make remind us about zones again. You created zones due to which the farmer of the Punjab had strongly protested and held agitation. We made ourselves arrested and broke these zones.

We said that this country is one. We want to separate the farmers by making different zones in the country.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We had said that scientifically climate zones be created so that the farmers may be helped that way. We were not creating zones of the country. Rather we were creating agricultural zones from climatic point of view.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : You said that the different zones will be created for the places where different crops are grown. These zones were made in the regime of Congress ... (Interruptions). These zones should be disbanded ... (Interruptions). We have to oppose each move of Congress.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : You were brought up in Congress regime and you have become professor in that regime only. Congress made you what you are.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : I would like to endorse the view point putforth by Shri Rajesh Pilot ji. He asked as to why you people got together and I am also surprised at your coming together. Then we took over from you, the whole country was in bad shape. The country was rooted and ruined at that time people wanted that the chances of the Congress forming the Government should be thwarted and this approach led to our coming together. I would like to emphasize that the issue of the

price-rise is a temporary one and it would be controlled soon. However, I would agree to one thing that the rising of price has caused a little bit of damage to them. The very nature of onion is like that. If a sick person is given onion then, it treats his illness however a healthy person takes it then, it renders him sick. Once somebody went to see a boy. On asking how is the boy, he replied that the boy was handsome, well off, educated and employed yet he would not marry his daughter with him. When asked why then, he told that the boy was suffering from cold.

Therefore, leaving aside all good things, the solitary issue of onion has been picked up. Nobody has paid any attention to several achievements made by this Government in last eight-ten months including creation of conducive social atmosphere and no communal riots have taken place. They are treading the path that are humans are alike:

Araral Allah Noor jo paya

Kudarat De Sab Bande

Ek Noor Te Sab Jag upjaya

Kaun Bhaile Kaun Marde

All people have started following it. The country has forged ahead, achieved prosperity in the conducive atmosphere created by this Government in last eight-ten months. I would like to congratulate this Government for allocating 50 percent share of plan outlay to the agriculture and rural sector.

At last, I would say that there are certain shortcomings which needs to be rectified. For instance, the D.A.P. fertilizer, even the Prime Minister has admitted that about 2,50,000 tonnes of D.A.P. fertilizer is lying at the docks but what for it is lying there and why not, it is being given to the farmers. The Government must order a probe as to why it did not reach the farmers and who is responsible for it? If this Government does not safeguard the interest of the country in general and that of the farming community then, you should not worry, we ourselves will pull them up. The Government must contain the rising prices, ensure supply of adequate fertilizers to the farmers, and also ensure remunerative prices of their produce to them.

Lastly, I must say that containing the ever increasing population is necessary to control the price-rise. Our Prime Minister has done maximum on this count. You all should support him on it. ... (Interruptions) Therefore I again plead that certain steps must be taken to control population. We are also concerned about the price rise. The

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administrative steps taken in this regard, should have been taken earlier so as to avoid the situation we are in today. In any case, it is never too late. I strongly feel that necessary steps should be taken in this direction and the agriculture and industrial sector should be strengthened.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the trend of rising prices of essential commodities is a matter of great concern for the entire nation, particularly for public representatives. During this debate there was a good news from the spokesman of the B.J.P. and their stooges are ruling this country. I am very happy to hear it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, 'Stooges' word is objectionable.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : The BJP and its stooges are in power.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : The word "Stooges" is unparliamentary. It should be withdrawn.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : If he has objections then I withdraw the word.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : It means you are also a "Stooge".

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : I withdraw it.

I thank him for saying that our Government is functioning. I will be happy if his Government stay. But this Government should govern like a Government. I feel sorry that the Government are not governing. Profiteers and Hoarders are ruling over the markets and society. I will expect that this Government should start functioning like a real Government. I feel sorry while stating that the last time when this House was about to adjourn, there was a long debate on the issue of price-rise and during that debate the Finance Minister and the Minister of Civil Supply also had assured the nation many times that the price-rise would be checked. I always feel sorry over the matter that he is the first Finance Minister who used to say while sensx is falling, there is no need to be panic; while prices are shooting up there is no need to be panic, when Indian currency is taking a dip as compared to the foreign currency, there is no need to be panic. I just want to know when the people should really panic because during the last session it has been stated that due to seasonal imbalance there is fluctuation in prices therefore the prices of essential items will start coming down from September. When September came and prices shoot up further than the country was given an assurance

that this price-rise will come down in the coming December. In the month of December the prices did not came down but those who were responsible for this price-rise got affected. I am sorry to say that Govt. are not aware about the goods to be produced as per our requirement, total requirement, upto what limit anything could be exported and upto what limit any thing could be imported. This shortage is creating the shortage of essential items. The Government were aware that if an average of 42 to 45 lakhs of ton onion is available in the country than it will be sufficient to meet our requirement. Despite the fact that there is low production in the country, which was 39 lakhs of ton, why 7-8 lakhs of ton onion was exported? The Government will have to reply. The onions have been exported till 25 September. The Government of India got worried in the month of October that onions should not be exported, it should be imported under O.G.L. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Not 7 to 8 lakhs of ton, only 2 lakhs 14 thousand of ton of onion had been exported.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : These are your figures. But according to other available figures, more quantity of onion had been exported. I want to know the exact figure in this regard. The extent to which onions have been exported. If there was a shortage of just 4 to 5 lakhs of ton then due to price-rise, the people have themselves reduced its consumption.

We are troubled because goods are not available in the market, their prices increased. The goods are available in the market and their prices are increasing, that is why things are not going to work out simply by saying that goods are not available in our market. The rise and fall in the market price was due to the lack of Government's control. The Government's instructions were meant for importing onions in the country under O.G.L., does it take 10-12 days for issuing Government orders after Cabinet's decision? Does it take 20-25 days for custom clearance. Onions that had been ordered under O.G.L. after the Government's decision kept rotting on the port. It was not given clearance. Who is responsible for it? I will not quote the figures of rising and falling price of onions but production was ten percent less and it's prices increased by fifteen percent. Who will take the responsibility, if not the Government with regard to the extent to which the prices increased in proportion of production?

