

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Fourteenth Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

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## CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXVII, Fourteenth Session, 2003/1925 (Saka)]

No. 3, Thursday, December 4, 2003/Agrahayana 13, 1925 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 41, 43, 44, 46, 47 and 50.....	2—32
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 42, 45, 48, 49 and 51—60 .....	32—60
Unstarred Question Nos. 372—601 .....	60—375
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE .....	375—377
COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS	
Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth Reports.....	378
COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE	
Minutes .....	378
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
Fifty-Sixth Report .....	378
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 .....	378—386
(i) Need to re-define Manjhi (Manjhwari) caste in view of its various sub-castes in Madhya Pradesh for inclusion in list of Scheduled Tribes	
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya .....	379
(ii) Need to include Santhali and Bodo languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution	
Shri Salkhan Murnu .....	379
(iii) Need to expedite construction of Rail Over-bridge at Ghatkopar, Mumbai and other FOBs by Central Railways' in Maharashtra	
Shri Kirit Somaiya.....	380
(iv) Need to provide adequate outlets for smooth drainage of water across National Highway No. 8 at Hond Village in Novasari district, Gujarat	
Shri Mansinh Patel .....	380
(v) Need to sanction adequate funds for setting up hostels for benefit of tribal girls in Gajapati district, Orissa	
Shri Anadi Sahu .....	380—381

\*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(vi) Need to restore concessional tariff to rural landline telephone subscribers in Dakshina Kannada Telecom district Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake .....	381
(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Kamataka for establishing a Modern Training Institute and Research Centre for drivers at Hassan, Kamataka Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda .....	381—382
(viii) Need to expedite setting up of a LPT Maintenance Centre at Adoor, Kerala Shri Kodikunnil Suresh .....	382
(ix) Need to open a single window facility in Kerala for attestation of educational certificates of candidates seeking jobs in Gulf countries Shri P. Rajendran .....	383
(x) Need to provide additional grants to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to meet the goal of Education for all by 2006 Dr. Manda Jagannath .....	383
(xi) Need to run Kaifiat Express from Mau Junction in U.P. Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan .....	384
(xii) Need to enhance the rates of royalty on non-coal major minerals Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab .....	384—385
(xiii) Need to introduce a new route linking Ladakh with Mt. Kailash and Mansarovar by negotiating with the Chinese authorities Dr. Nitish Sengupta .....	385
(xiv) Need to rationalize telephone rentals for rural and urban areas in the country Shrimati Nivedita Mane .....	385
(xv) Need to improve the service conditions of the employees of Regional Rural Banks Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal .....	385—386
<b>OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER</b>	
RE: Notices of Motion for Adjournment .....	387—404



# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 4, 2003/Agrahayana 13, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker Sir, we have given a notice for suspension of the Question Hour...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday you said about the admissibility of a subject in the House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Yesterday in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee it was decided that the question hour will be held today and I am ready to listen to your views on the Adjournment Motion after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what happened to the Assam issue?

MR. SPEAKER: I will tell you after the Question Hour as to what decision was taken with regard to the Assam issue in the Business Advisory Committee.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what happened to the Daman issue?

MR. SPEAKER: The subject of Daman is also very serious and I am going to allow discussion on it. Now you sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Speaker, Sir...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yadavji, you speak after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down.

[English]

No Politics please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we have given a notice for suspension of the Question Hour...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Yesterday also this issue was raised but you gave a ruling on it. This is not a matter of Assam and Bihar alone but of entire country. The incidents of this kind are taking place in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur and Assam etc....(Interruptions) This is the question of country's integrity...(Interruptions) Hence I want that the time be fixed for holding discussion on this subject...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will fix the time for it after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must give a ruling in this regard...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Question No.—41 Shri Sunil Khan.

...(Interruptions)

11.04 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Maintenance of Railway Tracks

\*41. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether contracts have been given to any foreign company for maintaining railway tracks;

(b) if so, the details of the sectors for which the contract has been given; and

(c) the reason for awarding the contract to foreign companies?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that three lakh gangmen are already cut down from the Railways and you are giving the work to the local contractors who have no knowledge of renewal of tracks. As a result of that, a lot of accidents are taking place. Earlier it was done by the employees of Railways with the help of gangmen who were experts in renewal of tracks.

Secondly, I would like to know whether the Central Government will provide a one-time settlement to the Railways so that the arrears in the renewal of tracks, bridges, rolling stocks and signalling gears are worked out within a span of five years. The recommendation has since been accepted and a non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund amounting to Rs. 17,000 crore for liquidating arrears for replacement of assets has been set up in 2001-2002.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the original question of the hon. Member was as to whether any foreign company has been given the work of railway track maintenance. The reply in that regard has been given but the hon. Member wants to know whether the work of track maintenance earlier used to be done by the railway gangmen has now been given to the contractors. However, I would like to tell him that this is not the case. Only those jobs which are not included in the nature of job to be performed by gangmen have always been given to the contractors. There is nothing new in it and it is not so that the works that used to be assigned to the gangmen are now being done through contractors. Second thing is that as the structure of track is gradually changing and we are shifting to the concrete sleepers, more attention towards the mechanised maintenance is being paid and it is being increased gradually. However, full attention is being paid to ensure that the jobs that were traditionally assigned to railway staff including gangmen are not assigned to the outside agencies so

that performance of the existing staff may not get adversely affected.

Second thing which has been mentioned by him is that Government of India should give one time guarantee. In this regard I would like to say that a Railway Safety Fund was set up w.e.f. October, 2001 and it is the third year since then and the work of track renewal, bridge replacement and signal and telecommunications is being done through this fund.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will it be done within a short span of five years?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The time span of five to seven years has been fixed in this regard.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: The work of track renewal was being done by the gangmen who are experts in this work. That work is taken over by the contractors who do not have the requisite expertise. Are they doing that work taking all the safety measures? If so, why are accidents taking place as before?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have already stated that the gangmen are doing their traditional job and only the specialised jobs which since beginning are being given to contractors are given to them.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: In that case, why are accidents taking place as before? Accidents were taking place before also. More number of accidents are taking place now. Why has the number of accidents not come down?

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I would like to know as to how many rails have been replaced during the track renewal in the last three years alongwith the cost thereof and the procedure of their disposal?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Though this question is not directly related to the original question as the hon.

Member wants to know the number of rails removed and the cost thereof. I can provide information in his regard separately. However, the removed tracks are utilised in two ways either they are used in yards or other places or they are declared as scrap and the money mobilised through its sale...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I would also like to know the quantum of so called scrap being obtained and what is the procedure of its disposal?

*[English]*

Let him not give the figures, let him only say what the procedure for disposing of discarded rails is. I would like to know only the procedure part.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know about the procedure only.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is sold as scrap through auction. There are certain provisions in this regard and the money mobilised through this process is utilised for laying new railway line, gauge conversion and the track renewal wherein the money component mobilised through scrap disposal i.e. b is also merged into the fresh allocation i.e. a, hence total expenditure comes to a+b. If any separate question about the scrap disposal is asked I would reply it.

*[English]*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, track maintenance carried out, either by a contractor or by the gangmen, is mostly related to track system which is going on. The Railways have got mechanised track maintenance machines also. It has always been noticed that wherever track maintenance initially is given to the contractor, the laying of the sleepers which should be done in a straight line is done in an angular form. The question which arises then is that of the mechanised machines, which Railways have purchased from different countries for maintenance of these tracks, which cannot be used because the track is an angular one. Will you take any action to see as to why these machines have been purchased? These are there in certain Railways. I can point out that Central Railway has many of these machines and they are lying idle. They are lying idle only for the reason that the track should be in a straight line whereas it is an angular one. Is the Minister going to look into this matter?

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said that the track structure that we are adopting require mechanical maintenance instead of the manual maintenance. For instance earlier there were wooden sleepers and the packing of wooden sleepers could be easily done by gangmen. As the concrete sleepers are heavy, their packaging requires mechanized maintenance. Similarly track lying is also done mechanically and these are a separate set of instruments for doing it. All this is done but he has pointed out one interesting thing about angulars. I think he is talking about covers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: The sleeper should be a straight one. If it is made a bit angular, machines won't be successful there. It is so in several places...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is a new information for me. If the information is correct, I would hold a thorough inquiry into it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: You can order inquiry into it if you want so. You would come to know as to how many hours machines work and you will also come to know as to why they are lying idle?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Q.No. 43—Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen.

#### Financial Status of State Electricity Boards

+  
\*43. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest financial status of each State Electricity Board as on last month;

(b) the details of money due to SEBs payable by the respective State Governments/Union Territories;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to help them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

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

**Statement**

(a) As per the latest annual report of the Planning Commission on the working of State Electricity Boards the commercial losses (without subsidy) of the SEBs increased from Rs. 4560 crore in 1992-93 to Rs. 25259 crore in 2000-01 and were projected to increase to

Rs. 33177 crore in 2001-02. State-wise details are given in enclosed Annexure.

(b) The State Governments/Union Territories have been requested to give the details of money payable by them to their SEBs. The information will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it becomes available.

(c) The dues payable to SEBs by the State Governments on account of supply of electricity to Government departments as well as subsidy are issues between the SEBs and their State Governments in which the Union Government has no role to play.

(d) Does not arise.

**Annexure**

**Commercial profit/loss of SEBs  
(without subsidy)**

SEBs		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	(Prov.)	(RE)	(Prov.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-4	-23	-981	-1255	-939	-1376	-2679	-3117	-2559	-2820
2.	Assam	-205	-197	-255	-261	-244	-439	-322	-214	-379	-370
3.	Bihar	-280	-190	-189	-211	-442	-495	-605	-511	-670	-753
4.	Delhi (DVB)	-207	-	0	-578	-626	-760	-1039	-1103	-1055	-1092
5.	Gujarat	-519	-493	-550	-1003	-952	-1364	-2039	-3778	-3920	-3491
6.	Haryana	-404	-507	-468	-554	-635	-765	-704	-1274	-1960	-1949
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2	-51	19	11	19	-33	-88	-206	-92	-48
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	-225	-293	-347	-363	-507	-661	-835	-793	-990	-1141
9.	Karnataka	-19	-2	-164	-502	-652	-332	-847	-975	-1675	-2340
10.	Kerala	-65	-75	-129	-183	-208	-199	-411	-646	-1129	-1354
11.	Madhya Pradesh	-493	-377	-594	-602	-464	-1058	-2655	-3151	-3264	-3682
12.	Maharashtra	162	189	276	-408	-92	-11	160	-1479	-1404	-3527
13.	Meghalaya	-8	-3	-21	-20	-15	-26	-50	-53	-44	-49
14.	Orissa	-85	-196	-136	-231	-375	-392	-538	-187	-216	-230
15.	Punjab	-626	-693	-681	-644	-603	-943	-1354	-2113	-1477	-1633
16.	Rajasthan (Transco)	-260	-415	-412	-430	-498	-640	-1331	-1899	615	-2412
17.	Tamil Nadu	-258	-302	-2	-77	-257	-296	-741	-1442	-1447	-2510

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
18.	Uttar Pradesh	-808	-1202	-1152	-1136	-3378	-3682	-3682	-2596	-2534	-2687
19.	West Bengal	-258	-231	-339	-332	-387	-492	-1089	-842	-1059	-1086
	Total	-4560	-5060	-6125	-8770	-11305	-13963	-20860	-26353	-25259	33177

Source: Planning Commission document.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, sir, statement is laid on the table. I request you to take up question no. 43 and 53 together, as they are of same nature.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as Question No. 53 is similar to Question No. 43, on the request of the hon. Minister, I am taking up both the Questions together.

Shrimati Rajkumari Ratna Singh—Not present

Dr. M.P. Jaiswal—Not present.

As none of the questioners to Question No. 53 is present, these Questions cannot be clubbed together.

[Translation]

Shrimati Rajkumari Ratna Singh and Shri Jaiswal both are not present in the House, so question no. 53 cannot be taken up with it.

[English]

Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen, you may ask your Supplementary now.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Sir, as per the figures given by the hon. Minister, the commercial loss in the SEBs is on the constant rise. It has gone up from Rs. 4,500 crore to Rs. 33,000 crore as projected for the year 2003. In spite of all the measures taken by the Government by signing the MoUs and MoAs, and getting the Chartered Accountants' services for accounting of these SEBs and other efforts made by the Central Government, the commercial loss of the SEBs is rising. I would like to know from the hon. Minister precisely what are the proposals before the Government for improvement in this field, and what are the proposals by which the Central Government can support the States in coming out of this troublesome situation.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the combined annual loss of all the State Electricity Boards stands at around Rs. 30,000 crore. State Governments are pointed out the need to lessen this huge loss. State Governments are trying to make efforts in that direction. Situation has somewhat improved in the last two years. Losses have come down by Rs. 4600 crore two years ago. Mainly four states, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan have achieved success in this regard. In the previous year, that is 2002-2003, the losses have come down by Rs. 4700 crore. In this, ten States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been chief contributors. Thus, the losses of state electricity boards have been coming down in the last two years.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir hon'ble Minister said that situation is improving, but the figures show that the Khasara project outlay has increased from Rs. 4500 crore to 30,000 crore. It may well be that the situation has been improving but I would like to ask you a specific question regarding Jammu and Kashmir, which has constantly been a deficit state. I would like to know from the Government whether it has any proposal to evolve a formula to compensate the loss state has suffered as a result of Indus Water Treaty?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is a bit different. Hon. Member has sought the information specifically about Jammu and Kashmir. He would certainly be given this information.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he has any such information that the funds being allocated by the centre for State Electricity Boards under various schemes like AP, DRP etc. is not provided to the State Electricity Boards directly instead it is diverted to other Heads? Is he trying to devise ways to avert this trend?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the original question relates to the losses being incurred by the State Electricity Boards and the arrears of State Government against them. Despite hon'ble Member has asked a question regarding AP, DRP scheme. Such complaints are being received from other States also that the funds allocated to the State Governments under various schemes for SEB's are diverted to other Heads and those funds are not being given to the SEB's on time. Hence the State Governments are constantly being reminded that the funds being provided by the Union Government to the State Government under various schemes like AP, DRP etc. be immediately given to the State Electricity Boards. As this fund is being allocated as budgetary support, this is being provided by the Ministry of Finance. Hence it is our responsibility to provide it to the State Government only. However, with the consent of the State Government funds being provided under AP, DRP can be given to the State Electricity Boards directly.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: The funds being given by the Centre to the Maharashtra Government are being spent to the lawyers fighting Telgi case...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the problem of electricity has to be resolved by the Union Government and the State Government. There was a target of generating 48,000 MW power in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan but the target couldn't be achieved. The target was revised to bring it down to 28,000 MW and then to 20,000 MW but even that could not be achieved. Consequently there is a shortfall of power in every State. The Union Government are not doing anything in this regard and the states are lacking in funds to undertake the projects for power generation. I would like to know as to what is the policy of the Union Government to find ways to solve this problem. Neither the generation nor the industry can prosper for want of electricity and even the economic growth would come to a standstill. I would like to know as to what policy has been formulated by the Union Government to generate electricity at the targetted level by providing funds to the State Governments in this regard?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: This question is a bit different from the original question. The original question relates to the total losses being incurred by the State Electricity Boards and the assistance being provided by the Union Government to improve this situation?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I do not want to know the figures but about the policy.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Hence I am replying. Mr. Speaker, Sir, every State is facing power shortage today and the Union Government are executing hydroelectric as well as thermal power projects to meet this shortfall. The State Governments have also been given the option to enter into a partnership with the Union Government for setting up such projects but I find that maximum State Governments don't want to do so. Most of the State Governments demand that the Hydro-electric or thermal power projects be set up by the Union Government on its own to generate power and provide it to the State Governments. Such demand is being put forth by various State Governments and the Union Government are trying its best to generate additional power to meet this growing demand.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a very long list of questions. I can allow holding a discussion on it if you want so.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon. Minister has accepted that the States are in debts and the power arrangement is not upto the mark in the States. When Shri Suresh Prabhu was heading this portfolio, a meeting was held which was attended by several Members like Shri Raghuvansh Babu. When the issue of the State's outstanding dues to the Centre was being discussed, it was stated on behalf of Bihar that they were not in a position to pay its dues due to which the Central assistance was stopped and the power supply has been disrupted due to the non payment of dues for the last twenty years. Through you, I would like to know from him whether the Government had assured to provide special package to Bihar at the time of bifurcation of Bihar into Jharkhand in which the debts outstanding against Bihar was also proposed to be waived and whether the Government propose to streamline the power system in Bihar in doing so? If not, what are the reasons therefor. This is what I want to know, through you from the Government.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Instead of power there are lantern in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The Hon. Member has given information about situation in Bihar. There are some guidelines to implement the APDRP. The funds to the defaulting State under the scheme are stopped. The State Governments should try not to default even then almost all the schemes under APDRP are being run in Bihar and the funds have been allocated in regard thereto.

**SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have yet to get the reply of my question. I have asked as to whether or not the Government want to streamline the power sector in Bihar by providing the special package proposed to be given to Bihar and by waiving the debts outstanding against Bihar due to be paid to the Centre. The hon. Minister has failed to say anything in this regard. Through you, I would like to know as to what is the reaction of the hon. Minister in this regard so that the country could come to know about the Centre's attitude towards Bihar.

**SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:** The Centre is willing to provide assistance to Bihar. The Union Government are providing assistance and co-operation to the States in all sectors. Therefore, all the possible schemes under APDRP are being implemented in Bihar and the required funds are also being allocated in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:** From the statement given by the Minister in regard to the losses of SEBs, it is clear that year after year the losses of SEBs have increased even in those States where reforms in electricity and power sector were started in the year 1997-98. The hon. Minister has stated that last year the losses had been reduced by approximately 4000 MW. What measures those States, which could reduce losses, took to reduce the losses and what are the reasons for reduction in losses?

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, incentive schemes are being run under APDRP to reduce the losses of the State Electricity Boards under which the State Electricity Boards reducing their losses will be given 50 per cent funds as incentive by the Government of India. The main cause of the losses being incurred to SEB's is the power theft besides the transmission losses. Since the enactment of the Electricity Act, 2003, all the State Governments have been directed to make stringent laws to check the power theft. Several states especially West Bengal have enacted and implemented such laws and good results are there to be seen. The power theft has come down there, outstanding dues are also being reduced and the revenue earning has also increased.

**SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:** The proposal of setting up a gas based power plant in Piprapot to streamline the power supply in Gujarat and to lesser the losses of

Gujarat Electricity Boards has been pending with the Union Government for a long time. If the gas supply is ensured for that plant it can lead to reduction in the loss of the Electricity Boards besides providing adequate quantity of power to people of Gujarat. I would like to know from the Government as to by when the gas supply would be ensured to set up gas based plant in Gujarat?

**SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:** This question is not related to the original question. I will reply it if you ask separately.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:** Hon. Minister has not given enough information on Bihar. Hon. Minister is supposed to have the detailed information about the utilization of funds being provided by the Centre to the State whether it is being utilised there or not besides having information about the power generation potential of the State and whether or not the people of rural areas are getting proper supply of electricity. As far the losses to the State Electricity Boards are concerned as had been pointed out by Shri Prabhunath Singhji that at the time of division of Bihar, the Union Government had announced to provide a special package for Bihar and to waive off the debts of the Bihar Electricity Boards, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has sought information about it that whether funds being provided by the Centre to the State Government are spent under the specific scheme for which it is provided or it is diverted to some other scheme and whether the State Government retains such funds or they surrender it to the Central Government. I would also like to know whether the Government of India have taken any initiative in proposed waiving the debts of the Electricity Boards at the time of bifurcation of Bihar and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

**SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:** The schemes are being implemented in Bihar under APDRP. As far as the funds being provided by the Centre is concerned, the Bihar Government has entrusted the entire responsibility of completing all these schemes to the Power Grid Corporation of India. This way it is the responsibility of the State Government to ensure the completion of all the schemes being implemented by Power Grid Corporation under APDRP.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:** You are mixing both of them.

**SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:** Power Grid Corporation and NTPC both are the agencies of the power Ministry and they are responsible for monitoring of APDRP

scheme and giving suggestion and co-operation to the State Government. Both these responsibilities are borne by these two public sector undertakings. As Bihar comes under the jurisdiction of APDRP and all the schemes of APDRP that are being implemented in Bihar and for which funds have been allocated by the Centre will be implemented through the Power Grid Corporation.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:** What is the scheme for waiving the loans of the State Electricity Board?

**MR. SPEAKER:** If you want a detailed information on a subject, you can ask the question in that regard and reply would be given to your query.

**SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:** It is another thing that the responsibility has been entrusted to the Power Grid Corporation of India. The Planning Commission had sanctioned Rs. 365 crore for Power Grid Corporation though it is a separate thing that the Corporation is going to look after the transmission of power in Bihar. However, no reply to the question related to the State Electricity Board has been given so far. The Union Government had announced to provide a package to Bihar when it was being bifurcated. I would like to know whether the Government propose to waive the dues outstanding against Bihar in the interest of the State?

**SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:** The reply to it will be given when you ask a separate question in this regard.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Alright, now you sit down.

**SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:** We are not getting the reply of our questions.

**SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:** Transmission is a different job.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:** The question raised by my colleagues has not been replied.

**DR. M.P. JAISWAL:** Our question also be clubbed with it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** When I had taken up this question, I had suggested that your question also be dealt along with it but you were not present in the House. Hence, the question was not taken up.

**DR. M.P. JAISWAL:** My name was there along with Raj Kumari Ratna Singhji.

**SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:** My question was not replied.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister has said that let the question be asked, reply will be given.

**SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:** Announcement was made in this very House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister is unprepared to reply your question. He will reply next time. There is no problem in it, hence now you sit down.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:** It was announced in this House.

**SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:** The announcement was made for North Bihar. Planning Commission had given the funds.

**SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:** 60 percent rebate has been given in regard to the outstanding amount against Bihar due to be paid to the Ministry of Power. Despite outstanding amount has not been realised.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:** As far the waiving off loans is concerned...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** The hon. Minister has given whatever information he had. Hence you sit down because House can not be run like this.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:** The Government had made an announcement in the House when Bihar was bifurcated.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am on my legs, you sit down. It is not allowed to ask questions after question during the Question Hour. You asked twice and the hon. Minister has given whatever information was available with him. If you are not satisfied with the reply, Half-an-Half discussion can be held on the subject. I am ready to allow the discussion.

**SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:** All right.

*[English]*

**SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:** In view of the huge debt burden of the State Electricity Boards as well as new approach to the power reforms and also in view of the Tenth Plan targets for power generation in the country, may I know from the Minister how much is the expectation in the Tenth Plan so far as the power



generation is concerned, with the restructured SEBs which have started functioning in many States? What is the financial support that the Minister can inform the House would be ensured to the State Governments and the State Electricity Boards to achieve the targets of the Tenth Plan?

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the original question relates to the losses of the State Electricity Boards and amounts outstanding against the State Governments. Hon. Dasmunsiji is asking about power generation, his question will be replied if he asks it separately.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Mine was the original question but you did not allow me. It is unjust to me.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed ten supplementary questions on this question but it is not possible to allow more. You ask for holding Half-an-Half discussion on it and I am ready to allow it during the week itself. Please take your seat as you were not present in the House when your name was called. Now we take up Question No. 44.

#### Refining Capacity of Crude Oil

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\*44. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the installed capacity of refining crude oil in the country exceeds the requirement of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the exact position as on 31st March, 2003;

(c) whether LPG is imported to meet the requirement in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any time bound plan to become self reliant by augmenting LPG production in the country; and

(f) if so, the details of the said plan?

[English]

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

#### Statement

(a) to (f) As against the overall consumption of 104.126 million metric tonne (MMT) of petroleum products in the country during 2002-03, the total installed refining capacity, as on 31st March 2003, was 116.97 MMT per annum. The country presently imports LPG to meet part of the domestic requirement. 1.073 MMT of LPG was imported during 2002-03 as the domestic production of LPG was less than the total LPG requirement of 8.351 MMT of the country during the year. The setting up/ expansion of refineries has been delicensed since June 1998. The ongoing expansion of some of the existing refineries is expected to increase LPG production in the country.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping in view of the rising demand of petroleum products, the question of refining capacity of petroleum products in the country is of vital importance. In his reply, hon'ble Minister had stated that as on 31st March, 2003, our refining capacity is 116.97 million metric tonnes and the consumption of petroleum products in our country is 104.126 million metric tonnes. When our refining capacity is more than the consumption even then the petroleum products do not reach the people as per their requirement. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the annual production capacity of various petroleum products and their annual demand. And to what extent our annual production is able to fulfill our demand?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said and hon'ble Member has understood that the current refining capacity in our country stands at 117 million metric tonnes. Earlier we used to import petrol, diesel and LPG alongwith crude oil, but now entire refining is done within the country. We import only crude oil and add value to it to sell it in the form of diesel, petrol and LPG. Our capacity exceeds our requirement only by 10 percent which is not much. At present, 90 percent of our refineries are working to their capacity and in near future, in the tenth five year plan, we are going to add three new refineries. One refinery each is proposed to be located at Paradip, Bhatinda and Beena. Thus the refining capacity is expected to go up by 24 million metric tonnes.

It will increase our refining capacity to 161 million metric tonnes and our endeavour will be to enable our petroleum products to reach everywhere. We are working in that direction.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was about the country's annual production capacity of various petroleum products. Hon'ble Minister did not reply to my original question. Hon'ble Minister is requested to state the annual production capacity of petrol, diesel and kerosene separately.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I have given the same.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: I want the information separately.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not possible to segregate them. The requirement of each product is fulfilled. The production of LPG is not much from crude oil. Since the production of LPG is not much, we have to import it to fulfil the requirement of the country. Since the question relates to LPG, that is why I said that the requirement of LPG in the country is 8.351 million metric tonnes and we have to import 1.073 million metric tonnes. The reply already states that the production of LPG in the country is less.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have still not received the reply to my question. My question was about the annual production capacity of various petroleum products. It was my first supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister may please give the same reply once again.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is yet to be answered.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister has given the same reply.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: If the hon'ble Minister to desires, he may send, in writing, about the petroleum products.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, you may send the reply in writing.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member may state what he wants in writing. The reply to that will be sent to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Both things will be done in writing.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have second supplementary question. The demand for LPG in our country is rising and hon'ble Minister himself has admitted that the production of LPG in our country is less and that is why we have to import it from abroad. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the total percentage demand for LPG that needs to be imported and whether any policy has been formulated to end the need for import of LPG in future.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated about the quantity of LPG imported. In the near future, we propose to enhance the capacity of various refineries and as the capacity increases the need for import would go down.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the comparative average production of crude oil and natural gas at the international level. Besides, I would also like to know the minimum and maximum production rates of crude oil and natural gas and the agencies having minimum and maximum production.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not able to understand the question of the hon'ble Member properly. I will be able to answer only if he repeats his question.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I would like to know the average rate of production of crude oil and natural gas at the international level.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, as per the current situation, we are able to produce only 30 percent of our total crude oils demands and the remaining 70 percent is imported. During the previous year we had to import crude oil worth Rs 84,000 crore. New exploration License Policy has been formulated to increase production.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Sir, this is not the answer to my question. I would like to know the average production rate of crude oil and natural gas.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, we are now concerned about increasing our production and towards that end we have given out 91 blocks for exploration. Two days ago, Government have given out 21 more blocks. The average production rate would be determined only when the production is increased as a result of exploration.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is still unanswered. I want your protection. You

may decide as to whether the answer was relevant to the question asked. I had asked about the average production rate of crude oil and natural gas at the international level and also at the national level. I had not asked about the increase in production...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister would send its reply. He is not ready with the answer. He will send it later.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: I have not asked a separate question. It directly follows the main question.

SHRI RAM NAIK: What does he mean by 'rate'? Hon'ble Member may please send his question in writing. I will provide him the required information.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. I had asked a question and my name figured in the ballot too. I have asked a question directly related to the main question...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nawal Kishore ji, you asked your question thrice, and hon'ble Minister answered twice. He has told you that he will get and provide you the required information in writing. Thus you would get your reply.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir we give our questions in writing so that it can be asked in the House and once it is admitted, it should be replied in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, cannot be expected to be ready with reply to every question. You have asked a question which needs a detailed reply. He will send the reply to you.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: My question is directly related to the original question. It would have been better if I had asked an unstarred question.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether hon'ble Prime Minister had announced expansion of Panipat refinery on October 18th? If so, the estimated cost likely to be incurred on the exercise? Whether in the oil sector, world's...(*Interruptions*) whether it is the largest oil refinery project of the world? I would also like to know the total expenditure likely to be incurred on it and the name of the states likely to be benefited from it? Besides, we have to import LPG. Country is experiencing shortage of gas cylinders as its production has declined as a result of increase in steel prices. What steps are being taken by the department to bridge the shortfall?

SHRI RAM NAIK: So far as production of cylinders is concerned, there is no shortage in the country. In the meantime, there was some shortage of steel as a result of which its production had suffered 4-5 months ago. Now the problem has been sorted out. If there is any problem in any region, let it be known to me, I shall remove that. So far as Panipat refinery is concerned, its 'bhoomi poojan' has been performed at the time of its expansion programme. You were also present at that time. You are aware of the details of its implementation. After expansion, it will be the largest public sector oil refinery in the country. At present, the private sector, oil refinery of Reliance, is largest not only of the country, but of the world. Its capacity is 27 million metric tonnes. Once the expansion work at Panipat is completed, it will rank second.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 45

Shri Uttamrao Patil — Not present

Shrimati Shyama Singh — Not present

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 46.

**Joint Exercises with other Countries**

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\*46. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether joint Armed Forces exercises were held between Indian forces and forces of other countries;

(b) if so, the names of countries with which joint exercises were organised during the last three years till date; and

(c) the benefits gained and likely impact of this on the country's defence;

(d) whether there is any proposal to organise similar joint exercises of the armed forces in near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

The Armed Forces of India have organized bilateral exercises with the Armed Forces of USA, France, Tajikistan, Singapore, Oman, Russia and China during the last three years till date.

Indian Navy have also conducted the MILAN series of multinational exercises involving the navies of South Asia and South East Asia. In 'MILAN-03' held at Port Blair from February 11-15, 2003, ships and personnel from Australia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated.

Such exercises provide valuable exposure to the Armed Forces to keep abreast with the latest developments in equipment, technology, warfare tactics, concepts and doctrines relating to military operations, test the military skills of our Armed Forces in relation to others, and promote mutual understanding and cooperation. The decisions to hold joint exercises are taken by the Government keeping in view our national interests.

There are proposals under consideration to hold joint exercises by our Armed Forces with armed forces of other countries in the near future. A proposal for a joint naval exercise with France is at an advanced planning stage. It would be premature to disclose details thereof.

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we are walking out in protest against the presence of the Defence Minister...*(Interruptions)*

11.49 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House)*

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, their ouster is certain, since people have rejected them. They are now completely in the dark. They may go, but the House should continue.

MR. SPEAKER: But what is your question?

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they come but the manner of their going is less than dignified...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shrimati Shyama Singh is a Congress member, how can she ask questions?

SHRI RAM SHAKAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, joint armed forces exercises had been organised between Indian forces and forces of other countries. I had asked the hon'ble Minister about the names of countries with which our armed forces had joint exercises during last three years; in reply to which it was stated that bilateral armed force exercises had been organised with the armed forces of USA, France, Pakistan, Singapore, Oman, China and Russia. My question is what benefits accrue to the country as a result of such exercises and how it is good for the security of the country.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, sir, so far as the issue of benefits accruing from joint armed forces exercises is concerned, first we are able to understand the capability and quality of arsenal of the countries with which we are having the exercise. Besides, the troops involved in the exercise are able to know the ways in which morale is kept high in various armed forces. It also gives opportunity of interaction to officers of the participating sides, to identify their respective strengths and weakness. All this is gained through the joint exercises.

SHRI RAM SHAKAL: I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister, whether there is any proposal to have joint exercise with our neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, China and Bangladesh?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as Pakistan is concerned, it cannot be yet thought of, but we have had naval exercises with our other neighbouring countries.

*[English]*

**Train Accidents**

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\*47. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of minor/major train accidents including those of goods trains reported since July, 2003 alongwith reasons, accidents-wise;

(b) the loss of railway property and the number of persons killed and injured alongwith the compensation paid to them, accident-wise;

(c) the reasons for not sending the rescue team with adequate relief material at accident site on time;

(d) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to see that enough relief supplies reach the accidents site on time;

(e) the details of the findings of the commissions of inquiry ordered into these accidents and action taken thereon;

(f) the names of officials found guilty and the action taken/proposed to be taken against them, accident-wise; and

(g) the remedial steps taken by the Government to check such accidents in future?

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

**Statement**

(a) There have been 149\* consequential train accidents during the period July, 2003 to November, 2003. Their break-up is as under:

Type of accidents	Involving Passenger trains	Involving Others (goods) trains	Total*
1	2	3	4
Collision	02	1	03
Derailment	53	45	98

	Collisions	Derailments	Manned Level crossing accidents	Unmanned level crossing accidents	Fire/Explosion in Trains	Misc.	Total*
Killed	04	29	03	53	01	—	90
Injured	21	58	02	59	18	45	203

(\*Figures are provisional)

1	2	3	4
Manned Level crossing accident	03	01	04
Unmanned Level crossing accidents	31	06	37
Fire/Explosion in Train	04	—	04
Miscellaneous	03	—	03
Total	96	53	149*

(\*Provisional)

Broad causes of the accidents, that occurred during the period July-November 2003, were as under:

Broad causes*	Number of accidents*
Failure of Railway staff	84
Failure of other than Railway staff	42
Failure of equipment	01
Sabotage	07
Combination of factors	—
Incidental	08
Not established	01
Under investigation	06
Total	149

(\*Provisional)

(b) The number of persons killed and injured in these accidents during the period July 2003 to November, 2003 are as under:

The loss of railway property was approximately Rs. 26.83 crores\* in the accidents that occurred during the period July-November 2003. The compensations payable to the victims of these accidents, are to be settled by the Railway Claims Tribunal. However, an amount of Rs. 38.56\* lakhs has been paid, as an *ex gratia*, to the injured and next to the kin of the deceased.

(c) and (d) Prompt relief and rescue arrangements were made in the accidents and no case of inadequacy has been reported during the period. However, a review of the system of disaster management has been done by a high level committee and the recommendations of the committee have been accepted. The accepted recommendations are at various stages of implementation.

(e) No Commission of Inquiry has been set up during the period July-November 2003. However, statutory inquiries into accidents by the Commissioner of Railway Safety were conducted in 14 accidents. Final Inquiry Reports have been received in 8 cases and the recommendations made therein mainly pertain to skills of driving crews, digital voice reorder, review of design of 'sand humps', blood test of drivers, supervision of work sites, etc. The recommendations of the Commission of Railway Safety are examined from various angles including feasibility, practicability and operational implications etc. Action on the accepted recommendations is a continuous process.

(f) Responsibilities are fixed on the officials as an outcome of accident inquiry proceedings and appropriate disciplinary action is taken against them. 92 officials have been held responsible for lapses leading to various accidents, the proceedings of which have been finalized during the period. Major penalties were imposed on 24 officials and 68 were taken up under Minor penalties. (These do not necessarily relate to accidents occurring in the period.

(g) In order to prevent accidents the following measures are being taken:—

- (i) A non lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) of Rs. 17,000 crores has been set up to wipe out the arrears of replacement of over-aged assets like track, bridges, rolling stock, and signalling gears within a fixed timeframe of six years. The fund has been operational since October, 2001.

- (ii) Extended field trials of prototype Anti-Collision Device (ACD) have been successfully completed on Northern Railway. Works of provision of ACD covering about 3500 route kms. on Northeast Frontier, Southern, South Central, South Western, and Northern Railway have been sanctioned, ACD survey for 10,000 route kms. has also been sanctioned.
- (iii) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'D Spl.' routes, where maximum permissible speed is more than 75 kmph, has been completed.
- (iv) Auxiliary Warning System has been working on Mumbai suburban sections.
- (v) Last vehicle check by Axle Counter has been introduced on over 200 block sections and is being progressively added.
- (vi) To meet the situation arising out of track stresses and fatigue, upgradation of track structure, whenever called for, is undertaken on a planned basis by utilization of 60-kg rails on concrete sleepers. The specifications of rail steel have been upgraded and are in conformity with the International Union of Railways (UIC) specifications.
- (vii) For improving maintenance and better asset reliability, Railways are continuing to eliminate fish-plated joints on tracks by welding rails to the extent possible. During relaying/construction of new lines/gauge conversion, long welded rails are laid on concrete sleepers to the extent possible. Turnouts are also being improved systematically.
- (viii) "Quality Management Systems" have been developed and implemented as per the ISO 9001 Quality standards in all the Production Units, majority of the Workshops and some of the sheds/depots. All other important manufacturing/repair units have also been advised to develop and implement Quality Management Systems. Ultrasonic testing equipment is being used for detection of flaws in the axles.
- (ix) There has been progressive increase in the use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance. Also, sophisticated Track Recording Cars, Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors, Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars, Oscillograph Cars and Portable Accelerometers are being used progressively.

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(\*Figures are provisional)

- (x) Track renewals are carried out whenever they become due for renewal.
- (xi) Modern bridge inspection and management system is being adopted, which will involve non-destructive testing techniques, under water inspections, fibre composite wrapping, mapping unknown foundations and integrity testing, etc.
- (xii) Intensive patrolling of railway track is carried out at vulnerable locations during monsoon, summer and winter.
- (xiii) Interlocking of level crossing gates and provision of telephones at manned level crossings are some of the other safety aids being installed.
- (xiv) New technological inputs like solid state interlocking, digital axle counter, high performance point machines are being progressively introduced for enhanced safety and reliability of signalling systems.
- (xv) Walkie-talkie sets have been provided to Drivers and Guards of all trains for faster communication. Guards and Drivers are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps and hand signal lamps having better visibility than the conventional kerosene-lit signal lamps.
- (xvi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised, including use of Simulators for training of drivers. Rs. 73 crores have been provided under SRSF for upgradation of Training Institutes.
- (xvii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient, are sent for crash training courses.
- (xviii) Periodical Safety Audit of different divisions by multi-disciplinary teams has been introduced. Inter-Railway inspections and inspections by Railway Board teams have also been introduced.
- (xix) Drivers are given Breathalyzer tests to check for alcohol consumption, while signing on and surprise checks enroute are also undertaken to identify defaulters.
- (xx) Emphasis is given on surprise inspections and ambush checks. Nigh inspections are conducted regularly to eradicate adoption of short-cut methods and those found to be slack, are taken up.
- (xxi) With the revamping of Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), quality of staff being selected through RRBs has substantially improved.
- (xxii) Use of fire retardant materials for coach furnishings is adopted.
- (xxiii) Fire resistant PVC flooring, interior paneling, ceiling, upholstery etc. is being used.
- (xxiv) Improvement in materials used in electrical fittings, fixtures such as MCB, light fittings, terminal boards, connectors etc. has been undertaken.
- (xxv) Intensive publicity campaigns are undertaken to prevent the travelling public from carriage of inflammable goods.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply, hon'ble Minister has admitted only three accidents have occurred at manned level crossings whereas 53 accidents have occurred at unmanned level crossing. I would like to ask hon'ble Minister whether there is any proposal to appoint chowkidars at level crossings to prevent accidents in future?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than 21,000 level crossings are still unmanned. To convert them into manned ones, we have made provision for funds every year. But it would not be possible to man all the level crossings as the hon'ble Member desired, because that would require huge funds. But we have evolved criteria to man level crossings every year and in accordance with the same proposal approval is accorded. We have a fund for the task and amount is earmarked every year for the purpose.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, I would like to ask one more thing. After inquiry by the Safety Commissioner following accidents, only petty officers and workers have been penalised. Whether any senior officer has been punished? If not, why?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the inquiry of all accidents, we look to fix responsibilities at three levels. Primary responsibility, secondary responsibility and blame worthiness. People responsible are graded as per their responsibility and suitable action against them is undertaken. Action is taken against both officers and workers. Hon'ble Member has not asked about the figures, but in our assessment, we have discovered that out of

total cases where responsibility has been fixed, major penalty is imposed in 35 percent cases while in 65 percent cases minor penalty is imposed, I do not have figures available regarding the number of involved workers and officers. I will provide that information to you separately.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 48, Shri T. Govindan—absent. Question No. 49 Shri Ramjee Manjhi and Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake—absent.

[English]

#### Subsidy on LPG and Kerosene

\*50. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to do away with the subsidy on LPG and Kerosene in a phased manner;

(b) whether the Government propose to shift the burden of subsidy to the public sector oil companies and private sector producers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for shifting the burden on these companies to phase out the subsidy; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the public and private sector companies?

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

#### Statement

(a) to (d) As per the Government decision on dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector, the subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG is to be phased out in three to five years effective 1.4.2002. The Government subsidy is on flat rate basis and after accounting for the same, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) could vary the retail selling prices in line with the variations in the international prices of these products.

PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are domestic fuels of mass consumption. Passing of higher international

prices of these products in the domestic selling prices would have hurt the consumers. The matter was therefore re-examined and it was decided in consumer interest that the OMCs will not increase the selling prices of these products during 2003-04 and the resultant under-recoveries of OMCs would be absorbed/shared amongst the oil companies. The methodology for sharing the aforesaid under-recoveries amongst the oil public sector undertakings (PSUs) has been finalized after considering the views of the oil PSUs.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the names of Private companies in oil sector and also the proportion of subsidy they have to bear alongwith the subsidies that is to be borne by the public sector undertakings. Also, what is the amount of subsidy given on gas cylinder and Kerosene for commercial use and the measures being taken by the Government to do away with the subsidy provided to them.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present there are 12 companies in public sector and only one refinery is in private sector, that is owned by Reliance. So far as subsidy is concerned, the Government propose to do away with it in three-five years. At present, we have two types of subsidy—one is given through budget wherein flat rate subsidy is provided. It is Rs. 45.17 per cylinder and the under recovery is about Rs. 84.85. Thus, a total subsidy of Rs. 130 per cylinder is given at present.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

#### World Bank Loan to NHPC

\*42. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan drawn by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation from the World Bank and other financial institutions so far;

(b) the amount of expenditure incurred so far in the form of interest on loan every year by NHPC; and

(c) the steps taken so far for the payment of these loans?



**THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE):** (a) National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has not raised any loan from the World Bank. NHPC has so far drawn loans from Banks and other financial institutions/raised Bonds in the market totalling to Rs. 12,433 crores till 31.03.2003. Out of this, Rs. 4,926 crores has already been re-paid leaving a balance of Rs. 7507 crores as on 31.3.2003.

(b) Details of the interest paid on the loans raised by NHPC during the last five financial years are given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
1998-99	496
1999-2000	492
2000-01	507
2001-02	506
2002-03	564

(c) The debt servicing, i.e. payment of loans along with interest by NHPC is being done from the funds available with NHPC i.e. internal resources and outside borrowings. NHPC, since its inception, is having a sound track record for its debts servicing and is not facing any difficulty in servicing of its loans.

[English]

#### Corporate Safety Plan

\*45. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 2584 dated August 7, 2003 regarding Corporate Safety Plan and state:

(a) whether such 10 year Corporate Safety Plan for 2003 to 2013 has been finalised;

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan;

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be finalised;

(d) the investments/funds envisaged under this plan, the amount spent/to be spent during the current year from such fund, head-wise; and

(e) the extent to which the implementation of this plan will help in reducing rail accidents in the country?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):** (a) and (c) "Corporate Safety Plan" of Indian Railways for the period 2003-2013 has been finalized. It was laid on the Table of the Sabha on 19th August, 2003.

(b) and (e) The Corporate Safety Plan states the objectives, targets and strategies for which the Indian Railways would be striving in the next decade. The document encompasses the broad priorities and time frame of the safety related works along with assessed approximate requirement of financial investments.

Some of the salient features of the Plan and the assessed reduction in various types of accidents are:—

- (i) Aim to reduce overall consequential train accidents per million train kilometres from 0.44 in 2002-03 to 0.17 in 2012-13.
- (ii) Targetting elimination of collisions by extensive use of Anti-Collision Device (ACD) and other measures.
- (iii) 60% reduction in derailments.
- (iv) Reduction in fire accidents and consequent fatalities by 80% by adoption of fireproof coaches and use of fire retardant materials in the existing coaches.
- (v) Containing the rising trend in level crossing accidents.
- (vi) Aiming at reduction in fatalities in case of serious accidents by use of Crash Worthy Coaches and tight lock couplers with anti-climbing features.
- (vii) Filling up of all Safety Category posts on urgency basis.
- (viii) Proposal for Safety Related Retirement Scheme (SRRS) for gangmen and drivers in age group of 50 to 57 years.

(d) In the plan period, thrust would be given on safety enhancement works as identified and detailed in the plan. The total investment involved during the ten year period (2003-2013) for various safety enhancement works listed in the Safety Plan would be Rs. 31,835 crores. Out of this Rs. 13,000 crore is to be sourced from Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) and Rs. 8911 crores from Railway Safety Fund (RSF). The additional requirement to fulfil the plan would be around Rs. 10,000 crores.

The net budgeted allocation under SRSF and RSF for various planheads, as also the net expenditure till the end of September 2003 is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Planhead	Budget Estimates 2003-04 (Net)		Expenditure upto September 2003 (Net)	
	RSF	SRSF	RSF	SRSF
Rolling Stock	—	219	—	171
Road Safety Works— Level Crossings	120	—	28	—
Road Safety Works— ROBs/RUBs	313	—	26	—
Track Renewals	—	1407	—	740
Bridge Works	—	210	—	52
Signalling and Telecommunication Works	—	460	—	156
Machinery and Plant	—	13	—	12
Other Electric Works	—	1	—	—
Other Specified Works	—	1	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>2311</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1131</b>

Apart from the above, expenditure on the safety related planheads is also sourced from the Depreciation Reserve Fund for normal renewals and replacements. Some expenditure from other sources like Development Fund, Capital etc. is also incurred on these planheads.

#### Effect of Monsoon on Konkan Route

\*48. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems being faced especially during monsoon season on the Konkan Railway route due to which rail traffic is affected regularly;

(b) if so, the details regarding disruption, cancellation of trains, difficulties faced by the passengers; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) On Konkan Railway, there were 14 incidents of traffic disruptions during the year 2003 when the trains were detained for more than 4 hours. The detailed particulars of disruptions indicating trains particulars and time of detentions are enclosed as statement.

(c) Immediate temporary measures such as round the clock patrolling by locomotives in advance of the passenger trains and temporary speed restriction of 40 kmph had been taken in addition to patrolling of vulnerable spots during the monsoon season. Audio-visual warning alarm device called "Raksha Dhaga" in all deep cuttings more than 12 meters in depth have been installed. In tunnel approaches, sand bag buffers have been placed. In rock cuttings of 15 metres and above, works are being done with fixing of special steel boulder nets, rock bolting and shotcreting, in other types of cuttings, lined side drain with toe protection wall or pitching along the slope are being done. In laterite rock/soil deep cuttings, side slopes are being flattened to 1:1 and additional berms are being provided. In order to provide fool-proof safety, Konkan Railway has drawn up a Corporate Safety Plan (2003-2013).

**Statement****Train Detention List (more than 4 hours on Konkan Railway during 2003)**

S.No.	Date	Time	Km	Train Detention
1	2	3	4	5
1.	19.6.03	3:45	526/4-5	6346—6 hours 39 min. 6338—4 hours 05 min.
2.	21.6.03	18:58	508/4-5	2620—9 hours 54 min.
3.	21.6.03	22:30	532/7-9	2619—4 hours 15 min. 6337-Chiplun (regulated)—5 hours 30 min. Krnangalore-Varuna Passenger & Varuna Mangalore Passenger cancelled 2618, 2617, 6345, 6346 diverted .
4.	22.6.03	7:33	579/0-1	Trains were already cancelled/regulated/diverted due to derailment at km. 532
5.	22.6.03	9:35	522/0-3	Trains were already affected due to derailment at km. 532
6.	22.6.03	14:05	626/0-1	Trains were already affected due to derailment at km. 532
7.	22.6.03	17:45	83/7-8	2052—terminated at Chiplun 165—terminated at Diwan Khavati
8.	22.6.03	21:15	278/5-6	Traffic interrupted completely for 4 days
9.	6.7.03	9:35	478/5-6	Mangalore-Varuna Passenger terminated at Karwar Varuna-Mangalore Passenger started from Karwar 1097—4 hours 30 min. 6337—2 hours 10 min.
10.	7.7.03	6:20	230/9-0	2619—7 hours 45 min. 6335—10 hours 15 min. 2620—2 hours 35 min. 0111—6 hours 50 min. 2432—3 hours 35 min. DN goods-5 hours 31 min. ME special-1 hours 04 min. 104—2 hours 25 min. Sawantwadi-Diva Sindhudurga Passenger 5 hours 28 min.
11.	7.7.03	9:10	508/4-6	2977—7 hours 50 min. Krnangalore Varuna Passenger terminated at Kurnta Varuna-Mangalore Passenger started from Kurnta

1	2	3	4	5
12.	19.7.03	0:35	257/2-3	2619—4 hours 37 min. 2620—2 hours 55 min. 0112—4 hours 14 min.
13.	14.8.03	21:15	242/0-1	2619—5 hours 54 min. 0112—4 hours 43 min. 2620—3 hours 27 min.
14.	21.10.03	4:50	478/2-4	Karwar Madgaon Shuttle Cancelled, 2617—5 hours 27 min. 6346—2 hours 44 min.

### Supply of Defective Shells

\*49. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:  
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army had scrapped 87,000 indigenous made shells for T-72 main battle tanks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether consequently the Army had affected a purchase of 25,000 rounds from Israel for use during the 11 month Operation Parakram;

(d) whether the Ordnance Factories are capable of producing shells of acceptable quality for use in 125 mm smooth-bore guns fitted onto Main battle tanks; and

(e) if so, the reasons for procurement of these shells from Israel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The Army has segregated 88,000 rounds of 125 mm FSAPDS (Fin Stabilised Armour Penetrating Discarding Sabot) hybrid ammunition as unserviceable. The segregated ammunition is the hybrid ammunition of Russian and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) design. The manufacture of hybrid version has since been discontinued because of occurrence of burning debris inside the fighting compartment of the tank and loosening of projectile from the cartridge case. The present manufacture by OFB is as per indigenous design only. Since recommencement of production in June 2001, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has supplied more than 1,30,000 rounds of FSAPS ammunition. The ammunition meets all the quality parameters and laid down acceptance criteria.

Earlier, during operation Parakram, Army had taken up a case for import of the ammunition on emergent basis in order to make up the stocks deficiency arising on account of 88,000 rounds which were segregated as unserviceable. A contract for 20,000 rounds ex-Israel has been signed on September 3, 2003 by Ministry of Defence in order to partially meet the deficiency which remains inspite of supply of OFB. After accounting for the receipt from OFB & ex-Israel, the deficiency for this ammunition, on 31st March, 2003 was 3,47,193 rounds.

A task force has been set up to examine utilization/rectification of the 88,000 rounds of hybrid ammunition supplied by OFB earlier.

### Aid/Assistance to Public Schools for Handicapped Children

\*51. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:  
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Union Government provides any aid or assistance to the public schools having facilities for the education of children suffering from cerebral palsy, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any criteria has been fixed by the Government in respect of tuition fee, etc. charged by public schools for such education;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are aware that public schools are charging exorbitant tuition fee from such children;

(f) if so, the names thereof and the action taken against them;

(g) whether the Government propose to provide financial subsidy for such education; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) No, Sir. The Government does not implement any scheme for providing aid or assistance to the public schools with facilities for the education of children with disabilities.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has no such information.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

#### Uniform Rules for Multiplex Cinema Halls

\*52. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

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

(a) whether a delegation of the Multiplexes Association of India met him to press for changes in cinema regulatory provisions;

(b) if so, the difficulties experienced by them; and

(c) the measures taken to draft a comprehensive model regulation applicable to all States in the country and the industry to ease rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A delegation of the Multiplex Association of India under the aegis of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) apprised this Ministry of the various issues

concerning the Multiplex sector, mainly the difficulties caused due to archaic and disparate regulations, which hinder the growth of this sector. The Ministry has entrusted FICCI with the task of framing structured model cinema and cinema related regulations, which may cover the aspect of providing a healthy climate for multiplexes to operate, in order to ensure a uniform development pattern for the film sector.

Since 'cinema' except 'certification', is a state subject, laws for the exhibition of films are enacted by the State governments. This Ministry has set up a Committee for Development of the Entertainment sector, which comprises representatives of various State Governments, to suggest a policy framework both at the Centre and in the States conducive to promoting the entertainment sector. In the recent most meeting of this Committee, held in October 2003, a sub committee has been constituted, comprising representatives of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Haryana, President, Multiplex Association of India and a representative of the Ministry of I&B, which would examine *inter alia* the regulations formulated by FICCI, and submit recommendations to the Committee. The Committee's final recommendations will then be circulated to all State Governments for their consideration.

Apart from this, realizing that better exhibition infrastructure will promote the growth of the film sector, Government of India has offered a tax holiday for multiplexes set up outside municipal limits in the Budget for 2002-03.

#### T and D Losses to SEBs

\*53. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:  
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial condition of the State Electricity Boards are in a precarious position with total Transmission and Distribution losses accounting for more than Rs. 30,000 crores annually;

(b) if so, the measures initiated by the Government to mitigate the situation;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch an incentive scheme to help States to minimize the T&D losses; and

(d) if so, the details of the schemes and the States which have so far qualified for the incentive alongwith the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) To improve the financial viability of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs), the Government have launched the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). The Programme has two components, namely, investment component and incentive component. Under investment component, the Central Government provides assistance to the tune of 50% of the project cost for the upgradation and modernization of distribution system in the form of 50% grant and 50% loan to SEBs in the case of non-special category States. In case of special category States (States of North-eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Sikkim), Government of India provides 100% of the project cost as financial assistance in the ratio of 90% grant and 10% loan.

Under incentive component of the Programme, the States are given 1:2 grant for actual cash loss reduction by the SEBs/Utilities, i.e. for every Rs. 2 of cash loss reduction, Rs. 1 is given as grant. During the financial year 2002-03, four States viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan have shown cash loss reduction to the tune of Rs. 579.74 crore, Rs. 1072.30 crore, Rs. 210.98 crore and Rs. 275.42 crores respectively and have become eligible for incentive of Rs. 289.87 crore, Rs. 536.15 crore, Rs. 105.49 crore and Rs. 137.71 crores respectively. An interim release of incentive to Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana amounting to Rs. 137.89 crore, Rs. 236.37 crore and Rs. 5.01 crore respectively has been made on March 31, 2003. Balance incentive to Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana and incentive to Rajasthan will be made during the current year.

#### **NGOs-Government Meet on Plight of Disabled**

\*54. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting between NGOs and the Government have taken place on the plight of the disabled;

(b) if so, the details of the matter discussed therein and the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of difficulties being faced by NGOs;

(d) the response of the Government thereto; and

(e) the details of the assurances given or measures taken by the Government to make greater transparency in extending the cooperation to the NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Crash of Aircraft**

\*55. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defence aircraft crashed during 2003 till date, category-wise and place-wise;

(b) the number of pilots and civilians who lost their lives in such accidents and compensation paid to the dependents of the deceased;

(c) the reasons for each accident and outcome of the enquiries conducted in each case;

(d) whether the Government have got these aircraft inspected;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any responsibility has been fixed in each case;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government propose to phase out ageing MiG aircraft; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (i) The details of Category-I accidents of defence aircraft which occurred during the calendar year 2003, the reasons thereof and number of pilots and civilians killed in such accidents, are given in the enclosed statement.

The dependents of pilots and civilians killed in such accidents are paid compensation as per Rules in force from to time.

After every accident, a Court of Inquiry (COI) is set up to inspect the aircraft and find out the cause of accident. If the accident is due to Human Error then necessary remedial action is initiated. In the case of accidents resulting from Technical Defects, action is initiated after consultations with HAL/Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM).

In the case of the accidents which occurred on 28th Jan, 4th June and 14th July 2003 (Sl. Nos. 2, 6 & 9 in

the statement) which were attributable to human error, no action could be taken as the pilots were killed in the accidents. In the case of the accidents on 22nd July 2003 (Sl. No. 10 in the Statement), necessary action against the pilot is in progress.

The phasing out of MiG aircraft is a continuous process as all aircraft are phased out after the completion of their Total Technical Life.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Date of accident	Aircraft	Service	Place of accident	Cause of accident as established by the Court of Inquiry (COI)	Number of Pilots killed	Number of Civilians killed
1.	24th Jan. 03	Cheetah Helicopter	Army	Baroda	Technical Defect	Nil	Nil
2.	28th Jan. 03	Jaguar	Air Force	Nal (Bhuj)	Human Error (Aircrew)	1	Nil
3.	26th Mar. 03	Seaking Helicopter	Navy	Goa Coast	COI not finalized	Nil	Nil
4.	4th April 03	MiG-23	Air Force	Hahwara	Technical Defect	Nil	7
5.	7th April 03	MiG-21	Air Force	Ambala	Technical Defect	Nil	Nil
6.	4th June 03	MiG-21	Air Force	Uttarai	Human Error (Aircrew)	1	Nil
7.	18th June 03	HPT-32	Air Force	Tambaram	Technical Defect	Nil	Nil
8.	7th July 03	MiG-23	Air Force	Hahwara	Technical Defect	Nil	Nil
9.	14th July 03	MiG-21	Air Force	Srinagar	Human Error (Aircrew)	2	Nil
10.	22nd July 03	Jaguar	Air Force	Ambala	Human Error (Aircrew)	Nil	Nil
11.	31st July 03	Chetak	Air Force	Hakimpet	Technical Defect	2	Nil
12.	24th Aug 03	Sea Harrier	Navy	Goa Coast	COI not finalized	Nil	Nil
13.	8th Nov 03	Kiran	Air Force	Hakimpet	COI not finalized	2	Nil
14.	28th Nov 03	MiG-21	Air Force	Nal (Bhuj)	COI not finalized	Nil	Nil

[English]

**Pricing of Set Top Boxes**

\*56. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Set Top Boxes imported in the country so far for implementing "Conditional Access System";

(b) the price and the conditions on which these instruments would be made available to the consumers;

(c) whether the issues relating to the pricing of the STBs and the charges for reception of different channels have been worked out;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a Purchasing Regulatory Committee; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (f) As per the information available as on 16.8.2003, 1,59,580 Set Top Boxes (STBs) have been imported into the country for implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS).