Likewise a kind of spectacle took place in the case of edible oils. On receiving orders from the Union Government hon. Home Minister made an announcement without any request from the people with regard to holding

a C.B.I. inquiry of the matter. About one and a half month have passed after the announcement. Who are responsible for it? Some foreign powers are responsible, some multinational companies are responsible, and the mustard oil is available in the market for Rs. 30-35 a Kg. for the poor man. You put a control on it's sale and then after one and a half month you lifted that control and then the same oil has been sold for Rs. 65, Rs. 80 per Kg. in the market. Why is it so? The Government will have to give a reply in this regard because the same thing has three different prices in the same market. If you purchase atta from Bengali Market in the same city, you will get it for Rs. 16 per Kg. in the same city. In Mayur Vihar atta is Rs. 10 a Kg. and in Seelampur it is for Rs. 8.50 a Kg. There is a difference of just the double in the same city. Whether the Government have any control on this? Whether you have tried to ask from any D.M. that the collector is responsible for the control on the rise and fall of the price within a month. Did you ever ask how many collectors fulfilled their duty? But now you say that the prices of the commodities are becoming stable. Sharmaji is saying that prices are falling. If the price of a commodity goes upto Rs. 100 a Kg. and then it becomes Rs. 80 per Kg it will not be called reduction. It is loot, because today the prices have rocketed high in proportion to the benefits extended to the Government employees by the Union Government through it's Pay Commission. Today the need for new pay commission has arisen. Within six months the prices of all essential commodities have increased till nine percent. For retail the prices have gone upto at least twenty five percent. The responsibility lies on the Government. Since polls were expected in Delhi the Government sold the imported onions in their outlets. How they sold it? Onion was brought from Maharashtra in the open and which got drenched in the way. Below it was dry while the upper portion rotten. You dried it in Azadpur Mandi. After drying you sent it to your shops. It was rotten beneath and dry from above. The poor people queued in to purchase it for Rs. fifteen and Rs. ten per kg. from your shops and when they brought it home it was all rotten. How many people you held responsible for this? Action was taken against how many officers? How many hoarders and black marketeers were made to move/roam on the streets by you?

The Government do not have a clear policy with regard to proper control on prices of any commodity. Our Minister for Agriculture says that the agriculture policy formulated by the earlier Government was improper and we are formulating a comprehensive one. The comprehensive agriculture policy is sleeping in the Prime Minister's office. Nobody has any information on it. The production of how many products you wish to encourage. The production of how many food products from amongst

the essential food products you wish to encourage so that they are made available to the public at cheaper rate.

I would like to request the Government to frame a clear policy with regard to it. Sir, in case of onions it can be said that it had rained, but prices of pulses are also increasing. In those times, the price of arhar was Rs. 20 a kg. but today this pulse is being sold in retail at the rate of Rs. 50/- per kg. You will be surprised to know that we have purchased it for Rs. 50 a Kg. from a shop adjacent to our house. The price of every commodity is rising. You will be able to control the increased prices but simultaneously you will be able to bring down the prices but you would not be able to bring down the prices increased by the other persons like hoteliers. Dearness has increased from 50 to 100 per cent in every house. The people having fixed salaries have suffered and those who do not have fixed salary have reached the situation of destruction, insolvency, starvation and poverty.

Likewise there is the question of sugar, loot is going on due to fluctuation of price in this sector. The sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh have not been paid for the last year as on date. Earlier we used to claim that India is known as the sugar producing countries of the world but what is the situation today? Today, it has become a trend to give different statements by different ministers. The State Minister of Barnala ji has said in the Rajya Sabha that there is so much store of sugar in our country that it could cater to the needs of the people upto May 1999 and outside he says that the country may run short of sugar. Therefore they are importing sugar. Sugar worth one hundred crore rupees was imported from just one factory from Pakistan. There are two factories of the Pakistani Prime Minister at Rawalpindi. Sugar was imported from Chaudhari Sugar Mills. Sugar was imported from the mill under control of the Pakistani military at Rawalpindi Cantonment. The hard earned money of our people was paid to that sugar mill of Pakistani military as the price of sugar and ensured they boost up their activities in Kashmir. The Government have introduced this system. Therefore, I would like to submit it here that the people of sugar mills association are crying that in the coming days the public and private sector sugar mills would be under pressure due to this import of sugar. Besides 15 lakh tonnes of wheat which was not needed has been imported. Due to the absence of clear-cut policy with regard to the sector in which foreign exchange is to be spend and the sector in which it should be controlled, all these problems are coming up before the nation.

Shri Mohan Singh]

Sir, now I would like to conclude with some suggestions. The biggest problem is of the perishable food items like, potato and tomato etc. There is no scheme for their storage. The cold storage in rural areas are ruining one by one. When the price of potato goes up, the farmer takes up that crop next year. Next year when the production of the potato goes up by four-five or six times and there is no facility of its storage, the farmer has to sell it one rupee per kilogram. Two years back the farmers of Uttar Pradesh did not bring out the potato from the cold storage just because the cost of selling it after bringing it out from the cold storage was higher. The sale price was less. My submissions to the Government is that to overcome such a situation an ambitious scheme should be formed. That scheme can be that the Union Government release funds to the State Governments to strengthen them and each panchayat can make arrangements of storage of potato and tomato crops in cold storages. Likewise the Union Government should ensure as to how much wheat and sugarcane can be produced in our country as per the population. How the sugarcane can be produced so that the farmers of the country can be benefited. Sometimes when the sugar produced therefrom is surplus we export it. The Government is claiming happily that they have exported the sugar. Next year when the foreign countries demand, the Government do not export sugar. The countries which import our products say that India is such a country which shows it's helplessness in continuing its business relations every year since one year we export and the other we do not. Under this compulsion, where there is even deficit in our country, we have to export many items. We should store the items as per our requirements and the surplus items should be exported. In case there is shortage of it, as has happened in case of onion and sugar, then first of all arrangements for its import should be made since whenever there is shortage in our country the message goes to the world market that there is shortage of sugar in India and the price of onion and sugar went up in the world market. The price of the things we need specially, goes up. These problems have come up before us due to the absence of any open policy of the Government in this regard. I would like to urge upon the Government that a clear-cut policy should be formulated in this regard. During the last session, the leaders of the Bhartiya Janata Party were being garlanded by the traders. The traders offered them the silver crown since they were freed from the Essential Commodities Act and that is why they were being welcomed and greeted....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA: Sir, when Mulayam Singh ji was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, he refused to implement the Essential Commodities Special Provision Act, 1981. He was the first Chief Minister to do so. He had said that, the 1981 law was bad and that the