It has been estimated that the analogue STB would cost about Rs. 2,500 and digital STB would cost between Rs. 2,700 and Rs. 4,000 (Depending on features). Multi-System Operators (MSOs.) and the cable operators, etc. have come out with different options to subscribers for purchase of STBs. i.e., through easy instalments/hire-purchase/outright purchase, loan schemes, etc. The costs to the subscribers would, therefore, be affordable. For example, incablenet has announced an introductory offer of making digital STBs. available to the customers at a refundable deposit of Rs. 999 plus a nominal daily rent of Rs. 1/-. SITI Cable and Hathway too are making available STBs. on similar lines of a refundable deposit and payment of nominal daily rental charges. While the cost free-to-air channels for a minimum number of 30 such channels has been specified by the Government to be Rs. 72/- (exclusive of local taxes), the pricing of pay channels has been left to the market-forces. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Rules, 1994 have been amended through the issue of a notification on 6th June, 2003 containing *inter alia*, the manner of publicizing the subscription rates of pay channels and submission of Report to the Central Government. The cable operator shall also declare which channels will remain 'pay' and which "free-to-air" and also the rates of the pay channels and discounts, if any, by 15h June, 2003.

The Amended Rules also stipulated that in the event of cable operators not being in a position by 31st Aug.,

2003 to declare whether a channel is 'pay' of "free-to-air" channel and the price of any pay channel due to the information not being provided by the broadcaster, the cable operator shall not transmit such channel through its network after 31st Aug., 2003 vide notification issued on 8.9.2003, which is available in Ministry's web-site, 'www.mib.nic.in'.

#### Generation of NCES

\*57. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the generation of non-conventional energy for the Tenth Plan period, category-wise;

(b) the funds allocated so far under the Tenth Five Year Plan to achieve this target, State-wise and category-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to use advanced technology to exploit renewable energy sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) An aim of 10 per cent of the new power generation capacity addition in the country from non-conventional energy sources, i.e., wind, small hydro, biomass, and solar has been set for the 10th and 11th Plans. In this respect, the power generation capacity addition from non conventional energy sources for the 10th Plan, is envisaged at 3075 MW. In addition, targets have been set for various decentralized non-conventional energy systems/devices. The details in this regards for 10th Plan are given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) The Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) to this Ministry to achieve targets during the 10th Plan has been set at Rs. 4000 crores. State-wise and category-wise funds related during 2002-03, i.e., the 1st year of the 10th Plan, are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The use of advanced technologies to exploit renewable energy sources is being encouraged through various financial and fiscal incentives, including



concessional custom and exercise duties. Financial support provided for R&D has led to the deployment of advanced

technologies in biogas, biomass gasification and solar thermal areas.

**Statement I**

*Physical Targets set for the 10th Plan*

**A: Power from Renewables during 10th Plan**

Source		Target (MW)
Wind Power	—	1500
Small Hydro Power	—	600
Biomass Power/Bagasse Co-generation	—	700
Biomass Gasification	—	50
Waste to Energy	—	80
Solar Photovoltaic Power	—	5
Solar Thermal Power	—	140
<b>Total</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3075</b>

**B: Decentralized Energy Systems during 10th Plan**

System		Target
Biogas Plants (Nos. in lakhs)	—	10
Solar Photovoltaic Home Lighting Systems (Nos. in lakhs)	—	2.5
Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant/Other Systems (MW)	—	4
Solar Photovoltaic Pumps (Nos.)	—	8,000
Solar Photovoltaic Generators (Nos.)	—	10,000
Wind Pumps (Nos.)	—	800
Hybrid Systems (kW)	—	800
Solar Water Heating Systems (sq. m. collector area in lakhs)	—	5
Solar Air Heating Systems (sq. m. collector area)	—	5,000
Solar Cookers (Nos. in lakhs)	—	2.05

**C: Remote Village Electrification**

— Electrification of all remote unelectrified villages

**Statement II**

(Rs. in crores)

**State-wise and category-wise funds released during 2002-03 of the 10th plan**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Biogas	CBP/REP/ NBP	Improved Chulha	Solar Power	SHP	Biomass Power	Biomass Gasifier	Energy from Wastes	Solar Thermal	SPV Demo.	Wind Pump & Small Aeo.	SPV Pumps	Wind Power	IREP	Energy Parks	Village Elec.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.280	0.000	0.2500	0.480	2.200	10.897	0.009	1.6700	0.480	1.6700	0.006	0.000	0.040	0.164	0.480	1.085	23.490
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.130	0.030	0.0000	0.000	12.900	0.068	0.283	0.0000	0.000	0.3800	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.320	0.834	15.138
3.	Assam	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.005	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.290	0.480	0.805
4.	Bihar	0.000	0.000	0.0253	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.020	0.000	0.620	0.000	0.647
5.	Chhattisgarh	2.520	0.000	0.1188	0.000	0.000	0.024	0.003	0.0000	0.000	0.3300	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.320	5.680	9.144
6.	Goa	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
7.	Gujarat	2.470	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.035	0.599	0.0208	0.000	2.0500	0.430	0.820	0.000	0.030	0.370	0.000	6.975
8.	Haryana	0.160	0.200	0.1637	0.050	0.000	0.080	0.030	0.0000	0.050	2.0800	0.000	2.450	0.020	0.191	0.470	0.000	6.525
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.220	0.000	0.0089	0.000	6.680	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	1.2000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.000	0.000	8.252
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	1.9800	0.980	0.980	0.980	0.000	0.160	0.000	1.160
11.	Jharkhand	0.030	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.0288	0.100	0.2500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.480	1.058	2.132
12.	Karnataka	5.730	0.000	0.3657	0.000	0.820	1.994	0.190	0.0000	0.000	1.2100	0.000	0.000	1.040	0.50	0.510	0.000	11.849
13.	Kerala	0.080	0.250	0.1150	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.0000	0.000	0.3800	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.385	0.000	0.000	1.282
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3.980	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.270	0.000	0.063	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.680	0.000	0.680	0.680	1.080	5.453
15.	Maharashtra	2.800	0.730	0.0500	0.000	0.170	0.088	0.080	0.0000	0.000	0.2300	1.680	0.000	2.500	0.680	0.620	0.000	8.888
16.	Manipur	0.180	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.820	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.600	7.300	7.822
17.	Meghalaya	0.250	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.020	0.080	0.0000	0.000	0.0880	0.000	0.114	0.000	0.120	0.100	3.230	3.983
18.	Mizoram	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.301	0.0000	0.000	0.5700	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.281
19.	Nagaland	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.030	0.000	0.188	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.420	0.000	0.618
20.	Orissa	2.550	0.000	0.7024	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.008	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.255
21.	Punjab	0.000	0.330	0.0808	1.482	1.740	1.033	0.000	0.0000	1.480	0.5700	0.000	8.380	0.000	0.388	6.580	0.680	16.079
22.	Rajasthan	0.070	0.400	0.0008	0.285	0.800	0.343	0.000	0.0000	0.270	6.3400	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.640	0.009	7.834
23.	Sikkim	0.250	0.000	0.0016	0.000	6.720	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.2180	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.889	0.009	0.000	7.284
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.270	0.000	0.1500	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.537	0.0000	0.000	0.7400	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.640	0.000	1.987
25.	Tripura	0.150	0.600	0.0000	0.080	0.080	0.016	1.847	0.0000	0.000	3.7800	0.010	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.000	0.000	5.276
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.080	0.380	0.0000	0.048	0.885	0.331	0.072	0.2833	0.046	7.3400	0.010	0.000	0.000	1.222	0.530	0.000	10.285
27.	Uttarakhand	0.150	0.480	0.0000	0.100	1.820	0.000	0.072	0.0000	0.100	2.1700	0.000	0.154	0.000	0.274	0.584	1.880	7.788
28.	West Bengal	4.140	0.100	0.3661	0.067	2.780	0.000	0.582	0.0000	0.067	3.2280	0.110	0.000	1.580	0.000	0.380	2.260	15.510

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	3.000	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.770
30.	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.0770	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.011	0.000	0.000	0.108
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32.	Daman & Diu	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
33.	Delhi	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.1000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.000	0.010
34.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.000	0.0000	3.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0000	3.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.040
35.	Pondicherry	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0000	0.100	0.0000	0.025	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.275
36.	Others	14.000	0.500	0.3076	0.105	0.130	1.077	1.440	0.0000	0.110	3.0000	0.00	0.000	4.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	27.140
Total		44.700	3.400	2.6108	7.304	30.487	16.700	5.554	10.0000	7.003	40.0500	2.261	12.232	9.700	3.552	7.124	04.917	230.500

CBP/NBP/NBP=community/institutional/night-soil biogas plants

SHP=small hydro power; SPB=solar photovoltaic; IREP=integrated rural energy programme.

[Translation]

#### Opening of Drug De-Addiction Centres

\*58. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) the number of cases of drug addiction in the country;

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to control drug addiction;

(c) the number of existing drug de-addiction centres in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the details of such centers required to be opened to check this menace during the current year and funds allocated thereunder, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) The number of cases of alcoholism and drug addiction registered at the Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation Centres aided by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during 2002-2003 was 2,61,707.

Recognizing that alcoholism and substance abuse is a psychological, sociological and medical problem which affects the individual and the family, the Ministry of Social

Justice and Empowerment has adopted a strategy of building "preventive awareness" and recovery of addicts through medical treatment, counselling, follow-up and rehabilitation. The scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse's implemented through registered organizations.

The Ministry has a budget allocation of Rs. 25.50 crores under the scheme for the year 2003-04 out of which grants-in-aid are released to the eligible NGOs for, running Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation centers, Drug Awareness, Counselling and Assistance centres; work place Prevention Programmes and for conducting De-addiction camps. The Ministry is supporting 444 centres out of which 68 are Drug Awareness, Counselling and Assistance Centres and 376 are Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation centers being funded under the Programme. These centers are run by 361 NGOs.

(c) and (d) 376 De-addiction centres known as Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation centers are being funded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under the scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse, State-wise/Union Territory-wise number of such centers is given as per Statement.

New centres are taken up in the priority areas specified by the Ministry subject to availability of funds and eligible proposals from NGOs in terms of financial credibility, infrastructural capability and experience. No allocation of funds are made State-wise and location-wise.

**Statement**

*The number of De-addiction Centres (Known as Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation Centres) Funded under the Scheme for prevention of alcoholism and substance (drugs) abuse*

(As on 31.3.2003)

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	De-addiction Centre
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17
2.	Assam	8
3.	Bihar	15
4.	Chhattisgarh	2
5.	Goa	1
6.	Gujarat	10
7.	Haryana	20
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
10.	Jharkhand	3
11.	Karnataka	17
12.	Kerala	22
13.	Madhya Pradesh	10
14.	Maharashtra	63
15.	Manipur	19
16.	Meghalaya	2
17.	Mizoram	8
18.	Nagaland	7
19.	Orissa	30
20.	Punjab	15
21.	Rajasthan	10
22.	Tamil Nadu	18
23.	Tripura	2
24.	Uttar Pradesh	45

1	2	3
25.	Uttaranchal	4
26.	West Bengal	14
27.	Chandigarh	1
28.	Delhi	7
29.	Pondicherry	1
Total		376

[English]

### Dismantling Vikrant Warship

\*59. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has intimated the Union Government about the dismantling of Vikrant Warship;

(b) whether several meetings took place between the representatives of Union Government and the Government of Maharashtra during the last six months in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government have agreed to support financially the Vikrant Museum Project; and

(e) if so, the details and present status of Vikrant Museum Project?

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

(b) Three meetings have taken place in the last six months to discuss feasibilities of converting Vikrant Warship into a Museum.

(c) It was decided that the Project would be implemented in two phases, with the 1st phase involving grouting of the ship and setting up of the museum and the 2nd phase consisting of setting up revenue generating activities on board.

(d) The Union Government has released Rs. 5 crore in June 2003 for essential maintenance of Vikrant. No decision has yet been taken regarding further financial support by Government of India to the project.

(e) Vikrant has been commissioned as an in-house museum by the Navy and was opened to the public in November 2001.

#### **Uplinking of Foreign News Channels**

\*60. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the Government have laid down any fresh guidelines for uplinking of foreign news channels to bring them in the line with the foreign direct investment norms in print media;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the modifications made in the earlier guidelines alongwith the reasons for such changes;

(c) the foreign news channels who have applied for such uplinking; and

(d) the time by which the new guidelines are likely to be issued?

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

As a result, the Guidelines for uplinking of foreign news channels from India, which were issued on 26.3.2003, have been revised in respect of eligibility criteria on 28.8.2003. A copy of the revised eligibility criteria is given in the enclosed statements.

(c) All the existing channels, having Foreign Equity/FDI, are required to comply with the new regime within one year i.e. by 25.3.2004. Earlier M/s. Star News Broadcasting Ltd., BBC, and CNBC, which were 100% foreign companies, had applied to uplink news and current affairs channels from India. They had been advised to

apply afresh, as per the provisions of the revised guidelines. However, after the revision of eligibility criteria of these guidelines on 28.8.2003, no fully-owned foreign company has applied for uplinking news and current affairs channel from India.

(d) The new guidelines with revised eligibility criteria have already been issued on 28.8.2003.

#### **Statement**

#### *Guidelines for Uplinking of news and current affairs TV Channels from India*

The eligibility criteria in the guidelines for uplinking of news and current affairs TV channels from India have been revised as follows. Other provisions in the guidelines issued on 26th March 2003 remain unchanged.

#### **II. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

An applicant company desirous of uplinking news and current affairs channel(s) from India will be considered eligible, if it fulfils the following criteria:—

- (a) It is a registered/incorporated in India under the Companies Act, 1956.
- (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) shall not exceed 26% of the Paid-up Equity of the applicant company.
- (c) Permission will be granted only in cases where equity held by the largest Indian shareholder is at least 51% of the total equity, excluding the equity held by Public Sector Banks and Public Financial Institutions as defined in Section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956, in the New Entity. The term largest Indian shareholder, used in this clause, will include any or a combination of the following:
  - (1) In the case of an individual shareholder;
    - (a) The individual shareholder.
    - (b) A relative of the shareholder within the meaning of Section 6 of the Companies Act, 1956.
    - (c) A company/group of companies in which the individual shareholder/HUF to which the belongs has management and controlling interest.
  - (2) In the case of an Indian company,—
    - (a) The Indian company
    - (b) A group of Indian companies under the same management and ownership control.

For the purpose of this Clause, "Indian company" shall be a company, which must have resident Indian or a relative as defined under Section 6 of the Companies Act, 1956/HUF, either singly or in combination holding at least 51% of the shares.

Provided that in case of a combination of all or any of the entities mentioned in Sub-Clause (1) and (2) above, each of the parties shall have entered into a legally binding agreement to act as a single unit in managing the matters of the applicant company.

- (d) While calculating the 26% FDI in the equity of the applicant company, the foreign holding component, if any, in the equity of the Indian shareholder companies of the applicant company will be duly reckoned on *pro rata* basis so as to arrive at the total foreign holding in the applicant company.
- (e) The company shall make full disclosure, at the time of application, of Shareholders Agreements, Loan Agreements and such other Agreements that are finalized or are proposed to be entered into. Any subsequent changes in these would be disclosed to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, within 15 days of any changes, having a bearing on the foregoing Agreements.
- (f) It will be obligatory on the part of the company to take prior permission from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting before effecting any alteration in the foreign shareholding patterns and the shareholding of the largest Indian shareholders, as indicated in Clause (c) above or any alteration in any other Agreement, as indicated in Clause (E) above.
- (g) The applicant shall be required to intimate the names and details of all persons, not being resident Indians, who are proposed to be inducted in the Board of Directors of the company.
- (h) The company shall be liable to intimate the names and details of any foreigners/NRIs to be employed/engaged in the company either as Consultants (or in any other capacity) for more than 60 days in a year, or, as regular employees.
- (i) At least 3/4th of the Directors on the Board of Directors of the company and all key Executives and Editorial staff shall be resident Indians.
- (j) The representation on the Board of Directors of the company shall as far as possible be proportionate to the shareholding.
- (k) All appointments of key personnel (executive and editorial) shall be made by the applicant company without any authorization from any other company, Indian or foreign.
- (l) The applicant company must have complete management control, operational independence and control over its resources and assets and must have adequate financial strength for running a news and current affairs TV channel.
- (m) CEO of the applicant company, known by any designation, and/or Head of the channel, shall be a resident Indian.

[Translation]

#### Pending Power Projects In Jharkhand

372. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the power requirement of Jharkhand during the next five year plan and the power likely to be generated during the said period;

(b) whether the Government of Jharkhand have submitted any project for approval;

(c) if so, since when it is lying pending and the time by which it is likely to be approved;

(d) whether many power projects are lying incomplete in the State due to scarcity of funds; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures being taken to meet the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) In case, Capacity Addition Targets are adhered to, the anticipated power demand and supply position by the year 2006-07 has been worked out as under:

Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Availability (MW)	Peak Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+) (MW)	Energy Requirement (Million Units)	Energy Availability (Million Units)	Energy Deficit(-)/ Surplus (+) (Million Units)
933	1389	+456	4903	8625	+3722

(b) and (c) No project of Government of Jharkhand is pending for clearance with Central Electricity Authority.

(d) and (e) The construction work of X Plan Power Project in Jharkhand under the State Sector has not yet commenced.

[English]

#### CNG Stations in States

373. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CNG filling stations as on June 31, 2003 in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of new CNG stations to be installed in each State during the current financial year, State-wise;

(c) whether the number of CNG stations will be sufficient to meet the demand of vehicles;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) if not, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) There were 168 CNG stations in the country as on June 30, 2003 as per the following break up:—

Mumbai, Maharashtra	—	50
Delhi	—	112
Gujarat	—	6

(b) As per information available, the cumulative number of CNG stations to be functional by the end of current financial year would be as follows:—

Mumbai, Maharashtra	—	88
Delhi	—	120
Gujarat	—	6

(c) and (d) Based on the current outlook, it would, by and large, meet the CNG demand of vehicles converted to CNG in Mumbai and Delhi.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Taking over of Keltron and Keltek Units

374. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to take over some units of Keltron & Keltek; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government have no specific proposal for take over of Units & Keltron and Keltek. However, in response to requests in this regard, a Task Force was set up to examine and identify the possible areas for long term arrangements between Public Sector Undertakings under Defence Ministry and Ordnance Factory Board and Keltron, Keltek. The Task Force has recently submitted its report.

#### Review Meeting of APDRP

375. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Review meeting of the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and also took up the Planning Commission's reported observation that certain States had 'diverted funds' for purposes other than reforms implementation; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the discussion and steps proposed to be taken to avoid such 'Diversion' of funds?

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

A Quarterly Performance Review (QPR) meeting (1st quarter 2003-04) was held on 12th September, 2003 in Planning Commission for the Ministry of Power.

(b) In the meeting, Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) was also reviewed along with Annual Plan (2002-03) for the Ministry of Power. Among other things, it was observed that if some States have diverted their APDP/APDRP funds for other sectors, the matter would be taken up with Ministry of Finance, to initiate recovery proceedings.

(c) The issue of delay in transfer of APDRP funds by the State Governments to State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Utilities and related issues were discussed in the Steering Committee on 28.11.2003 and accordingly it was decided that:

- (i) In specific cases, Ministry of Power would inform Ministry of Finance for making it mandatory before release of normal assistance by Ministry of Finance.
- (ii) To write to all the State Governments that they give their consent with approval of the State Finance Department for release of APDRP funds to the implementing agencies.

- (iii) To withdraw the sanctions of APDRP where State Governments have not released funds.

#### Laying of New Rail Lines

376. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of surveys conducted for laying new rail lines but such new lines have not been laid so far, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to lay these new lines; and

(c) the time by which such new lines are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) Details of new line surveys completed in the recent past since 2000-2001 but where projects have not been taken up, is given in Statement enclosed. In view of heavy throw-forward of on-going railway projects and constraint of resources, it has not been feasible to take up the proposed lines.

#### Statement

S.No.	Name of the Project	State
1	2	3
1.	Port Blair-Diglipur	Andaman & Nicobar Island
2.	Falaknuma-Umdanagar-Airport	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Pandurangpuram-Bhadrachalam	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Donakonda-Vodarevu	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Patancheru to Adilabad	Andhra Pradesh
6.	Jaggayyapet-Miryalgudda	Andhra Pradesh
7.	Pattancheru-Jogipet	Andhra Pradesh
8.	Zaheerabad-Secunderabad	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Dharwad Belgaum via Bailhongal and Kittis	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka
10.	Dangri-Dhola	Assam
11.	Sarthabari to Changasari	Assam
12.	Makum to Saikhova Ghat	Assam



1	2	3
13.	Jiribam-Imphal (Tupui)	Assam, NE Region
14.	Digaru to Bumihat	Assam, NE Region
15.	Pratapganj-Bhimnagar-Bathanaha	Bihar
16.	Sitamarhi to Jayanagar via Sonbarsai & Janakpur to Jaynagar via Madhubani	Bihar
17.	Supaul-Araria via Triveniganj and Raniganj	Bihar
18.	Banka-Nawadah	Bihar
19.	Banka-Barahat	Bihar
20.	Koparia-Biharganj via-Sonbarsaraj-Alamnagar	Bihar
21.	Dehri-on-sona to Banjari	Bihar, Jharkhand
22.	Koderma-Tilaiya	Bihar, Jharkhand
23.	Barwadih to Chirmir Restoration of railway line	Bihar, Chhattisgarh
24.	Modasa-Shamlaji	Gujarat
25.	Connecting Nadiad-Kapadwanj-Modasa with Udaipur	Gujarat
26.	Dahanu Road-Nasik Road	Gujarat, Maharashtra
27.	Sirsa-Hissar via Fatehabad and Agroha	Haryana
28.	Jakhal-Fatehabad via Bahuna-Ratia	Haryana
29.	Kaithal-Yamuna Nagar via Kamal	Haryana
30.	Rohtak to Hissar via Meham and Hansi	Haryana
31.	Rewari-Bahadurgarh via Jhajjar	Haryana
32.	Jind-Sonepat	Haryana
33.	Abohar-Tohana	Haryana, Punjab
34.	Panipat-Muzzaffarnagar via Kairana	Haryana, Uttar Pradesh
35.	Una-Jaijon Doaba	Himachal Pradesh, Punjab
36.	Lohardaga to Korba	Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh
37.	Bijaupr-Athani-Shedbal	Karnataka
38.	Nipani-Raibag via Chikodi	Karnataka
39.	Bagalkot-Kodachi	Karnataka
40.	Mysore-Mangalore via medikeri & Subramanya	Karnataka
41.	Hyderabad-Raichur	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh
42.	Bulb rail line at Shoranur	Kerala
43.	Vaikam-Vaikam Road	Kerala
44.	Rotegaon-Punthamba	Maharashtra

1	2	3
45.	Pune-Nasik	Maharashtra
46.	Wardha-Pusad-Nanded	Maharashtra
47.	Kolhapur to Ratnagiri on Konkan Rly. via Talwade	Maharashtra
48.	Wadsa-Armori-Gadhchiroli	Maharashtra
49.	Kurla-Mahul	Maharashtra
50.	Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur	Maharashtra
51.	Pari Vajjnath-Ghatnadar	Maharashtra
52.	Jaina-Khamgaon	Maharashtra
53.	Katangi to Tirodi	Madhya Pradesh
54.	Indore and Budhni	Madhya Pradesh
55.	Jabalpur to Panna via Damoh	Madhya Pradesh
56.	Rajnandgaon-Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh
57.	Bilaspur to Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh
58.	Pendra Road-Korba/Gerva Road	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh
59.	Ujjain-Ramganjmandi via Agar, Susner Jhalawar	Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan
60.	Agartala to Sabroom via Belonia	NE Region
61.	Bimlagarh to Talcher	Orissa
62.	Jeypore to Navarangpur	Orissa
63.	Nawapara to Baragarh Road via Padamapur	Orissa
64.	Phulbani to Berhampur	Orissa
65.	Talcher/Hindol Road to Berhampur/Gopalpur	Orissa
66.	Puri-Konark	Orissa
67.	Talcher station to Talcher-Sambalpur line	Orissa
68.	Ambikapur-Barwadih (Barwadih-Chirmiri)	Orissa
69.	Raipur-Jharsaguda via Khartapalan, Baloda Bazar, Batgaon and Sarangarh	Orissa, Chhattisgarh
70.	Sama-Madhampur	Punjab
71.	Sahnewal-Ladowal	Punjab
72.	Ferozpur Cantt. Taran Taran	Punjab
73.	Badowal-Sahnewal	Punjab
74.	Chandigarh to Dehradun via Jagedhari	Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttaranchal

1	2	3
75.	Merta City to Beawar	Rajasthan
76.	Jalore-Falna	Rajasthan
77.	Kolayat-Pokaran Barmer	Rajasthan
78.	Churu to Tarangar	Rajasthan
79.	Nokha-Sikar via Bedasar and Sujangarh	Rajasthan
80.	Baran-Shivpuri	Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh
81.	Dungarpur to Ratlam via Banswara	Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh
82.	Ramganj Mandi to Bhopal	Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh
83.	Madurai-Tuticorin via Parambupatti, Aruppukkotai Vilathkulam	Tamil Nadu
84.	Kumbakonam-Nammakal	Tamil Nadu
85.	Jolarpettai to Hosur via Krishnagiri	Tamil Nadu
86.	Taramani (Chennai) Mahabalipuram	Tamil Nadu
87.	Katpadi-Chennai via Guindy-Poonamallee	Tamil Nadu
88.	Tindivanam to Cuddalore via Pondicherry	Tamil Nadu
89.	Madurai-Tuticorin via Virudhnagar, Aruppkottai & Vilattikulam	Tamil Nadu
90.	Berhan to Etah via Shahjahanpur	Uttar Pradesh
91.	Aligarh-Jhinjhak via Sikandra Mainpur	Uttar Pradesh
92.	Panki to Mandhana	Uttar Pradesh
93.	Hamirpur-Hamirpur Road	Uttar Pradesh
94.	Berhan-Etah line to Shahjahanpur	Uttar Pradesh
95.	Aligarh-Jhinjhak via Sikandra and Mainpuri	Uttar Pradesh
96.	Sambhal ot Gajraula	Uttar Pradesh
97.	Hastinapur Rail linking	Uttar Pradesh
98.	Sambhal to Rajghat	Uttar Pradesh
99.	Bad-Bhainsa	Uttar Pradesh
100.	Daurala-Hastinapur	Uttar Pradesh
101.	Shahganj-Amethi via Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh
102.	Paniahwa and Tamkuhi Road	Uttar Pradesh
103.	Bhind-Orai-Harpatpur/Mohaba	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3
104.	Maripet-Tuglakabad	Uttar Pradesh, Delhi
105.	Rishikesh to Dehradun	Uttaranchal
106.	Haridwar-Kotdwara-Ramnagar	Uttaranchal
107.	Dankuni to Sheakhala	West Bengal
108.	Dankuni-Chambadanga via Seakhala & Seekhala to Bargachia	West Bengal
109.	Krishnanagar to Karimpur	West Bengal
110.	Murshidabad-Kandi via Khagraghat and Behrampur	West Bengal
111.	Sivok to Gangtok via Giellekhole and Singtam	West Bengal
112.	Restoration of Magra-Tarakeshwar NG abandoned	West Bengal
113.	Berhampur-Kandi	West Bengal

#### **Canning Railway Station as Model Station**

377. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of modernisation and development work at Canning Railway Station which has been declared as a model station;

(b) the amount allocated and spent so far thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) Canning Station has been nominated for development as Model Station. Connected works have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 54 lakh and Rs. 14 lakh have been spent so far on these works. The target date of completion for these works is December, 2004.

#### **Passenger Amenities at Delhi Railway Stations**

378. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to provide better passenger amenities at the Old Delhi, New Delhi and Nizamuddin Railway Stations;

(b) whether the prepaid taxi/scooter services would also be regulated at these Railway Stations as is being done at Delhi Airport;

(c) whether steps would also be taken to stop the harassment of Railway passengers availing taxi and scooters in these stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) The proposals for development of passenger amenities at Delhi Main Station (Old Delhi), New Delhi Station and Hazrat Nizamuddin Station are in various stages of implementation.

(b) to (d) Pre-paid taxi and auto-rickshaw services at these stations are run by Delhi Traffic Police. Pre-paid scheme for auto-rickshaw is available at all stations. However, as a result of court case in Delhi High Court between Taxi Operator Association and Delhi Traffic Police, taxi operators stopped coming to pre-paid booth at these railway stations. However, 'rent-a-car' system is functional at Ajmeri Gate side of New Delhi Station.

#### **Demand and Supply of Power**

379. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of power in industrial and domestic sectors in the country as on 31st October, 2003;

(b) the details of the deficient States and steps being taken to improve supply of power to them;

(c) whether efforts have been made to supply power through non-conventional energy sources in these States;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The details of demand and energy consumption by various category of consumers in the country including industrial and domestic sectors are compiled annually by the Central Electricity Authority based on data of States/UTs which are furnished by them after completion on the close of financial year. However, according to 16th Electric Power Survey Report, energy consumption in industrial and domestic sectors during 2003-04 is estimated to be 173232 MU and 105787 MU respectively i.e. 37% and 22.6% of total energy consumption by all sectors in the country.

(b) State-wise power supply position both in terms of energy and peak during April-October 2003 is given in Statement I & II respectively.

Electricity is a concurrent subject and distribution of power in a State is the responsibility of the States/State Power Utility concerned. Central Government supplements are efforts of States by setting up of power plants in the Central Sector through Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). The following steps are being taken to improve availability of power and supply of power in the country:—

(i) Increase of generation from existing thermal power plants.

(ii) Enhancement of inter-regional transfer of power from surplus region(s) to deficit region(s).

(iii) Funds are being provided for strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution systems of states under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme for reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses.

(iv) Demand side management and promotion of energy efficiency and conservation measures.

(v) Disbursement of loans with interest subsidy by Power Finance Corporation for Renovation, Modernization and Life Extension Schemes for old and inefficient generating units.

(vi) Generation capacity addition of around 41,110 MW has been targeted for 10th Five Year Plan in all Sectors (State+Private+Central).

(c) Yes Sir. However, renewable power is natural resource based and can be harnessed only in areas where that resource occurs. It is difficult to set up renewable power Plants without taking into account the aforesaid constraint. To the extent it is technoeconomically feasible, renewable power is expected to supplement conventional power in mitigating the problems of the deficient States.

(d) The total installed capacity of renewable power in the country as on 31.3.2003 is 3944.30 MW. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of India, in the long term i.e. upto the end of the 11th Plan, aims to assist in setting up around 10% of the installed power generation capacity through renewable sources viz. wind, small hydro and biomass.

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

#### *Statement I*

#### *Actual Power Supply Position*

#### ENERGY

State/System/Region	April-October 2003			
	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus (+)/ Deficit (-) (MU)	Surplus(+)/ Deficit (-) (%)
1	2	3	4	5
Chandigarh	693	692	-1	-0.1
Delhi	12620	12430	-190	-1.5
Haryana	12653	12141	-512	-4.0

1	2	3	4	5
Himachal Pradesh	1999	1992	-7	-0.4
Jammu & Kashmir	4014	3764	-250	-6.2
Punjab	20677	20041	-636	-3.1
Rajasthan	13835	13737	-98	-0.7
Uttar Pradesh	26914	23226	-3688	-13.7
Uttaranchal	2390	2348	-42	-1.8
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>95795</b>	<b>90371</b>	<b>-5424</b>	<b>-5.7</b>
Chhattisgarh	5823	5623	-200	-3.4
Gujarat	31232	27826	-3406	-10.9
Madhya Pradesh	16130	14112	-2018	-12.5
Maharashtra	48845	44559	-4286	-8.8
Daman & Diu*	183	183	0	0.0
Dadar Nagar Haveli*	291	291	0	0.0
Goa	1125	1125	0	0.0
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>103629</b>	<b>93719</b>	<b>-9910</b>	<b>-9.6</b>
Andhra Pradesh	26369	25445	-924	-3.5
Karnataka	19716	16684	-3032	-15.4
Kerala	7422	7162	-260	-3.5
Tamil Nadu	2579	25550	-241	-0.9
Pondicherry	869	869	0	0.0
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>80167</b>	<b>75710</b>	<b>-4457</b>	<b>-5.6</b>

*Actual Power Supply Position*

## ENERGY

State/System/Region	April-October 2003			
	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus (+)/ Deficit (-) (MU)	Surplus(+)/ Deficit (-) (%)
1	2	3	4	5
Bihar	4422	3369	-1053	-23.8
DVC	4756	4696	-60	-1.3
Jharkhand	1870	1775	-95	-5.1

1	2	3	4	5
Orissa	8039	7912	-127	-1.6
West Bengal+Sikkim	13539	13254	-285	-2.1
Eastern Region	32625	31008	-1620	-5.0
Arunachal Pradesh	113	111	-2	-1.8
Assam	2078	1963	-115	-5.5
Manipur	275	270	-5	-1.8
Meghalaya	621	600	-21	-3.4
Mizoram	157	153	-4	-2.5
Nagaland	172	170	-2	-1.2
Tripura	425	402	-23	-5.4
Northern Eastern Region	3841	3669	-172	-4.5
All India	316068	294475	-21583	-6.8

\* Daman & Diu and Dadar Nagar Haveli figures for the period of April-August 2003 are included in Gujarat.

**Statement II**

**PEAK DEMAND/PEAK**

State/System/Region	April-October 2003			
	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Surplus(+)/ Deficit(-) (MW)	Surplus(+)/ Deficit(-) (%)
1	2	3	4	5
Chandigarh	188	188	0	0.0
Delhi	3389	3284	-105	-3.1
Haryana	3485	3278	-187	-5.4
Himachal Pradesh	665	665	0	0.0
Jammu & Kashmir	1268	1218	-50	-3.9
Punjab	5922	5622	-300	-5.1
Rajasthan	3820	3711	-109	-2.9
Uttar Pradesh	7218	6134	-1084	-15.0
Uttaranchal	766	726	-40	-5.2
Northern Region	23817	21961	-1856	-7.8

1	2	3	4	5
Chhattisgarh	1669	1485	-184	-11.0
Gujarat	9238	6965	-2273	-24.6
Madhya Pradesh	4919	4456	-463	-9.4
Maharashtra	13612	11078	-2534	-18.6
Daman & Diu*	203	203	0	0.0
Dadar Nagar Haveli*	315	315	0	0.0
Goa	321	321	0	0.0
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>28147</b>	<b>22811</b>	<b>-5336</b>	<b>-19.0</b>
Andhra Pradesh	8679	7143	-1536	-17.7
Karnataka	6213	4913	-1300	-20.9
Kerala	2442	2174	-268	-11.0
Tamil Nadu	6772	6710	-62	-0.9
Pondicherry	235	235	0	0.0
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>21788</b>	<b>19944</b>	<b>-1844</b>	<b>-8.5</b>
Bihar	973	741	-232	-23.8
DVC	1275	1156	-120	-9.4
Jharkhand	539	468	-73	-13.5
Orissa	2215	2004	-211	-9.5
West Bengal+Sikkim	3836	3652	-184	-4.8
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>8594</b>	<b>7710</b>	<b>-884</b>	<b>-10.3</b>
Arunachal Pradesh	50	50	0	0.0
Assam	738	635	-103	-14.0
Manipur	115	111	-4	-3.5
Meghalaya	198	195	-3	-1.5
Mizoram	71	68	-3	-4.2
Nagaland	62	62	0	0.0
Tripura	190	153	-37	-19.5
<b>Northern Eastern Region</b>	<b>1259</b>	<b>1071</b>	<b>-188</b>	<b>-14.9</b>
<b>All India</b>	<b>81577</b>	<b>72679</b>	<b>-8998</b>	<b>-11.0</b>

\*Daman & Diu and Dadar Nagar Haveli figures for the period of April-August 2003 are included in Gujarat.



**Oil and Gas Production in Assam**

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

(a) whether the public representatives from North - East have urged the Government to impress upon the need for increase in oil gas production in Assam and to meet shortfall in crude output owing to which the refineries in Assam had been operating below capacity;

(b) if so, the details of demands made by them; and

(c) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) On 28.11.2002, in a meeting with Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas the Members of Parliament from North-East had, *inter alia*, urged the Government to impress upon Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) to take up more exploration activities so that new fields could come and crude oil production could be improved in the North-East region, especially in Nagaland and Assam.

Apart from efforts of ONGC and OIL, Government of India has invited private participation for exploration and production in the North-East Region. Exploration activities in terms of physical inputs are increasing in the North-East region over the years and higher targets have been planned for exploration inputs in the X Five Year Plan by ONGC and OIL. Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) Exploration blocks, including blocks in the North-East region are carved out on regular basis and offered on global bidding system.

While concerted efforts are being made to augment E&P activities, at the same time a decision has been taken to provide Ravva crude oil to the tune of 1.5 million tonne (MMT)/year with effect from May 2003 to Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL).

**Price Structure of LNG**

381. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the promoters of Petronet LNG and Ras Gas met the representatives of the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to formalize the price structure of LNG to be sourced from Qatar;

(b) if so, whether the pricing structure of the supply of LNG from Qatar has been finalized and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the first gas consignment is expected to be received in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the last week of September, 2003 the promoters of Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) viz. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) met the representatives of Ras Gas to formalize the price of LNG to be sourced from Qatar. After discussions, the pricing structure has been finalized between PLL and Ras Gas which is linked to Japanese Customs Cleared (JCC) crude oil price.

(c) The first LNG consignment is expected to be received in January, 2004 at PLL's Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal at Dahej in Gujarat.

**Working of BHEL**

382. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited especially in export front;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether BHEL has decided to enter into Power distribution business in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the BHEL is well equipped to venture in this business; and

(f) if not, the measures to be taken before entering into this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government have been from time to time reviewing the performance of BHEL including on the export front. The order booking in export

from has increased from Rs. 250 crores in 1998-99 to Rs. 1455 crores in 2002-03. The physical export turnover increased from Rs. 69 crores in 1998-99 to Rs. 637 crores in 2002-03.