exploitation had increased due to it. You might be remembering that Mulayam Singh ji had not implemented it in this state and gave this message to the whole of the country. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, my submission is that they wear the crown and when the crisis come up ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Mulayam Singh ji had worn the crown on this issue from the traders at Phool Bagh in Kanpur ... (Interruptions) It was done by Mulayam Singh ji and not by the Bhartiya Janta Party. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : I am submitting that you wear crown on the amendments in the Essential Commodities Act and the hon. Prime Minister loudly claim to make it more effective in the country. I would like to know whether your statement or the statement of the hon. Prime Minister is right? The discussion in this House went on for the whole day and Bamala ji was to deliver his speech at last to get it passed. Khurana ji asked him not to do that since it would give a wrong signal, that is why it was sent to J.P.C. ... (Interruptions) I would like to know as to what is the policy of the Union Government with regard to the Essential Commodities Act? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Sir, when Gujral Sahib was ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding. Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : You consider Gujral ji as your leader or Shri Vajpayee ji ... (Interruptions) He is saying that the law would be made more stringent because of the loop-holes in the law the hoarders and the profiteers have misused it and the prices of essential commodities have been increased, these are the words of the hon. Prime Minister which you are supporting. I would like to submit that the Union Government is not clear about it.

They do not have one thinking. When a problem crops up they speak something but prior to the emergence of the problem they continue speaking something else. The Government should have one thinking and should function on one line. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very lucky that you are presiding the Chair at my term. ...*(Interruptions)* This is the second time, when the discussion on price rise issue is being held in the House. Last time this subject was discussed in the month of July. I want to submit that the Government are not sensitive towards the discussions held and the suggestions made by the Hon'ble Members on the price rise and do not take any effective steps in this regard. This is my first allegation. ...*(Interruptions)* The common man had to face many difficulties and loot like situation due to the price rise, which has not been highlighted in the House. We have already assessed the situation. How much the common man had been looted due to the hike in the price of onions, the number of persons looked but to the price rise in oils and pulses and the number of people looted due to price rise in other commodities, you just imagine. Sir, thousand crore rupees have been looted as a result of price rise in onion only. This money instead of going into the pockets of farmers and producers, it went to the pockets of middlemen. The common men had been looted by all around 25-30 thousand crore rupees, poor people have been looted. They are under the burden of price rise and they are not in a position to buy essential items. Their poor condition is caused by the price rise.

During the Congress party's regime, Shri Kalpnath Rai was removed from the Ministership due the rise in the prices of sugar and Gyan Prakash Committee was constituted. Government say that they do not support the hoarders and are not in the favour of price rise. The Govt. should conduct an enquiry in this scam of 20-30 thousand crore rupees. The people of this country are suffering as a result thereof. It could not be ignored just by giving formal reply. The opposition is also to blame in this regard. Only giving statements is not enough here, but the opposition should have launched a serious agitation against it. They should not wait till the Governance is changed, when their colleagues would withdraw and the Congress will keep a silence. An agitation would have launched in the each and every corner of the country on the question of price-rise. I held the opposition also responsible for this. The common men have been looted through it. Only formal kind of statements and protests would not work. I challenge that anyone from the ruling parties may prove on behalf of the Government that they are not the supporters of

hoarders, profiteers and black marketeers. I want to give logic ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Your party is ruling party in Bihar. How many raids have been conducted in Bihar and how many black marketeers have been arrested? What action you have taken there? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH : I agree with him to some extent. If the Congress party and those who are oppose to our alliance would have not propagated against the price rise during the election, then they were unable to win the election. The prices of salt would have not raised. A rumour had been spread in the market in regard to the shortage of it. There were long queues for salt. They were looking concerned about the price rise. If you look at the newspapers and Television news recording of that period, the truth will come to the fore. Congressmen were quite happy at that time. They were worshipping the onion. They were used to say while talking with each other that whether the price of onion are likely to come down. They were happy with the price rise. The prices rose more due to their propaganda ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This issue was also discussed in the month of July during the session. Mr. Barnala had moved a bill to get passed 'The Essential Commodity Act'. It was mentioned in its objectives of the Act that as the provisions of the Essential Commodity Act of 1955 is not effective, so the strict actions against the hoarders, black marketeers and profiteers are not possible. Therefore ordinance has been enforced and we want to convert it into a law. This ordinance was issued on 8th July but it lapsed. The ordinance of Essential Commodities Act has not been repromulgated. The hoarder have looted common men because of the rise in prices in the month of July. Then they looted in the Month of August, September, October and November. This loot is still continue why they have not repromulgated the ordinance? Is there anyone in the ruling front or any member of the cabinet can answer to respond to my queries. Can he explain the cause of price rise? Profiteer and black marketeers got the

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

message that the ordinance has been withdrawn, therefore, they are free to loot the people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the life of that Act lapsed on October, 1997 then this ordinance was issued. That ordinance also lapsed in January, 1998 which was extended later on till April. Later on Mr. Barnala extended it till July after making some improvements in the ordinance. This ordinance was also lapsed on 8th July. I would like to know from the Government that why the ordinance issued by the previous Government was kept on functional by your Government. This ordinance was sent to the Joint committee to get it cleared. I don't want to say anything more in this regard but why that ordinance was not re-promulgated. It is seen that the traders lobby is dominating both the Government as well as law. The sentence has been reduced to two years from seven years. You may be astonished to know that the people says that the traders should get the justice. I agree to it but why the imprisonment for hoarders have been reduced to two years from seven years.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) You had bought the ordinance related to the provision made for reducing this punishment, we had not moved it. I want to tell you that the plea being made by you that we bought the ordinance to amend the provision to reduce the punishment from seven years to two years in the previous Act and we have made it more stringent. Therefore this law has been enacted during your time. We felt that if we will pass it, then we would be alleged that our Government have amend the provision to reduce the punishment from seven years to two years. Thus we referred it to the Joint Committee and as soon as the recommendations will come, we'll pass it.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs should not be in so hurry, if he did not have complete information we have listened to him, therefore I want to tell him that the Essential Commodities Act, was enacted after making special provisions in the 1981 Act, which was enforced for five years in 1982 and this period was extended for another five-five years time. In this way, this act was in enforcement for 15 years. In the year 1997, when it was moved in the House to again extend the period for another 5 years, BJP was a strong opposition party, who are the supporters of hoarders. Since the attitude of other parties was not right the bill could not be passed. That Act was wholly changed into an ordinance. This ordinance was enforced in October, 1997 and lapsed in January, 1998 after a period of three months. Then it was extended

till April. I will emphasise over this point that when the question of extending the period of ordinance came up in April, the provision of awarding sentence to hoarders was retained to two years instead of seven years. That is why, the previous Government did not reduce the term of the sentence.