(c) and (d) BHEL has plans to enter into Power Distribution Business as a long term objective. BHEL is already supplying equipment and systems like Switchgears, Energy Meters, Insulators, SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) etc. for this business sector. It is also taking turnkey contracts for the supply, erection and commissioning of 33 and 11 KV substations.

(e) and (f) BHEL is already catering to Transmission and distribution Business with its systems and products such as High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) & High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) Systems, Compensation and Improvement Systems, Transformers, Switchgear, Controls, Capacitors, Insulators, Energy Meters etc. Besides, it has also the experience of managing its own delegated distribution networks in its manufacturing units and townships. Leveraging these strengths, BHEL is hopeful of addressing the emerging business opportunities.

#### **Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail Line**

383. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail line has been cleared by C.E.A. and Planning Commission;

(b) if is, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said line is likely to be constructed;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the proposed line passes through forest and mineral rich area of densely tribal population and having R.O.R. much more than newly taken up and abandoned non-remunerative line which have been recently revived; and

(f) if so, the consideration that refrains the Government to take up the construction of this long demanded Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail line under East Coast and South East Railway Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) to (d) The survey conducted in 2001-02 for Talcher-Bimlagarh new line project had revealed that the cost of construction of this 154-kms long line would be about Rs. 606.60 crore. A proposal has been sent to the Planning Commission for according 'in principle' approval to the project.

(e) As per the survey report, the proposed line passes through forest and mineral-rich area and the population along the alignment is tribal and economically weak. There is no specific mention of a particular line in the Question by which a comparison has been drawn and as such, no comments are feasible to be given.

(f) The work would be taken up once necessary approvals are obtained.

#### **Position of Nathpa Jhakri Power Project**

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

(a) whether the Nathpa Jhakri Power Project has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed along with present position of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Nathpa Jhakri Power Project consists of six Units of 250 MW each. The first Unit of 250 MW was synchronized with the grid on September 20, 2003 and has been declared under commercial operation w.e.f. October 6, 2003. The second Unit of 250 MW was synchronized with the grid on November 23, 2003 and is likely to be declared under commercial operation very soon.

The Civil, Electro-Mechanical and Hydro-Mechanical works for the balance four Units are in advanced stage of progress and these Units are slated for commissioning in 2004.

#### **Revision of HRD Norms**

385. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IAF has revised the HRD norms to make easier for the people to leave the forces and completely abolished re-employment of retired personnel;

(b) if so, whether IAF has decided to appoint fresh graduates from IITs and Professional institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and strategy chalked out by IAF to fill up the vacancies of professionals in the IAF?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Norms have been liberalised for Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) to leave the service. At present there is no re-employment of retired personnel.

(b) and (c) Appointment of fresh graduates from IITs and other professional institutions meeting the eligibility criteria is part of the recruitment process. Apart from this, awareness campaign, recruitment rallies, advertisement in media, information dissemination through internet, visits to educational institutions etc. are undertaken by IAF to attract professionals.

*[Translation]*

#### Setting up of an Army Cantonment of Averi

386. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land acquired to set up an Army cantonment at Averi in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) the progress made so far after the acquisition of lands?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) 1259 Bighas, 16 Biswas of land has so far been acquired in Averi Patti, Tehsil Nirmand, District Kullu (Himachal Pradesh) for establishing a new military station. Out of the above land, 165 Bighas 16 Biswas has been handed over to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for the rehabilitation of the uprooted families of the acquired land. Accordingly, the families occupying part of the acquired land have now moved out.

Zonal Plan for the Military Station, Averi is under preparation by Local Military Authorities. There is 261 Bighas 16 Biswas of State Government land in various parcels within the acquired area, for transfer of which the matter has been taken up with the State Government.

#### DD/AIR in Jharkhand

387. SHRI PRADIP YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities in Jharkhand especially the cities coming under Godda, Dumka, Devghar districts where broadcasting facilities of Doordarshan/Radio have not been provided so far;

(b) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided;

(c) whether the transmission capacity of some of its centres is also not according to the requirements; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to upgrade the facilities of Doordarshan/Radio in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The State of Jharkhand, including Godda, Dumka & Devghar districts, is fully covered in terms of population by All India Radio Transmitters. However, T.V. coverage is presently estimated to be available to about 97.4% population of the State. Twenty Seven Doordarshan transmitters including three low power transmitters at Godda, Dumka and Deoghar are presently functioning in Jharkhand. There is currently no scheme to set up any additional transmitters in Jharkhand. Provision of TV coverage to uncovered areas in the country is envisaged through satellite transmission in Ku-band and the transmission is expected to commence by the middle of 2004.

(d) Doordarshan Kendra Ranchi is expected to be augmented during the 10th Plan. Scheme of setting up of an additional TV studio at Ranchi has been approved for implementation during the current Plan period.

*[English]*

#### Stoppage of Train at Kallinagar Railway Station

388. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to introduce Kallinagar Railway Station for operation of train services between Samudragarh and Katwa Railway Stations in the Eastern Railway and accordingly built up the infrastructure for stoppage of trains at Kallinagar Railway Station;

(b) whether in spite of above, the Railways have not provided stoppage of trains at Kalinagar station so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measure taken by the Railways to provide stoppage and repair of shabby infrastructure of Kalinagar station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Provision of a crossing station at Kalinagar is a sanctioned work. The work is in progress. The stoppage of passenger trains at Kalinagar will be decided on the basis of passenger traffic offering and its financial viability.

#### **Setting up of Broadcasting Regulatory Authority**

389. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority to oversee information, communication and entertainment programmes to be telecasted for the Government and private media;

(b) if so, the details of scheme and final decision taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the manner in which the functions of the proposed regulatory authority and the Prasar Bharati would be different from each other; and

(d) the time by which the legislation in this regard is to be placed before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The matter is under consideration in the Ministry.

#### **Irregularities in Recruitment of Gangman in Bhubaneswar**

390. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the irregularities in the recruitment of gangman and other posts in Railway Recruitment Board, Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) No recruitment of gangmen by Railway Recruitment Board, Bhubaneswar has been done so far. No incident of irregularity in recruitment to other posts has come to notice.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Demolition of Building at Kalyan Railway Station**

391. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received by the Government from Ex. M.Ps, Ministers in connection with unauthorised raising of an educational institute building under construction at Kalyan by Railways in 1998;

(b) the details of action taken thereon;

(c) whether all the surveys conducted so far have given their report in favour of that institution;

(d) the difficulties being experienced by the Railways to give a decision on the basis of those reports; and

(e) the time by which the Government would take a decision on the report of the T.L.R.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Seven.

(b) Suitable replies have been sent.

(c) to (e) The Town Inspector of Land Records, Thane, in his survey had reported in favour of institution. Railways has appealed against the same and has requested the Superintendent of Land Records, Thane, to rectify the map, which shows certain discrepancies in Railway boundary. The matter is under investigation of

the State Govt. authorities. Further, the matter is still *sub judice*.

[*English*]

#### **DD through British Pay Channels**

392. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has considered a proposal to use British pay channels to air its programmes overseas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its advantages to Doordarshan;

(c) whether Doordarshan has lost interest in retaining its market share in the country; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan is currently examining the possibility of distributing the signals of DD India channel in the United Kingdom using the BskyB Platform in order to reach its programmes to Persons of Indian Origins and Non-Resident Indians living there.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **ROB at Ekra and Digghi Level Crossings**

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an over bridge at the Ekra and Digghi level-crossings on the Hazipur-Muzaffarpur Railway Line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) The construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 54/A at Railway Kms. 266/0-265/15 near Digghi on Hazipur-Bidupur Section and construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 47 at Kms. 6/11-12 near Ekara between Hazipur & Sarai Stations were sanctioned in year 2002-03 on cost sharing basis. Railway will execute bridge proper (over the track portion) and approaches by State Government Railway had provided Rs. 50 lakh as outlay for each works in the current financial year. General Arrangement Drawings (GAD) and other technical details of approaches are yet to be submitted by State Govt. During last Review meeting with Engineer-in-Chief/PWD/State Government, he had indicated that due to financial constraints they are not in a position to take up the work. Railway will take action on receipt of GAD and other details from State Government and taking up work on approaches by them simultaneously.

[*English*]

#### **Tapping of NCES in Karnataka**

394. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated measures to tap non-conventional energy sources in Karnataka particularly in Bidar districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing various programmes/schemes to tap non-conventional energy sources throughout the country, including Karnataka. Financial and fiscal incentives are being provided for setting up various non-conventional energy projects depending upon resource availability and techno-economic viability. No specific project proposal has been received in the Ministry for tapping non-conventional energy sources in the Bidar district of Karnataka. The cumulative achievements under various non-conventional energy programmes as on 31.3.2003 in Karnataka are given in enclosed statement.

**Statement**

*Cumulative achievements under various non-conventional energy programmes as on 31.3.2003 in Karnataka*

Sl. No.	Programme	Cumulative Achievement as on 31.3.03 (MW)
<b>A. Power from Renewables in Karnataka:</b>		
1.	Wind Power	124.30
2.	Small Hydro Power	182.38
3.	Biomass Power/Bagasse Cogeneration	109.38
4.	Waste-to-Energy	1.00
5.	Solar Power	0.03
6.	Biomass Gasifier	4.50
<b>B. Decentralized Energy Systems in Karnataka:</b>		
1.	Family Type Biogas Plant (Nos. in lakhs)	3.65
2.	Community/Institutional/Night soil biogas plant (Nos.)	63
3.	Improved Chulha (Nos. in lakhs)	16.52
4.	Solar Photovoltaic Systems	
	i. Solar Street Lighting System (Nos.)	1009
	ii. Home Lighting System (Nos.)	6135
	iii. Solar Lantern (Nos.)	7334
	iv. SPV Power Plant (kWp)	18.91
5.	Solar Thermal	
	i. Solar Cooker (Nos.)	250
	ii. Aditya Solar Shop (Nos.)	1
6.	i. Wind Pump (Nos.)	20
	ii. Aero-generator/Hybrid System (kw)	7.75
7.	SPV Pumps (Nos.)	337
8.	Battery Operated Vehicle (Nos.)	6
9.	Energy Park (Nos.)	11
10.	Integrated Rural Energy Programme (Nos. of Blocks)	42

MW=Megawatt; kW=Kilowatt; kWp=Kilowatt peak

**Recruitment of Scouts to Plug Infiltration**

395. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has a proposal to recruit Scouts from villages to plug infiltration across the Line of Control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had recruited Scouts from villages earlier;

(d) whether such recruitment helped to realise the desired intention for which they have been recruited on earlier occasions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Scout Battalions such as Ladakh Scouts, Garhwal Scouts, Kumaon Scouts and Dogra Scouts are regular battalions forming part of the Indian Army. The personnel for such battalions are recruited locally, to capitalise on their knowledge of language and familiarity with terrain and are deployed in respective regions along our Northern borders.

[Translation]

**Licence free FM Broadcast**

396. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:  
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to make the F.M. broadcast licence free; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Government had, on 24th July, 2003, constituted a Committee, to make recommendations for radio broadcasting for Phase II (Statement enclosed). The terms of reference of

the committee, amongst other things, included making assessment of a viable licence fee structure for the various cities (one time entry, fixed licence fee, revenue sharing, etc.), to be based on clearly defined parameters. The committee has submitted its report to the Government, on 17th November, 2003. No decision has been taken as yet, in the matter.

#### **Statement**

*The terms of Reference of the Committee, constituted by the Government on 24.7.2003, to make recommendation for Radio Broadcasting for Phase II*

- (i) Determining to transparent and effective bidding/ auction process to be adopted for allotment of frequencies.
- (ii) Assessment of a viable licensee fee structure for the various cities (one time entry fee, fixed licence fees, revenue sharing etc.) to be based on clearly defined parameters.
- (iii) Suggestions regarding extent of foreign equity participation in private FM in order to make them economically more viable/sustainable while also keeping in mind regimes in other sectors and requirements of national security.
- (iv) Study the desirability and legal implications of making modifications in licensing regime of Phase-I licensees should be a different licensing regime be proposed for a phase-II.
- (v) Suggestions for improvement in content being broadcasting and considering the inclusion of news.
- (vi) Examining the possibility of having non-commercial, non-advertisement driven channels, to be operated/licenced by the same commercial broadcasters; terms & conditions thereof; consideration of whether type of content of these channels could include subject related to the heritage and culture of India.
- (vii) Recommendations for a code of conduct in programming matters and method of strict enforcement for violations thereof;
- (viii) Assessment of whether collocation is necessary and desirable and if found otherwise, approach to be adopted in the metros, where collocated set ups involving huge investments stand operationalised.
- (ix) Determining the legal implications of the regime which may be proposed *vis-a-vis* the existing one.

- (x) Formulating draft bidding documents and contract/ licence agreement.
- (xi) Other matters as may be referred to the Committee from time to time.

*[English]*

#### **Illegal Occupation of Waiting Rooms**

397. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the large number of waiting halls/retiring rooms in Indian Railways has been under occupation by Government Railway Police or other unauthorised persons leading to depriving the public of this facility and the Railway Administration failed to get this premises vacated from the occupation of unauthorised persons;

(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 [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

*[Translation]*

#### **Setting up of New Power Projects in Bihar**

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

(a) whether proposals have been sought from State Governments for setting up some new power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of proposals sent by the Government of Bihar and the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) As per the Electricity Act, 2003, the requirement of according Techno-Economic Clearance by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has been dispensed with for thermal generation. However, any generating company intending to set up a hydro generating station shall prepare and submit to the Authority for its concurrence, a scheme estimated to

involve a capital expenditure exceeding such sum, as may be fixed by the Central Government from time to time, by Notification.

Planning Commission has delegated full powers to the State Governments for approval of power projects without any ceiling. Clearance from Planning Commission is to be restricted only to those hydro-electric projects where inter-State issues are involved.

At present, no hydro power project under the State Sector forwarded by the Bihar Government is pending with Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for according Techno-Economic Clearance.

#### **Mobile Train Radio Communication System in Trains**

399. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the proposal of having Mobile Train Radio Communication system in running trains;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the funds required for installation of such system in running trains;

(c) the detailed features of this system and the time by which this system is likely to be made operational;

(d) the routes on which the said system is likely to be introduced initially; and

(e) the time by which the entire rail network is likely to be covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:  
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Works for provision of Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system have been approved on 2415 Route Kilometers on Northern, Eastern East Central, North Central & Northeast Frontier Railways at an estimated cost of Rs. 184.83 crores.

(c) The system provides for full duplex mobile communication amongst Train Crew, Stations, Control Office and Maintenance staff. Facilities of making broadcast calls, groups calls and emergency calls will also be made available in the system.

The sanctioned works are expected to be completed by 2005-2006.

(d) and (e) Routes on which the MTRC works have been sanctioned, are as under:—

- (i) New Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana.
- (ii) Ludhiana-Pathankot-Jammu Tawi-Amritsar.
- (iii) Howrah-Mughalsarai.
- (iv) New Delhi-Jhansi.
- (v) Barsoi-Katihar & Malda Town-Barsoi-New Jalpaiguri.
- (vi) New Jalpaiguri-Bongaigaon-Guwahati.

Extension of the system on other routes of Indian Railways, would be considered after successful completion of the sanctioned works, subject to availability of funds.

[English]

#### **Passenger Facilities at Bhatinda Railway Station**

400. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized its plan for upgradation of passenger facilities at the Bathinda Railway Station in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bhatinda has been nominated for developing as a model station. Works costing Rs. 25.22 lakh have been sanctioned for upgradation of passenger amenities at Bhatinda. The works are in progress and are likely to be completed by 30.6.2004.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Petrol Pumps in Sri Lanka**

401. SHRI KAMAL NATH:  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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



(a) whether the oil companies in public sector in the country are keen to take over petrol pumps in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which these oil companies are likely to be benefited as a result of such take over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are keen to take over petrol pumps in Sri Lanka. The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) has set up a wholly-owned subsidiary company in Sri Lanka, namely, Lanka IOC Pvt. Ltd. (LIOC) for retail marketing and commenced commercial operations from 18.2.2003 after taking over 100 retail outlets from the State-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC). Fourteen Franchisee (dealer-owned) retail outlets have also been taken over by the LIOC.

The CPC has offered to transfer another 107 retail outlets to a third player. The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. have expressed interest in these retail outlets.

(c) The OMCs will have opportunity for expansion in a neighbouring country. Sri Lanka has a growing market and the investment is likely to be profitable. The OMCs will gain experience in retailing in the international market.

[*Translation*]

#### **Revenue Leakages**

402. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways are incurring losses worth crores of rupees due to revenue leakages in various departments of Railways;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken to check it; and

(c) the number of persons caught and the details of action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of measures taken to check it are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The details of persons caught during last three years who have been taken up suitably under Discipline and Appeal Rules are as under:—

Year	No. of persons
2001	6305
2002	6898
2003 (January to September, 2003)	3924

#### **Statement**

The Ministry of Railways have taken a number of steps to tackle the problem of losses due to revenue leakage in various areas such as passenger, parcel and goods booking, scrap disposal and payment to staff. Some of the result oriented measures are as under:—

#### **PASSENGER, PARCEL AND GOODS BOOKING:**

In passenger booking, intensive preventive checks at important stations including booking/reservation, platforms and trains are being organized by Railway Vigilance in addition to the regular ticket checking done by the Commercial Department. In parcel and luggage booking, checks are being organized to detect cases of wrong classification and overloading. In goods rakes, random checks are carried out to detect incidence of overloading. In addition to existing mechanical weighbridges, electronic-in-motion weighbridges have been installed at various strategic locations to facilitate checking of rakes while in motion without causing detentions.

#### **SCRAP DISPOSAL:**

In the area of scrap disposal, following steps have been taken to prevent leakage of revenue:

(a) Intensive checks are carried out to reduce incidences of leakages and to curb the malpractices.

(b) In addition to existing mechanical weighbridges, electronic weighbridges are being provided at depots and sheds from where scrap material is delivered to purchaser.

(c) Accountal of rail and Permanent-way material is being computerized.

#### **PAYMENT TO STAFF:**

Checks in various areas such as salaries, allowances, bonus, loans/advances, involving payments to staff and

leave accounts have been intensified by Zonal Railways and regular monitoring in these areas is done by Railway Board to detect cases of fraudulent/over payments.

[English]

#### **Dangerous Rail Zones**

403. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:  
SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has identified the Railway Zones and divisions with poor safety record;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against those heading these zones and responsible for poor safety records;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to improve the situation in these Zones and Divisions to combat accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) and (b) The safety performance of various Zonal Railways, Divisions and Sections etc. is monitored on a continuous basis at different levels. Appropriate corrective measures are also taken, wherever warranted. Such identified Sections, Divisions and Zonal Railways keep on changing based on periodic reviews.

(c) to (e) The direct responsibility for an accident is determined and punishment imposed on the basis of outcome of accident inquiry reports and gravity of the lapses committed by individuals. Zonal and Divisional heads are to be held responsible in case a continued neglect and grave, wide spread failure of safety system is detected.