18.00 hrs.

And that is why you are arguing without understanding the whole issue ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether he reduced the term of sentence from five to two years by introducing an amendment when Mr. Gujral was the Prime Minister in 1997 and Shri Raghuvansh was also a Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Bahraich) : Mr. Speaker, let us constitute a committee to find out whether Shri Rajhuvansh ji is correct or Shri Khurana is correct ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : O.K. This matter should be investigated...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : The Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Madan Lal Khurana must be allowed to consult Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra who is sitting next to him because he is the President of the *Vyapar Sangh*.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : So, what? I am to say ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : That bill was brought in the previous session in July and you had directed to refer that bill to the Standing Committee. Accordingly it was referred to the Standing Committee on Food and Consumer Affairs. The Committee recommended that it should be enforced. When that bill was brought in the House, and the day on which the debate was going on and the bill was to be passed, on the same day suddenly an amendment was moved by the Government that Rs. 50,000 should be reduced to either Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 5000 or 10,000. The fine of Rs. 15000 should also be reduced. The non-bailable offence should be made bailable. I would like to submit that this Government has supported the traders, hoarders and the profiteers by making the non-bailable offence as bailable and by reducing the fine and the term of sentence of those who are found guilty by the court. That is why you had directed

to refer the bill to the Joint Select Committee. We have never expected that they can go to this extent and I am not very much surprised about it. I feel sorry, but I am not at all surprised. I am not surprised because in the story of Mahabharata, when Bhishma Pitamaha was lying on the death-bed he has lost most of the blood and at that time while giving sermons of high ideal, morality and ethics, all the members of his family were standing around him and listening to him. Draupadi, the daughter-in-law of the family suddenly started laughing while listening. Bhishma Pitamaha asked her as to what made her laugh. Draupadi said that the day when she was being striped of her clothes in the large gathering-Darbar, why did he not talk of such high ideals and morals. Then Bhishma Pitamaha said that he was on the side of Duryodhan at that time and therefore did not say anything about the morality, religions and ethics but now since that blood had oozed out by being hit by an arrow and only pure blood has left in the body, he was preaching sermons. Since these people have won elections with the support of hoarders, profiteers and black marketeers, they do not like it ...*(Interruptions)* Since they have won elections with the support of the hoarders and the like they can not enforce such a legislation which goes against them ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : Now you are harping on the story of God. But I want to ask you one thing that why had you forgotten the story of all this at that time ...*(Interruptions)* Where had you been at that time. ...*(Interruptions)* You are remembering it today.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Prime Minister is saying that this price-hike has not been brought by the Government but by the nature. I say that it is totally incorrect to attribute it to the nature, rather it should be attributed to the Government. I say that it is established from this that they relaxed the provisions of the legislation and scrapped it.

The Government not only relaxed the provisions of the legislation i.e. the ordinance but also scrapped it. Therefore if we want to find out the reasons for the price-hike, it is 90 per cent due to the Government and over 10 per cent due to the nature. This can be found out from the records. These people are the root cause of the price-hike. No suggestion would work to check the price-hike as long as the Government keeps on having support from these hoarders, black marketeers, and profiteers. The price-hike will go on increasing and the suffering of the public will increase.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had given an adjournment motion in this regard. You did not reject it. But it was turned into a notice under rule 193 by the Business

Advisory Committee. The Congressmen are not opposing the hoarders. They should attack it. Sir, There is no doubt that a third force is required to fight against these vested interests and to save the country from all these three. Therefore the third force is required to fight against the hoarders, and the profiteers. Today 25 to 30 thousand crore rupees have been looted from the country and something has to be done to keep the public out of it. We could have understood, had this money been gone to the farmers. But the money did not reach to the farmers. The price-hike has been caused by the anti-farmers and anti-public policies. Therefore we are not satisfied with the statements made by these people and the action being taken by them to control price-hike. Hence the people of this country have to launch a mass movement in the country. We will have to take action against these selfish people the vested interests and the people looting the country. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR (Kangra) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, a very serious issue is being discussed, therefore, I would like to submit here in this House that paying merely lip service and levelling charges on one another is certainly not going to solve the issue of the price-rise. So many charges have been made out and too many things have been uttered out. But I think that the House should try to ascertain the reasons for the price-rise and some concrete suggestions leading to formulation of a national programme for action. The price rise is a matter of concern. The Common masses are reeling under unprecedented price-rise and it can not be a matter of concern for a particular party rather it is a matter of deep concern for all the political parties as well as the House. But I am surprised at the why the facts have been prevented by Shri Rajesh Pilot as if the price-rise has never taken place in this country and everything has happened in these eight-nine months as if the price rise has never happened before and as if India was El-Dorado earlier. Some other friends have also tried to put forth the situation in this way. Sir, there can not be just two opinions that the prices have gone up and it has caused untold hardships to the people. But the main question is as to what kind of the price-rise has taken place and the price of which products has gone up. I would like to draw the attention of the House that several factors have led to the unprecedented price-rise. One of the factors is that shortfall in the production in 1997-98. The production of pulses fell short by 13 lakh tonnes, that of wheat by 32 lakh tonnes, that of mustard oil by 30 lakh tonnes, that of groundnut by 15 lakh tonnes, that of potatoes by 60 lakh tonnes and that of onion by 6 lakh tonnes. Shortfall in production is the major factor for the price-rise. The prices of the primary articles have gone up. However, the price of fuel, and lubricant group alongwith

[Shri Shanta Kumar]

the power tariff has gone up by merely 1.1 percent. The prices of the manufactured products have gone up by 4.9 per cent. This should be noted down that there are specific reason for price-rise of certain products. The House should ponder over it seriously.

Hon'ble, Speaker, Sir, this year we had unseasonal rains. It had never rained on Deepwali in this country before but this year it rained on Deepwali. Causing big damage to the crops. The damage to crops was so widespread and heavy that all the States sought assistance from the Centre. The unseasonal rains lead to floods causing heavy damages to the crops including the crops of onion and potatoes. The total production in 1997-98 was less. The floods played havoc with such crops. It should be noted down. One thing more, there has been no definite policy on agriculture in this country during the last 45-50 years. Some friends said that it is O.K. Last season, we had a bumper potato and onion crops but the farmers did not get remunerative prices for their produce and therefore suffered heavy financial losses. I know about Himachal Pradesh. Potatoes worth crores of rupees got rotten compelling the farmers to resort to agitation. The then Congress Government lathicharged the mob and put the agitating farmers behind the bars.

The farmers thought that if they had to go to jail for producing more potatoes then why should they grow potatoes. In fact, what happens is that one year, there is bumper crop but there are no adequate arrangements for its storage and marketing when it happens the next year, the farmers grow less crops resulting in less production. Therefore, there is lack of a definite policy in this regard as also there is no scientific system as to which crop to grow and at what time and if there is high production then how to make scientific arrangement for its processing, storage and marketing. The discredit for it goes to the Congress Government's long misrule that the one year the farmer suffers for producing more and the next year, the consumer suffers due to high price rise. This aspect needs to be taken care of. In last 40-45 years fruits and vegetables worth 23 thousand crores of rupees have gets perished for want of adequate storage and marketing facilities.

18.14 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

This situation has not developed in these eight months. These facilities should have been made available much earlier. With the advancement in the field of preservation technology, the perishable commodities can be started for a longer period. Peas can be preserved after dehydration and likewise paste of tomatoes can be preserved then why did the arrangements for preservation

of tomatoes and onion could not be made. Who is responsible for it. Putting the entire blame on the nine month Government is not justified at all. The previous Government did not do any long term planning in this regard due to which such a situation has been created. One thing has been often said that export of these commodities should have been stopped and these items should have been imported to meet the shortfall. If some lapse has taken place in this regard then we are prepared to admit it. But the export deals finalised by the Government, can not be terminated. This fact will be probed and Hon'ble Minister would clarify on it. If there were some such deal then it was required to carry them on. But the Government did made efforts to stop the exports and carry on imports.

In fact, what is required is that a well defined system should be evolved for preservation and storage of fruits and vegetables. The agricultural Ministry propose to constitute a vegetable technology Mission. I have read it in the newspaper I congratulate the Minister of Agriculture for it. This is also the need of the hour that a scientific scheme should be formulated for storage, marketing and processing of agriculture production so as to prevent recurrence of such a situation.

The Government had issued orders for import of onion and imports were made. The consignment reached the ports but there were no arrangements for transportation for want of adequate infrastructural arrangements. One of the reasons was damage caused to the Kandla port due to cyclone. In fact, creating infrastructure was the responsibility of the Government ruling for last 45 years.

Therefore, the unprecedented price-rise, crumbling of the economy is not and can not be the result of 8-9 months rule rather it is the result of management and wrong policies of 45 years long rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : Their Government fell due to reducing the support price of apple what would they speak ...*(Interruptions)* They had reduced the price of apple. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : The Governments come and go. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : They were given a befitting reply for bringing down the support price of apple. This is known to all in the country. ...*(Interruptions)* This is no secret. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The apple tastes good. Therefore, the price of apple was brought down.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : We need to ponder over that basic issue that the wrong policies of the Congress

Party's 50 year long rule have played havoc with the economic set-up of the country. What I have experienced is that the administrative expenditure has gone up so high that it has adversely affected the economic set-up and inflation. In last 10 years, the administrative expenditure has increased from 76 thousand crores of rupees to 2 lakh crores of rupees. Only 64 thousand crores of rupees are being spent on development. The allocation for development has reduced from 64 per cent to 51 percent and non developmental expenditure has gone up from 36 per cent to 48 per cent. The Congress Government has added to the non-planned expenditure and wasteful expenditure in its 40-50 years rule. This has cast very adverse impact on our economy, increased inflation and price-rise. Crore of rupees invested in the public sector is turning out to be big national loss. The 6 lakh crores loan and interest being paid thereon has caused a situation of bankruptcy. Things going on in last 40-50 years and the cases of corruption reported in last 10 years involve a sum of 20-25 thousand crores of rupees. As per the 'India Today' magazine 95 thousand crops of rupees are deposited in secret Bank accounts abroad. There are the reasons which have crumbed our economic set up and which are responsible for the prevailing high price-rise. I would like to emphasis again that only nine month old Government can not be held responsible for the present price-rise.

You are talking about hoarding. One things is clear that there is no question that this Government would extend it's support to such type of people in any manner. When this is talked about this Government in this country, not any of the class could be held wrong, but action should be taken against the hoarders. Today, all the members who are present here, are talking about the hoarder, but what action they have taken in their respective States, where they are in power? Why did they not take any action there? Hoarding is not the single cause for this whole gamut of price-rise. The reasons which can be held responsible for this price-rise are the wrong policy followed during the last forty years, administrative burden, bad weather and less production in 1997-98. It is entirely wrong to hold responsible only BJP for it.

I want to make only one submission to you. Another matter of concern is that levelling allegations and counter allegations will not solve the problems. There is need to make fundamental changes mainly in the financial machinery of the country. This is the out-come of the policies adopted during the last forty years. This is not outcome of the policies pursued during the last nine months only and entire responsibility lies on Government which was in power at that time. Today so many friends are saying that increase in population is also one of the

reasons. The population has increased but no efforts are made to check it. These are the basic points, which should be discussed in the House above party-line only levelling allegation and counter allegations would not work here.

With these words I would like to reiterate that this Government do not shirk its responsibility it has made all its efforts. Whatever they have sown during the forty years, the country is harvesting the same. Whatever circumstances prevail today, these are all because of their policies and the results of the fundamental changes which our Government has made would be seen in the future.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the views expressed by Shri Rajesh Pilot regarding the price-hike of essential commodities.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : In support of price-rise?

SHRI RAJO SINGH : On rising prices, it is called price rise. It may not be popular in Chandigarh, you can ask the hon'ble Minister of Finance.