(f) To prevent accidents on Indian Railways, appropriate measures are taken from time to time. They include induction of relevant modern technologies,

upgradation of human resources and more effective and efficient supervision. Stringent punishments to the extent of 'removal' and dismissal' are also imposed on officials held responsible for accidents. A Special Railway Safety Fund has become operational since October, 2001 to wipe out the arrears of replacement of overaged assets viz. track, bridges, rolling stock, signalling gears etc. within a period of six years. Also, a series of "Safety Samvads" have been organized since July 2003, to interact with the field staff and organized labour of the Railways to enhance the safety consciousness among the workforce.

#### **Formation of Tiger Squad**

404. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:  
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formed a "Tiger Squad" of ticket checking staff to deal with V.I.P. travellers creating psychological terror in their minds in order to make them realise that they cannot get away untouched with their conduct especially in Sonapur Division of East Central Railway in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether with this action on their part of railway tantamount to degenerate the position of the VIP passengers; and

(d) if not, the reasons for forming such squad when the normal checking is available in all the trains throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) and (b) A 'Tiger Squad' of ticket checking staff has been formed on Sonapur Division of East Central Railway with the objective to prevent entry of unauthorised passengers especially in Air-Conditioned class and reserved coaches.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The squad has been formed by the particular Division on the basis of reports and complaints received in order to check the entry of unauthorised passengers in Air-Conditioned and other reserved coaches, creating problem and causing inconvenience to the *bonafide* passengers holding reserved accommodation.

**Rail Projects with ADB Loan**

405. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:  
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has agreed to fund some railway projects;

(b) if so, the details of those projects alongwith the target for completion thereof;

(c) the quantum of the assistance being extended by ADB; and

(d) the list of the externally aided projects and details of the loans taken from various agencies other than ADB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Yes, Sir. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of US\$ 313.6 million to finance the Rail Sector Improvement Project.

(b) The following four sub-projects have so far been appraised by ADB for financing out of this loan.

Name of Project	Amount allocated (in million US\$)
Gooty-Pullampet Doubling	66.6
Keonjhar-Tomka of Daitari Banspani New Rail Link	37.7
Mahanadi second bridge	18.0
Bhatapara-Urkura of Bilaspur- Urkura Third Line	30.9

(c) The loan amount as approved is US\$ 313.6 million.

(d) External assistance is currently being utilized for the following railway projects:

- (i) World Bank (WB) is funding Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP), which has both rail and road components, through a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of US\$ 463.0 million (including US\$ 305 million for rail component) and a credit from International Development Association (IDA) of US\$ 79 million (including

US\$ 60 million for rail component). The estimated cost of rail component of this project is Rs. 3125 crores. The loan has become effective on 6th November, 2002.

- (ii) Kreditanstalt for Wiederaufbau (KfW), Germany has extended a loan of DM 185 million to finance the project of Modernisation of Signalling between Ghaziabad and Kanpur. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 425 crores. The loan is valid up to 31.12.2006.

**New Auto Fuel Policy**

406. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:  
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:  
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:  
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

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

(a) whether the R.A. Mashelkar Committee on Auto Fuel Policy submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the recommendation made by the Committee;

(c) whether the Government have examined the recommendations;

(d) if so, the response and action taken by Government on the recommendations;

(e) whether the Government propose to implement New Auto Fuel Policy;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the New Policy is in consonance with the direction given recently by the Supreme Court on the introduction of Euro-II, III or IV technology; and

(h) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the variation between the two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (f) Based on the recommendations of

the Experts Committee, headed by Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, the Government have finalized the Auto Fuel Policy for the entire country. The policy *inter alia*, lays down a clear cut road map for changes in fuel quality and vehicular technology to attain a given level of emission, besides prescribing ways and means to reduce pollution from in-use vehicles. The concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India will be implementing the policy decisions falling within the jurisdiction.

(g) and (h) The Supreme Court to India has directed that action plan be formulated for reduction of pollution levels in cities equally or more polluted than Delhi. The Auto Fuel Policy addresses issued related to vehicle technology and fuel quality.

#### Launching of DD-News Channel

407. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to telecast DD-News programmes through the week, 24 hours a day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is facing stiff competition from private News channels;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to make the DD-News Channel remunerative; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned by the Government for running this channel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that a 24 hours News Channel has been commissioned w.e.f. 3rd November 2003, by replacing DD-II (Metro Channel).

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the initial response to the channel has been very encouraging in terms of viewership ratings *vis-a-vis* other private news channels.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that the introductory rate card for the DD News channels has been structured in a matter to make it very attractive to the advertisers.

(e) Prasar Bharati has informed that this scheme was approved at an annual recurring cost of Rs. 54 crores and also that the amount sanctioned for the current financial year is Rs. 20 crores.

#### Conducting of Defence Service Exam in Regional Languages

408. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:  
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce Hindi as one of the medium of defence service recruitment examinations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this decision will put the aspiring candidates from the Hindi region at an advantageous position;

(d) if so, whether the Government consider to include all the recognised regional languages as a medium of defence service recruitment examinations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) The question papers of National Defence Academy (NDA), Naval Academy (NA) and Combined Defence Services (CDS) examinations are objective type in nature and printed only in English medium. Based on the resolution passed by Kendriya Hindi Samiti, it has been decided on 11.9.2003 that candidates appearing in NDA, NA and CDS examinations conducted by UPSC may be allowed the option of using Hindi Medium also. Government have decided to print the question papers for both these examinations, except the question papers on English language, bilingually.

The question of introduction of all the languages included in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution of India as medium of various examinations conducted by UPSC has been under consideration of the Government keeping in view the recommendations made by Dr. Satish Chandra Committee in this regard. Efforts are on to arrive at a consensus on this sensitive issue based on the recommendations of the committee.

**Defective Parts in Sukhoi-30 Aircraft**

409. SHRI Y.V. RAO:  
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the upgraded version of Sukhoi-30 aircraft inducted in IAF have defective parts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken to get the defective parts replaced free of cost from the manufacturers; and

(d) the steps taken to manufacture the Sukhoi-30 aircraft indigenously?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) SU-30 MKI Phase-I aircraft has a warranty of one year during which Supplier is required to replace/repair unserviceable parts free of cost. During this period, parts that became unserviceable during the normal flying have been replaced/repared free of cost by the Russian warranty team positioned in India.

(d) Standard of Preparation of SU-309 MKI Phase-III aircraft is not yet frozen. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) will manufacture final version of SU-30 MKI aircraft under license. HAL will be setting up facilities for indigenous manufacture of aircraft and its aggregates.

**Uneconomic Rail Lines**

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

(a) whether under the present policy, Railways propose to entrust the un-economic railway lines to private agencies under certain terms and conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any request for operation of the Joravarnagar—Sayla (NG) Railway Line (Western Railway);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Performance of Bharat Earth Movers**

411. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) in Karnataka and the performance of those units during last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to sell its stake of the Mysore plant to private sector;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken in that matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) has three manufacturing plants at Kolar Gold Fields (KGF), Mysore and Bangalore in Karnataka and a wide spread marketing and after sales service network. The Profit Before Tax of plants and marketing division is as under:—

	(Rupees in Crores)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
KGF	35.29 (-)	21.11(-)	0.28(-)
Mysore	10.82(-)	6.28(-)	19.28(+)
Bangalore	19.57(-)	20.33(-)	30.10(-)
Marketing Division	76.33(+)	60.73(+)	48.97(+)
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.65(+)</b>	<b>10.01(+)</b>	<b>37.87(+)</b>

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Use of Steam Engines to Encourage Tourism**

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

(a) total number of steam engines in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government plan to increase the use of steam engines to encourage tourism in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) At present 33 steam locomotive are working on Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Considering the heritage value and tourism potential of steam locomotives, Indian Railways have earmarked Nilgiri Mountain Railways, and Darjeeling Himalayan Railways for running metre gauge and narrow gauge services respectively on steam traction. In addition, during 150th year of Indian Railways, steam loco hauled trains were run on Mumbai-Thane, Shimla-Kathleeghat, Bolaram-Monoharabad & Howrah-Bandel sections by reviving old steam locos.

[English]

**Sale of Contaminated Water/Rail Neer at Railway Station**

413. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the sale of contaminated water/tap water in Rail Neer at railway station as reported in "Times of India" dated September 27, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted to find out the officials or agencies responsible for supplying the tap water and thus duping the passengers; and

(d) if so, the result of the inquiry and the punishment awarded to the responsible officials/agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A surprise inspection was conducted by Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways at Old Delhi Railway station on 25.09.2003 and some deficiencies were noticed in the sealing of Rail Neer bottles and it appeared as if these had been refilled by vendors of four stalls/trollys. Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) has taken immediate steps to improve the quality of seal caps.

(c) and (d) An in-depth enquiry was conducted by Northern Railway and IRCTC which has revealed that there was no complicity on the part of any Railway Official. However, vendors of stalls/trollys responsible for selling refilled Rail Neer bottles at Old Delhi station were punished suitably. Preventive checks have since been intensified by the Northern Railway to curb filling of tap water in Rail Neer bottles.

[Translation]

**Incidents of Looting, Robbery and Murders in Trains**

414. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:  
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the incident of violence reported in Jamalpur railway station;

(b) if so, the details of incidents and loss of lives & property in the incidents;

(c) the incidents of looting, robbery and murders that took place in various trains during 2003, till date, train-wise;

(d) the number of arrest made in each case;

(e) the compensation paid to the persons injured/looted and families of deceased, if any; and

(f) the stringent steps taken/to be taken to beef up more security in trains/stations to curb such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:  
(a) and (b) 12.11.2003 at about 09.33 hrs. in protest of preventing Bihari candidates at Guwahati during

examination for Group 'D' posts, about 300 local people and students (three hundred, later swelled up to 3000) assembled at Jamalpur and Ratanpur Railway Stations and targeted the North East bound as well as trains coming from North East direction like 4084 (Mahananda Express), 4055/4056 (Brahmaputra Mail) and 5647/5648 (Dadar-Guwahati Express). When these trains arrived at Jamalpur and Ratanpur Railway Stations, the agitators threw stones on the travelling Passengers, beat the passengers of North East origin and looted the personal belongings. They also harassed the lady passengers by molesting and vandalized the coaches. As many as 52 passengers and one Railway Protection Force officer were injured in these incidents. In this connection, Government Railway Police Station/Jamalpur registered four cases under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code and Railways Act 1989. 26 persons have been arrested so far. No loss of life has been reported so far. The extent of damage and loss of railway property is yet to be ascertained.

The primary responsibility for maintaining law & order and crime on Railways rests with the State Governments. "Policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on railways including in running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the Government Railway Police.

However, in view of the gravity of the incidents of attack on passengers of North East Region and the possibility of serious repercussions in other States, the Minister for Railways had taken up the issue with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Government of Bihar so that the situation could be quickly brought under control. Steps have been taken to enhance security in trains moving through Bihar, especially between Malda and Kiul, in an attempt to prevent any incidents in the trains and to instill a sense of security amongst the passengers. All North East bound trains and those coming from North East were escorted by GRP and RPF headed by an Inspector between Malda and Kiul. The escorting arrangement still continues.

(c) to (e) "Policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on Railways, including in running trains is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP). Therefore, information asked for in the question is not available with the Ministry of Railways.

(f) The Railway Administration has taken the following steps to supplement the efforts of the State Governments:—

1. Anti-social elements are removed from Railway premises and trains by the RPF regularly.
2. Announcements through Public Address system and Close Circuit Television at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers against unidentified objects and suspicious objects and suspicious characters such as those administering drug/poison laced food stuffs to unsuspecting passengers.
3. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.
4. Joint Strategies for dealing with anti-social elements operating on Railways have been chalked out by the GRP and RPF.
5. RPF sniffer dogs, wherever available, are being deployed at Railway platforms, yards etc. to sniff out explosive substances.
6. RPF staff, when required are deployed to supplement GRP, in co-ordination with GRP, to control heinous crimes on trains.

[English]

#### Approval of Programmes

415. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6764 and 6653 dated May 8, 2003 and to state:

(a) whether the Government have enquired into the matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken against guilty officers and those producers who are continuously getting approval of programmes despite their dues to the National Exchequer and a number of cases pending against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous body as per Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, has informed that a High Powered Committee under the

Chairmanship of Shri M.L. Mehta, Member, Prasar Bharati Board had been constituted to look into the alleged irregularities at Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata. The Report of the Committee has since been received and is under examination by the Prasar Bharati.

[Translation]

#### Production of Bio-Diesel

416. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project has been finalised to produce Ratanjot 'Jatropha' at the large scale to produce 'bio-diesel' in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have sanctioned several crores for the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Rural Development have been made the nodal Ministry to implement the National Mission on Bio-Diesel which proposes, *inter alia*, the plantation of Jatropha, Curcas on a large scale. Recently an inter-ministerial meeting was convened by that Ministry to discuss the various aspects of implementation of the Mission.

[English]

#### Policy on DTH

417. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently permitted DTH (Direct-to-Home) services in the country;

(b) if so, the number of broadcasting/television firms which were given permission to start the news;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any policy in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the safeguards taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check misuse of the facility by the broadcasters?

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

(b) The following companies have been given permission to uplink their news and current affairs T.V. channels from India:

1. T.V. To-day Network Ltd.
2. Jain Studios Ltd.
3. Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.
4. New Delhi T.V. Ltd.
5. T.V. Live India P. Ltd.
6. Television Eighteen India Ltd.
7. Independent News Services P. Ltd.
8. Positive T.V. P. Ltd.
9. Associated Broadcasting Co. P. Ltd.

The other existing channels, having news and current affairs, are required to conform to the revised guidelines by 25th March, 2003.

(c) to (e) The guidelines for uplinking of news and current affairs T.V. channels from India were issued on 26th March 2003, which were further revised, with regard to the eligibility criteria on 28th August, 2003. These guidelines are available in Ministry's website [www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in). The Government has, in these Guidelines for Uplinking provided safeguards, against the possible misuse by the broadcasters.

#### DD Channels through Cable

418. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati are requesting the Government for authorizing them to make it mandatory for cable operators to relay all three DD channels;

(b) if so, whether Government are propose to amend the Cable Television Act for necessary changes to empower the Director DD for enforcing the compulsory relay; and



(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As per Section 8(1) of the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, it is compulsory for all the Cable Operators in the country to distribute at least two Doodarshan terrestrial channels and one regional language channel of a state in the prime band in satellite mode, on frequencies other than those carrying terrestrial frequencies.

(b) and (c) Currently there is no proposal to amend the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995. However, there is a proposal to notify the offices of Prasar Bharati as "Authorized Offices" under the said Act.

#### **Inquiry into Security Lapses**

419. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRI J.S. BRAR:  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any indepth inquiry into the security lapses which made the militants possible to attack the top military command brass and the H.Qs in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) the number of times the militants struck the H.Qs and attempted attacks on the top military brass in Jammu & Kashmir since April, 2003 stating the number of security men & officers killed in these attacks; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to make the security system impregnable?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The investigations into the following two incidents, wherein terrorists carried out suicide attacks on army camps, are still under progress:—

(i) On 28th June, 2003, two terrorists launched a suicide attack on an infantry battalion in Sunjuwan Cantonment. Both the terrorists were killed and casualties suffered by the Army were thirteen dead and six injured.

(ii) On 22nd July 2003, the terrorists launched a suicide attack on an EME battalion at Tanda (Akhnoor). All three terrorists were killed and casualties suffered by the army were ten dead and thirteen injured.

(c) Measures taken to enhance security are as follows:—

- (i) Review of procedures to generate speedy and effective response.
- (ii) Identification of vulnerable areas.
- (iii) Sanitisation of vulnerable areas.
- (iv) Controlled access to military areas.
- (v) Strengthening of physical security measures.
- (vi) Improved co-ordination between various agencies.

[Translation]

#### **Opening of Technical Schools for Handicapped**

420. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have opened or propose to open Technical Schools for handicapped at national level to bring the handicapped people into the mainstream;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated under this Head during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Construction of Railway Gate/Over Bridge on Pathankot-Jogender Nagar Line**

421. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a request for construction of railway gate/over bridge on railway crossing D-331 of Pathankot-Jogender Nagar narrow gauge railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) No such request has been received from the State Government. However, a representation of the Villagers of the Village Panchayat Vadehar and Mataru

requesting for conversion of 'D' class cattle crossing No. D-331 into an unmanned level crossing was received alongwith a letter of the Hon'ble MP.

(c) The extant policy of the Railways does not permit for construction of new unmanned level crossing on existing lines on safety consideration. Therefore, it was not possible to accede to the demand. However, a manned level crossing or Road over bridge can be constructed at the demand location if a proposal is received from the State Govt./Local body concerned duly agreeing to bear the initial cost of construction of the level crossing/Road over bridge and one time capitalized cost of the recurring maintenance. No such proposal has been received.

#### Firing in Kargil Sector

422. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan forces have been firing in an intermittent way in Kargil and other sectors in J&K during the period of last two months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of soldiers and civilians killed and injured as a result thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Firing across the Line of Control (LoC) in Kargil and other sectors is an ongoing phenomenon. There has been no perceptible change in firing patterns during the last two months upto 25.11.2003.

(b) During the period from 26.9.2003 to 25.11.2003, twelve army personnel have been killed and forty-five injured.

During the period from 15.9.2003 to 15.11.2003, seventeen civilians have been killed and forty-six injured.

(c) To deter Pakistan from firing, the Indian troops retaliate with punitive fire assaults on Pakistan posts. Further, the level of protection of the troops deployed along the LoC is continuously being upgraded by improving defence works. In villages close to the LoC, shelters have been constructed by the Army and Civil Administration to protect the civilians from enemy firing.

[English]

#### Expansion Plan of NHPC for Power Generation

423. SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd. has drawn up any expansion plan for power generation;

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

(c) the total investment to be involved therein; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard so far?

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

(b) to (d) NHPC has envisaged a capacity addition of 4357 MW and 16004 MW during X and XI Plan respectively. The State-wise details of these projects indicating their capacity and estimated cost are given in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

##### Capacity Addition Programme in X Plan

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	State/District	Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost	
				Cost	Price Level
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>A. On-going Schemes</b>					
1.	Dulhasti	J&K/Doda	390	4190.50	Nov-01
2.	Chamera-II	H.P./Chamba	300	1684.02	Aug-98
3.	Dhauliganga-I	Uttaranchal/Pithoragarh	280	1578.31	Aug-99

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Teesta-V	Sikkim/East Sikkim	510	2198.05	Apr-99
5.	Sewa-II	J&K/Khatua	120	665.46	Sep-02
6.	Teesta Low Dam St-III	W.B./Darjeeling	132	768.92	Dec-02
<b>B. New Projects</b>					
7.	Teesta Low Dam St-IV	W.B./Darjeeling	168*	1114.26	Jul-03
8.	BAV-II	Maharashtra/Ratnagiri	37	214.21	Mar-03
<b>C. Joint Venture Projects</b>					
9.	Indira Sagar	M.P./Khandwa	1000	3527.54	Sep-00
10.	Omkareshwar	M.P./Khandwa	520	2041.93	Nov-02
11.	Purulia Pumped Storage	W.B./Purulia	900	3157.25	Jan-03
<i>Capacity Addition Programme in XI Plan</i>					
<b>A. On-going Schemes</b>					
1.	Loktak D/S*	Manipur	90	578.62	Apr-99
2.	Parbati-II	H.P.	800	3919.59	Dec-01
3.	Subansiri Lower	Ar. P.	2000	6285.33	Dec-02
<b>B. Projects under Survey and Investigation</b>					
4.	Uri-II	J&K	240	1946.09	Jul-03
5.	Parbati-III	H.P.	520	2228.41	Jul-03
6.	Chamera-III	H.P.	231	1384.18	Oct-03
7.	Bursar	J&K	1020	4378.19	Apr-01
8.	Pakal Dul	J&K	1000	3480.14	Apr-01
<i>Capacity Addition Programme in XI Plan</i>					
9.	Subansiri Middle	Ar. P.	1600	6406.18 (Alt-I)	Jun-02
				7579.67 (Alt-II)	Jun-02
10.	Subansiri Upper	Ar. P.	2000	8753.06 (Alt-I)	Jun-02
				10157.01 (Alt-II)	Jun-02
11.	Siang Middle	Ar. P.	1000	4699.81	Aug-03

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Upper Krishna Projects	Karnataka	810	984.59	Sep-03
13.	Nimoo Bazgo	J&K	45	593.01	Nov-02
14.	Chutak	J&K	30	543.00	Jun-03
15.	Dibang	Ar. P.	3000	—	
16.	Bav Stage-I	Maharashtra	18	—	
17.	Kishenganga	J&K	330	3309.55	Aug-03
18.	Lakhwar Vyasi	Uttaranchal	420	—	
19.	Kotli Bhel	Uttaranchal	850	—	

\*The installed capacity as submitted in DPR is 160 MW.