Today B.J.P. is in the power and I call when this Government took charge after taking oath and we came to this House they were so much enthusiastic that they usually look at us with disrespect and used to think that our position, particularly of Congress, has deteriorated and they used to say that people have rejected them. I would like to know from the Government through you that the enthusiasm they have on the day they entered this House has gone on the day of 30th November. I do not have to say anything to you in this regard. What the poor people of this country should eat? It does not make any difference, whether the poor people living in Uttar-Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Rajasthan, West-Bengal or Orissa, particularly northern region used to take a small onion with their food. Similarly, the mothers belonging to the poor sections used to apply mustard oil for massaging their children so that the bones of their children could get strength and enjoy a sound health. Now also they are using mustard oil. I am surprised at the speech made by our friend, who had been the Chief-Minister of Himachal Pradesh and have vast administrative experience is saying that the production has declined. I do agree with him. But I do not understand as in which area the production has declined. Whether the production of pulses, vegetables, mustard or potato has declined. If at all it has decline then how, these thing are being sold in the market at higher prices despite decline in their production? If the production was less then whether the onion was exported during Congress regime due to which there was a loss of 600 crore rupees. In whose pocket the money

[Shri Rajo Singh]

of poor has gone? If I say that the money has been swindled in it, it may not be wrong. After all, at what grounds you have said all that? You got the experience that we had made during the last fifty years and rule the country, then why did not you take timely steps to rectify it.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : It will take time.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : How much time it will take? Why did you export onion when it was being sold here at seven rupees per Kg. Sharma ji has left the House. We considered Shri Sharma as your spokesman. We were hopeful that he would be given second position in the cabinet. But I don't know as to which group he belongs. At present B.J.P. is in the grip of groupism. You have tried to defeat each other. The former Chief Minister of Delhi and other leaders have also admitted that they have been defeated by their own party men. Whether Congress had any hand in it? You have cautioned the people against consuming mustard oil as it was adulterated and could cause a disease and assured them to get it probed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Hon. Rajo Singh is himself a farmer. He said that it was being sold at rupees seven per Kg. then as to why it was exported. If we would not have exported it at that time, then not a single customer would have come forward to purchase it even at the rate of one rupee per Kg. It was last to last year that the yield of potato and onion was abundant and it got rotten. Only because of less rate last year it was sown in less quantity and result thereof was that its production was less. If the onion had not been exported at that time it could have rotten as it is not such an item which can be stored for two years.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Our Minister of State of Agriculture is considered as an expert in parliamentary affairs. I have been elected to this House for the first time but I am aware of his activities. We are in the opposition when you give reply please tell us, as to why do you take our time.

SHRI SOMPAL : I have taken it with your permission.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : That is why I have taken my seat. If a personality like you is on his legs, it would be against the parliamentary traditions to continue ones speech. I asked a question on 1.12.98. What reply, have you given to it? These are your figures, not ours. In reply to the question no. 22, it has been stated that the price of rice was Rs. 9.50 per kg. in 1995 and it rose upto Rs. 11 per kg in November 1998. Gram was at Rs. 15.50 per kg in 1995 which become Rs. 20 per kg

in November 1998. Arhar pulse was Rs. 31 per kg in 1995 and it become Rs. 41 per kg in 1998. Potato was Rs. 8 per kg in 1995. If you have heard enough of potato and onions, then look at the prices of tea. The tea was 80 per kg. in 1995 and today in November 1998 it is Rs. 110 per kg. Is it not a hike? Has the production of tea has decreased. What had happened in Assam and Darjeeling? Did it rain? Minister of Agriculture has said that onions got rotten. Who was responsible for that?

In our locality one Nawab Saheb had an English friend. One day, when the English man was having meal with Nawab Saheb, he asked how many Children he had got? Nawab Saheb said that I would call the Munshi Ji and ask him. He asked the Munshi Ji that how many children he had got? Munshi Ji said that we should call the tailor and ask him. The tailor also told that he did not know the number of children but he could tell the number of cloths sewed. In this way, servants were also included as has children. Similarly to whom belonged the potato? Who was the owner of onions? Mr. Chairman, Sir, whether they were the owner or not? You have not proved to be a good manager. You have formed the Government. When you come on 30th then there was a sign of disappointment over your face. You were trying to smile but you got a blow in Rajasthan, not by a gun but through ballot. It was such a blow that you turned pale. What was the position in Delhi? We were talking to a Minister in a meeting of a committee, I enquired about results. He said that there will be minor changes but we will form the Government at all three places. This poll is revealing that you have lost at all three places. There might had been some chances for winning in Madhya Pradesh.

Barnala ji, you had been considered a good administrator but you cease to be considered so. First of all I had suggested the Essential Commodities Act to be referred to the select committee. You have committed a mistake by bringing that Bill. On that day also I had said that this Bill should not have come forth. When you brought the Bill it proved to be moral booster for hoarders. You become their protector thus they stopped fearing. I have a great respect for you and Prime Minister ji.

We could not work like this in democracy. Whom you have protected? You used to say that we would provide a stable Government. Far from providing a stable Government you could not sleep during nights without taking sleeping pills or you sleep pleasantly only after taking medicine from the doctor. You are having sleepless nights because Mamta Banerjee might get annoyed, people from Samata Party might not get annoyed. George might not speak something against the B.J.P., Shiv Sena people might not get annoyed or the high command from Mumbai might not take any decision against you. What I mean to say that you are afraid.

Our friend Shri Vaiko is present in the House. I had visited his constituency, I had seen many of his photographs in committee. Three Ministers attended a marriage at his residence. Why so? You visit your MP's residence. They have attended the marriage of Mr. Vaiko's son or daughter only out of fear. Was there any past acquaintance? Vajpayee Ji, Home Minister and other Minister had gone. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : This is not a good remark. Shri Sharad Pawar also wanted to come for the wedding. It is due to love and affection.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : There is nothing personal. I want to say something to him.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Rajo Singh Ji, whoever attends a wedding, he does it out of fear, personal relations are nothing. According to you, who ever attends a wedding, only out of fear he should attend it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH : You please sit down. Do not disturb me. I want to say that many invitation cards might have come to them, I also have got many. But the situation is different. You are afraid and under pressure from allies. If the BJP has got $\frac{2}{3}$ rd majority, I do not have any objection. I am also an elected member of this House. You should have stayed for five years in power and we also have stayed here and would have raised the voice of the people of my constituency here. There might not have been any difficulty. You are in great danger. You have lost your balance and a big group is taking shape and there is a total Chaos. You just expand the cabinet and see. Therefore I want to say that you have got a chance, stay as long as you can, there is no hindrance from our side. Our leader have said that we donot want to topple your Government, we want to put a vigil on your deeds and we are doing it. It is not our kindness, the public should be kind. You are routed in three States. You were supposing that Congress would be routed but you have been side lined. I want to say to Barnala Ji very politely that if you want to control this problem withdraw this Bill and bring forth the earlier Bill. Then only you can control the situation.

You want to make arrangement for the goods. I have seen the statement of the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sompal ji. He has said that we will construct a godown with the capacity of two thousand metric ton in every block. What will you keep in these godowns, whether they will be for only foodgrains or for potatoes. In my

opinion you should arrange in such a manner that it should also accommodate vegetables. I had led a committee of legislative assembly to Maharashtra, at that time Mr. Nayak was the Chief Minister. I asked him, what is the job of a Market Committee? He told-when-ever the prices of vegetables go up by 2, 4 or 6 anna then we direct the Market Committee to enter into the market and flood the market with vegetables so that prices should not go up. It brings the prices back to normalcy. I would like to ask whether you can not make an arrangement like this? Why you have not made similar arrangements? You were aware that the prices of edible oils are going to rise, other goods will be costlier, but you remain unmoved. What you have done is that you sold the same goods in the market after putting a seal on it. When your wishes were fulfilled, because at that time elections were at hand, you received donation, then you lifted the ban imposed on the oil companies. Mr. Yashwant ji who is sitting here is aware of an incident of my constituency Begusarai. A Civil servant has seized edible oil in Delhi which is still lying unused. He was a trader from Delhi who was carrying oil to Purnea and Darjeeling. All the oil was seized by the collector and the S.P. That oil is lying there till date. We have said that the oil should be auctioned so that the poor could be benefited but you could not arrange for that also.

Mr. Finance Minister, do not trust bureaucracy. The bureaucracy has knocked us down and in these 50 years brought us to this share. When it did not allow the most experienced Finance Ministers to succeed, how can it allow you? When somebody rides the horse, the horse makes his own assessment about the rider as to how strong and adept the rider is. This bureaucracy would not let you function freely. We would go but the Deputy Secretary would rise to become Secretary. The Home Secretary at the time of the Congress rule continued in the Janta Dal regime and is also continuing under Advaniji. How wonderful! This tradition has to be done away with. The people who come in public life and get elected to Parliament and State Assemblies have great accountability. We are accountable to people. That is why we will have to contemplate over it.

Mr. Finance Minister, you keep introducing Bills month after month. The finance constraint does not impede you, you present it to augment it. Salary of such and such officer should be hiked. Salary of which officer should be increased there. He has retired. He should get the increase from 1996. The Member of Parliament was allocated one crore of rupees, which was given by the Congress. Are you not aware that the rate of brick, rod has increased, labour charges have increased? Then you speak of doing service to the society. The rate of development has increased, how it has increased? It must

[Shri Rajo Singh]

be on your papers. Roads are broken and damaged, money is not available. Our Members had requested to increase it to two crores. This money does not go into an M.P.'s pocket. It was published in all the newspapers that an M.P. gets two crores of rupee for the development work in addition to the fifty thousand rupees that they get in the form of pay and allowances. Who is getting so much? Let some M.P. give us the account as to how much we draw per month. What is the cost of tea? Shri Barmalaji, when somebody comes to your house you might be serving him tea and the payment is made through your contingency. Since you are Minister, you might not be knowing that how much is spent over tea. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : We do not draw from there.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Thank you very much if you do not draw. You have been a Chief Minister. You know everything. I want to say that when some people from the constituency of the M.P. visit him he, serves them tea. One day I called on Mr. Finance Minister and he served tea to the people. If we calculate the amount that could have been spent on it. ...*(Interruptions)* The tea that Dr. Shakilji served to his guest was for Rs. 70. Are you not aware of these hiked prices? When you go to Chandigarh by car how much do you spend on tea in the hotel on your way. How much did it cost ten years back? You are a practical man. Every body has a rural background. Try to perceive the reality. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, they should control the prices otherwise they can not thrive. However much they may back up themselves but they are not going to remain in power. You asked to hold an inquiry, what for. We have the old act and have the new one also, what is to be looked into. While he was getting seven years imprisonment they got it reduced. Fine used to be imposed, Marketing Inspector used to check. Trade unionists are also there in your party.

We had heard that a organisation is a family, but today another Sangh has grown to become a family which gives it's advice everywhere. Barmalaji, do not follow their advice. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Traders from Tamil Nadu came yesterday and you and Congressmen went there to give a speech.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : There is nothing wrong to remain in an organisation. We would volunteer to remain

in your place. It is very useful to work with Labour and Trade Union, people are greatly helped.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : You become, in Bihar.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Who will make us. B.J.P. means without water and power. Neither power nor water is available in your State. We want to take bath at 6 a.m. in the morning and we don't even get water in Delhi such kind of arrangements you have made in Delhi. I would like to make a request. You are not fit to rule. Nature too bestows water and power for 9 months and you have completed 9 months, you better step down. Let the elections be over, the destined will come forth.

(English)

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul) : Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity for speaking on this debate. During the last three months, the country has been experiencing price rise of several essential commodities. Since the common man is worst hit by the price rise, it is our duty to sit and deliberate on this issue. The Central and also the State Governments owe a duty to all the citizens to protect their interest and to provide them essential commodities at a reasonable price.

During the recent Assembly elections, the hero was no political leader but onion, whose price went up to Rs. 60 per kilogram. The BJP Government in Delhi took commendable steps and provided onions at the rate of Rs. 10 per kilogram through cooperative outlets. I am sorry to say that only middlemen are involved in moving surplus commodities from one place to another for their personal gains. The traders' lobby is largely responsible for price rise of commodities, by way of hoarding and creating artificial scarcity. It was seen recently when salt was sold at Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 per kilogram in certain areas of Delhi for a day or two. Both the Central and the Delhi Governments rose to the occasion and put an end to the rumours of shortage and the problem of shortage was solved.

Sir, inflation is another factor responsible for price rise. The decline in the value of a rupee in terms of purchasing power has crushed the common man. Seeing the plight of the poor, the Cabinet Committee on Prices took some important decisions on 15th October. Though delayed, the Conference of Chief Ministers convened by the Prime Minister on 27th November to check prices is a welcome step. The 11-point resolution adopted at the Conference would certainly go a long way in checking prices even in the distant future.

Sir, the frequent fluctuation in the share market is only the tip of the iceberg. Such a situation only creates artificial inflation and results in price rise. Though eight months is not a long period to judge the performance of a Government, the performance of the BJP-led coalition Government is quite satisfactory, unlike what some political parties make out.

The ultimate loser is the common man. Since the common man is going through a crucial phase, we owe a duty to lend our support to the Government led by hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

On behalf of the AIADMK Party led by the Revolutionary Leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi J. Jayalalitha, I thank you very much. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, rising prices of a particular commodity is the concern of a few persons, whereas rising prices of essential commodities are not only the concern of the Opposition and the Government, but also the concern of each and every citizen of India. Nine hundred and fifty million citizens of India have to bear the brunt of this price hike.

Sir, during the old days, the rationalist and the reformer, Periyar Ramasamy used to compare silly things in politics with 'vengayam'. What is known as 'onions' in English is called 'vengayam' in Tamil. At that time, he did not think that a time will come when there will be a discussion on the floor of the Indian Parliament about a particular commodity called 'onions'. He has not denigrated this vegetable. But during his time, this vegetable was very cheap. Since it was very cheap, he compared the silly things with onions.

Sir, who is responsible for this price hike? Are you responsible or is the Opposition responsible for it? The responsibility lies with the Government. The responsibility for the price hike will definitely fall upon the party in power. Of course, in India, a coalition Government is in power. I am reminded of my own observations, in this august House, made during the discussion on the Confidence Motion. I had warned this Government that they have to be careful while deciding the things, and in having harmonious relationship with their own friends. My words have come true today. No doubt, they want to be in power. They want to have a very close association with their allies and in keeping them in good humour. But at the same time, they have forgotten to keep the prices of essential commodities under check. They were not seeing eye to eye. In their thinking and decision-making, the Government was so careless, lethargic and negligent that there was not only an escalation in prices of essential commodities in the market, but it has also created scarcity and panic amongst the consumers. Is it

not true? In a way, onions have become a very explosive thing. Now-a-days, the intensity of the onion is more powerful than the nuclear bombs that were exploded in Pokhran-II.

Sir, this is a clear warning to this Government. This is a clear warning to those who are in the helm of affairs of this country now. It seems that the outbursts and anger of the consumers have brought down many State Governments. It has brought down the Government in Delhi. It has thrown the Government out of power in Rajasthan. It is the BJP who have re-established the Congress. The party in power is responsible for all these things.

Sir, when this Government took over Office during May, 1998, the price of onion was Rs. 10 per kilogram. In the month of August, it was Rs. 13 per kilogram. In the month of September, it was Rs. 23 per kilogram. In October it went up to Rs. 33 per kilogram. In the month of November, the prices of onions skyrocketed to Rs. 60 per kilogram.

Now, let me quote the percentage variation in comparative terms, that is the Wholesale Price Index, as it was, during the United Front Government and, as it was, during this Government. On 15.11.97, the percentage variation of onion was -2.4 per cent and on 14.11.98, the percentage variation of the WPI was 298.5 per cent. As far as potato is concerned, the WPI on 15.11.97 was -53.7 per cent and in 14.11.98, the percentage variation of potato was 375.1 per cent. As far as tomato is concerned, during the United Front Government it was 21 per cent whereas during the rule of this Government it was 55 per cent. In case of mustard oil, during the United Front Government it was -8.6 per cent and during this Government it is 80 per cent. For groundnut oil, during the United Front Government it was -2.1 per cent, whereas during this Government it is 26.7 per cent. In case of dry chilli, during the United Front Government it was -18.7 per cent whereas during this Government it is 30.4 per cent.

SHRI VAIKO : Would you yield for a minute?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : No, I am not yielding. You will have your own time to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : The United Front Government hiked the prices of petroleum products ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : This Government has not hiked the price of any commodity on its own. Thus, he has no right to criticise ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I am not yielding
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMED (Madhubani) : Sir, number of times I have requested the Chair to change their seats. Any untoward incident can happen any day.

[English]

They are sitting dangerously close to each other.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Please do not divert the issue. This is the issue regarding the price situation in the country.
...(Interruptions) This Government has not done anything to hike prices on its own. The United Front Government hiked the price of the petroleum products causing hardship to the common man ... (Interruptions) They have no moral right to criticise the Government ... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, there have been market fluctuations. The market fluctuations became very abnormal and this clearly shows the incompetency of the people in power. The mistake lies with the people in power.

Sir, who are these people? I would not hesitate to call white a white. My friend, Shri Sompal, the hon. Minister for Agriculture and the hon. Finance Minister are sitting here, for whom I have got the highest regards. The hon. Member, Shri Rajo Singh has just now pointed out that this might have been caused because of the bureaucrats, or maybe, because of the maladministration of this Government or because of the Ministry of Commerce. I would like to hold some of the Ministries—the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation and the Department of Consumer Affairs—responsible for this, but I would like to come to that a little later. I would like to quote them one by one.

On the 17th of August, the Ministry of Commerce asked NAFED, through the Ministry of Agriculture, not to export onions.

19.00 hrs.

On 21st September, 1998, NAFED applied for licence to import on a white paper.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please conclude.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : If you want, I will continue tomorrow.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Sir, let him continue tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude within a minute or two.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, on 23rd September, the Department of Consumer Affairs instructs NAFED not to go for imports of onion until they are given a go ahead and says that anything imported otherwise would be at NAFED's own risk. This was stated by the Department of Consumer Affairs. On 24th September, the Ministry of Commerce instructs NAFED to send an application for import on a form at ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMED : Chairman Sir, It is seven o'clock. Please, conclude the proceedings of the House.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : On 28th September, 1998, NAFED prepares an application to import on a plain paper.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, let him conclude tomorrow.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu will continue tomorrow.

The House now stands adjourned till eleven of the clock on Friday, 4th December, 1998.

19.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 4, 1998/Agrahayana 13, 1920 (Saka).