#### **Speed of Trains at Moorad Railway Bridge**

424. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that at Moorad Bridge, the trains are stopping and then moving at less than 15 Km. per hour speed; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) There is a speed restriction of 20 kmph on the bridge between Badagara and Tikkoti stations. However, the trains are not stopping at the bridge.

(b) Commissioner of Railway Safety, Bangalore, after statutory inspection, has imposed the restriction on the bridge asking for certain residual works and load test on the pile. Most of the residual works have been completed and arrangement for load test of a test pile has been processed.

#### **Retail Outlets by ONGC**

425. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:  
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

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

(a) whether there are any proposal to open retail outlets and LPG agencies by ONGC all over the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plans of ONGC to open retail outlets;

(c) the time schedule of the scheme and whether the scheme will be broad-based;

(d) the likely gains to ONGC from such retail outlets;

(e) whether a huge sales network have been put in place; and

(f) if so, the details of such plans by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, ONGC is planning to set up 1,100 Retail Outlets in 12 States/UTs of country in phases over a period of 3-4 years. However, there is no plan to set up LPG agencies by ONGC.

(d) In line with global petroleum companies, ONGC has embarked upon the integration of upstream/downstream business of petroleum. Such synergy results in sustained cash flow, considering the variable time scale cycles in the upstream and downstream business.

(e) and (f) ONGC has not set up any Retail Outlet as on date.

#### **Job Security for Cine Workers**

426. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any data about the estimated cine workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is no job security or insurance for an ordinary cine worker while NFDC deals only with well known film artistes;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering to take welfare activities for these ordinary cine workers with the welfare fund meant for other well known cine workers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981 is an Act formulated and administered by the Ministry of Labour. According to information received from Ministry of Labour there are approximately 64,483 cine workers in the country.

Under the Act, cess collected from the producers of feature films is used for the welfare of cine workers covered under the Act. The welfare activities undertaken include:

- (i) A Group Insurance Scheme for Cine Workers.
- (ii) Health Care facilities including financial assistance for treatment of (a) Heart diseases (b) Kidney Transplantation, and (c) Treatment of Cancer.
- (iii) Financial Assistance for education of the children of cine workers from first standard to professional degree classes.

National Film Development Corporation Ltd. has set up Cine Artistes Welfare Fund of India (CAWFI) registered as Public Charitable Trust, which extends financial help to needy cine artistes of yester years. The Trust was set up from the funds received by way of 5% of profit of the feature film GANDHI.

[*Translation*]

#### **Increase in Prices of Crude Oil**

427. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the sudden increase in the price of crude oil;

(b) whether the Government have any plans to tackle this situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism effective 1.4.2002, the prices of indigenous crude oil of ONGC and OIL have become market determined. As per the crude oil supply agreement signed by ONGC and OIL with the public sector oil refining companies, the prices of crude oil of ONGC and OIL are linked to international marker crude oils. Thus, the variations in the international prices of crude oil get reflected in the domestic crude oil prices of ONGC and OIL. International prices of crude oil vary on account of various reasons such as OPEC's decisions on production quota of its member countries, seasonal demand, disruptions in supplies from producing countries, etc.

[*English*]

#### **Opening of Military Station**

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

(a) whether the Government have proposal to open some new Military Stations;

(b) if so, the States where these new Military Stations are proposed to be opened;

(c) whether any new Military Station proposed to be opened in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Army is the process of acquiring land at Anandpur Sahib (Punjab), Una (Himachal Pradesh) and Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), for new Military Stations at these places.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Gandhinagar-Ahmedabad-Delhi Broad Gauge Line**

429. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of rail project connecting Gandhinagar with the Ahmedabad-Delhi broad gauge line;

(b) the planned time frame for completion of broad gauge of Kalol Moti-Adraj alongwith budgetary provisions therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) 30 hectare out of 45 hectare land has been acquired. Earthwork and bridgeworks are in various stages of progress.

(b) and (c) The entire project including conversion of Adraj Moti-Kalol is planned for completion during 2004-05 depending upon availability of resources. The anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 49.96 crore. An outlay of Rs. 15 crore has been provided for the project during 2003-04.

**Bids for Deep Water Drilling**

430. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have floated global tenders inviting bids for deep water drilling programme 'sagar samridhi';

(b) if so, the response of the global companies in this regard;

(c) the quantum of gas/oil expected to be found out;

(d) whether this would fulfil the needs of the future burgeoning demand of petroleum in the country; and

(e) if so, the investment likely to be pumped into this venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) floated a global tender in December, 2002 inviting bids for hiring deep water rigs. In response to this, 29 companies purchased tender documents, of which 25 were foreign companies and 4 were India companies.

(c) and (d) Prognosticated hydrocarbon resources of the entire deep water areas of East and West Coast offshore have been estimated to be about 7 Billion Tonnes oil equivalent (BTOE). The "Sagar Samridhi" of ONGC is a step towards realizing the hydrocarbon potential in the deep water blocks awarded to ONGC on nomination basis as also under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

As exploration and its results are probabilistic in nature, quantum of oil and gas which may be accreted cannot be specified.

(e) The estimated expenditure for the contracts awarded on basis of the global tender floated in December, 2002 is about Rs. 3,550 crores.

**Faulty Wheels**

431. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quality control mechanism in Railways to reject all sub-standard material bought by the Railways;

(b) whether the Railways are aware that faulty wheels are using for their coaches;

(c) if so, the reasons for not rejecting sub-standard items supplied by contractors;

(d) whether Railways plan to launch an intensive survey to identify and reject faulty wheels presently being used; and

(e) the steps proposed by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Quality control is through stage inspection by Rail India Technical and Economic Services and elaborate procedure exists to ensure that no substandard material is accepted.

(b) No faulty wheels are in service. Owing to improper quality control at manufacturer, some wheels have failed while nearing end of their service life. However, as a result of a drive undertaken by the Railways, all suspect wheels have been removed from service.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) An added precaution, Railways plan an intensive survey of all wheels nearing end of

service life to weed out those wheels which show signs of fatigue.

(e) Railway Workshops have been advised to check thoroughly all such wheels by non destructive tests viz. ultrasonic testing of the wheel rims, carbon percentage of the composition of steel and inspection of the wheels to the relevant Research Designs and Standard Organization standard.

#### **Rural Electrification**

432. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering involvement of private sector in the field of electrification of rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken note of private distribution companies reluctant to continue power supply to rural areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Electrification of villages is the responsibility of State Governments. In Chief Ministers conference on the 3rd of March, 2001 it was resolved to complete the village electrification by 2007. The Electricity Act, 2003 has enabling provision for the participation of private sector, Panchayats and local bodies in the supply of electricity in rural areas.

#### **Stakes in Oil and Gas Fields in Overseas Countries**

433. DR. RAJESHWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies propose to acquire stakes in oil and gas fields in several overseas countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in offshore exploration blocks in Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As envisaged in the India

Hydrocarbon Vision-2025 (IHV-2025), Indian public sector oil companies have been showing interest in acquiring stakes in oil and gas fields overseas.

ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has already entered into collaborations for exploration and production of oil and gas in Iran, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Russia, Sudan, and Vietnam and proposes to do so in Syria. Apart from the above, GAIL (India) Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) have stakes in the Exploration Blocks in Myanmar and Iran where OVL is also a participant.

(c) Seismic data was acquired in the exploration block A-1, Myanmar, the first exploratory well identified and drilling of this well commenced in mid-November, 2003.

*[Translation]*

#### **Oil and Gas Exploration in Bihar**

434. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any preliminary survey for oil and gas exploration in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on such survey;

(c) the number of blocks identified and the names of districts covered in preliminary survey by the Government where there is a possibility of finding petrol and gas; and

(d) the details thereof and outcome of tenders invited to carry out intensive survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) National Oil companies, viz., Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) as well as Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) have carried out geoscientific surveys like Aeromagnetic, Ground Gravity-Magnetic and 2D Seismic surveys in the State of Bihar covering mainly the districts of Araria, Begusarai, Bhojpur, East and West Champaran, Darbhanga, Gopalganj, Khagaria, Kishanganj, Katihar, Madhepura, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Purnea, Saharsa, Sasaram, Sitamarhi, Siwan. The exploratory efforts expended in above mentioned areas are 17595 stations of gravity-magnetic, 17,500 sq. kms. of High Resolution Aeromagnetic Survey (HRAS) and 7766

Ground Line Kilometer (GLK) of 2d seismic survey. Based on the surveys, six exploratory wells were drilled.

(c) and (d) Under the third round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), one exploration block, namely PA-ONN-2001/1 was offered for which no bid was received. Another exploration block, namely GV-ONN-2002/1 falling in the State of Bihar was identified and offered under fourth round of NELP for which one bid was received.

[English]

#### **Decentralisation of Decision-making Process**

435. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to decentralise decision making process on the administrative and financial levels in the Railways to improve both services and earnings;

(b) whether the Railways have felt the need for decentralisation in view of dipping revenue and delay in completion of projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Indian Railways already have a well defined decentralised set-up with sufficient administrative and financial powers delegated to the General Managers of Zonal Railways/Units. Delegation of Powers is, however, a continuous process and powers to Zonal Railways are being delegated from time to time, keeping in view the evolving operational and administrative requirements as also specific needs of Zonal Railways/Units.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Revival of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station**

436. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have contemplated to revive, modernize and renovate the only power generating project viz. Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station (BTPS),

Salakati located in Bodoland Territory in lower Assam either by merging it with the NTPC or providing the required fund for the revival, modernization and renovation of the same power project in the backward tribal region;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have taken any scheme and action plan to provide power connectivity to the backward indigenous tribal people in all the tribal villages in Assam with special mention to Bodoland territory;

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard so far; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station (4x60 MW) has been identified for Renovation & Modernization (R&M)/Life Extension (LE) during the 10th Plan. Units 1&2 are to be taken up in the first phase and units 3&4 in the second phase. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) had agreed to act as a consultant for reviving the thermal units at Bongaigaon TPS. Order has been placed with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) for Residual Life Assessment (RLA) Studies. The LE programme would be finalized after completion of RLA studies.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Prime Minister in the meeting with the Chief Ministers and Governments of North-Eastern States held on 22.01.2000 had announced that 165 tribal villages in North Eastern States would be electrified under Prime Ministers' Socio-economic packages for the development of the North Eastern States at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.92 crores. Out of this, 20 tribal villages of Assam State include the villages of Bodoland were taken up for electrification at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.35 crores. Ten villages have been declared as electrified and works in the remaining ten villages are in progress.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Power Cuts in Karnataka**

437. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a acute shortage of power in Karnataka; and



(b) if so, the steps are being taken by the Union Government to provide more power for Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The power supply position in Karnataka during April-October 2003 was as under:

Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)	
Requirement	19716	Peak Demand	6213
Availability	16684	Peak Met	4913
Shortage	3032	Deficit	1300
Percentage(%)	15.4	Percentage(%)	20.9

(b) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government by way of generation capacity addition through the Central Public Sector Undertakings. Karnataka has a firm allocation of 727 MW in Central Generating Stations (CGS) in Southern Region and 396 MW in Talcher STPS Stage-II (4x500 MW) in Eastern Region. In addition, Karnataka has been allocated 237 MW from unallocated quota of CGS in Southern region and 100 MW from unallocated/surrendered share of NTPC stations in Eastern Region in order to bridge gap between demand and supply in the State.

#### Expansion of Rashtriya Rifles

438. SHRI VIRENDERA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to expand Rashtriya Rifles;

(b) if so, the number of additional battalions of Rashtriya Rifles proposed to be raised; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) Government have taken a decision in 2000, to raise six Rashtriya Rifles (RR) battalions with related infrastructure, every year, over a period of five consecutive years. During 2001-2003, eighteen additional RR battalions have been raised. An annual review is conducted by the Government to determine the need of raising each year.

[*Translation*]

#### Doubling of Delhi-Moradabad and Gargara Halt-Shahjehanpur Rail Line

439. SHRI AMIR ALAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of doubling work of Delhi-Moradabad and Gargara Halt-Shahjehanpur rail routes;

(b) the schedule prescribed for the completion of the above projects;

(c) whether there is also a proposal for electrification of these routes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Double line between Delhi to Hapur already exists. The work of doubling of Hapur-Moradabad has already been taken up and works are in various stages of progress. Doubling of Amroha-Moradabad section is targetted for completion during 2003-04. There is no Gargara halt. However, the Hon'ble Member may be referring to Garrah bridge near Shahjehanpur. The Garrah bridge-Shahjehanpur section is already double line except single line on Garrah bridge. The work of doubling of Garrah bridge has been included in the budget 2003-04 and preliminary activities have been taken up. The work is likely to commence during 2004-05. The doubling of the above sections would be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

(c) Delhi-Ghaziabad is already electrified. At present, there is no proposal for electrification of Ghaziabad-Moradabad and Garrah bridge-Shahjehanpur section.

(d) Does not arise.

#### 50,000 MW Initiative Scheme

440. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes have been identified for development under '50,000 MW initiative';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these schemes are likely to be implemented in States also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the names of the States where such scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India launched 50,000 MW Hydro Electric Initiative on 24.5.2003. This initiative envisages preparation of Preliminary Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 162 Hydro Electric Schemes having aggregate installed capacity of 50,560 MW located in 16 States. After completion of feasibility studies/PFRs of these schemes further steps towards project implementation would be taken up in a phased manner in consultation with the States. State-wise details of the Hydro-electric schemes identified are given in enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*State-wise List of HE Schemes for Preliminary Feasibility Reports (PFRs)*

Sl.No.	Scheme/consultant	River/Basin	I.C. (MW)
1	2	3	4
<b>ARUNACHAL PRADESH</b>			
<b>Neepco</b>			
1.	Bhareli Lift Dam-II	Kameng	330.0
2.	Bhareli Lift Dam-I	Kameng	240.0
3.	Kapak Leyak	Kameng	195.0
4.	Badao	Kameng	120.0
5.	Pakke	Kameng	120.0
6.	Seba	Kameng	105.0
7.	Chanda	Kameng	110.0
8.	Kimi	Kameng	535.0
9.	Kameng	Kameng	1100.0
10.	Bichom-II	Kameng	205.0
11.	Papu	Kameng	160.0
12.	Talong	Kameng	150.0
13.	Utung	Kameng	110.0
14.	Tenga	Kameng	275.0
15.	Bichom Storage-I	Kameng	190.0
<b>Total (Neepco)</b>			<b>3945.0</b>

1	2	3	4
<b>NHPC</b>			
16.	Hegio	Subansiri	250.0
17.	Emini	Dihang-Dibang	295.0
18.	Amulin	Dihang-Dibang	235.0
19.	Agoline	Dihang-Dibang	235.0
20.	Rigong	Dihang-Dibang	130.0
21.	Kurung Dam-II	Subansiri	115.0
22.	Tato-II	Dihang-Dibang	360.0
23.	Oju-II	Subansiri	2580.0
24.	Attunli	Dihang-Dibang	175.0
25.	Naba	Subansiri	1290.0
26.	Emra-II	Dihang-Dibang	870.0
27.	Etalin	Dihang-Dibang	3045.0
28.	Naying	Dihang-Dibang	495.0
29.	Oju-I	Subansiri	1925.0
30.	Niare	Subansiri	1405.0
31.	Emra-I	Dihang-Dibang	275.0
32.	Minrying	Dihang-Dibang	195.0
33.	Elango	Dihang-Dibang	180.0
34.	Duimukh Storage	Subansiri	170.0
35.	Mirak	Dihang-Dibang	160.0
36.	Hirong	Dihang-Dibang	180.0
37.	Malinye	Dihang-Dibang	335.0
38.	Mihumdon	Dihang-Dibang	145.0
39.	Demwe	Dihang-Dibang	3000.0
40.	Kurung Dam-I	Subansiri	200.0
<b>Total (NHPC)</b>			<b>18245.0</b>
<b>WAPCOS</b>			
41.	Hutong	Luhit	950.0
42.	Kalai	Luhit	2550.0
<b>Total (WAPCOS)</b>			<b>3500.0</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>25690.00</b>
<b>(Arunachal Pradesh)</b>			

1	2	3	4
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>			
1.	Dummagudem	Godavari	360.0
2.	Singareddi	Godavari	250.0
3.	Pondugala	Krishna	95.0
Grand Total (Andhara Pradesh)			705.00
<b>CHHATTISGARH</b>			
<b>WAPCOS</b>			
1.	Nugur-II	Indravati	270
2.	Nugur-I	Indravati	160
3.	Kotri	Godavari	70
4.	Duniadhin	Sone	80
Grand Total (Chhattisgarh)			580
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b>			
<b>HPSEB</b>			
1.	Jangi Thopan	Sutlej	410
2.	Gharopa	Beas	85
3.	Luhri	Sutlej	425
4.	Gondhala	Chenab	90
5.	Khoksar	Chenab	80
6.	Bardang	Chenab	145
7.	Chhatru	Chenab	140
8.	Seli	Chenab	150
9.	Sach Khas	Chenab	70
10.	Tidong-I	Sutlej	90
Total (HPSEB)			1685
<b>SJVNL</b>			
11.	Khab-I	Sutlej	1640
12.	Khab-II	Sutlej	425
Total (SJVNL)			2065
Grand Total (Himachal Pradesh)			3750

1	2	3	4
<b>JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR</b>			
<b>NHPC</b>			
1.	Hatian	Jhelum	215
2.	Chenari	Jhelum	475
3.	Karkit	Indus	190
4.	Kanyunche	Indus	105
5.	Khalsi	Indus	170
6.	Takmaching	Indus	75
7.	Dumkhar	Indus	130
Total (NHPC)			1360
<b>WAPCOS</b>			
8.	Ratle	Chenab	515
9.	Ujh	Ravi	96
10.	Kwar	Chenab	440
11.	Kiru	Chenab	295
12.	Shamnot	Chenab	200
13.	Bichlari	Chenab	75
Total (WAPCOS)			1621
Grand Total (Jammu & Kashmir)			2981
<b>KARNATAKA</b>			
<b>KPCL</b>			
1.	Kali Nadi-II (Mardi)	Mandavi-Sharavati	175.0
2.	Krishnapur	Mandavi-Sharavati	210.0
3.	Gangavali-II	Mandavi-Sharavati	105.0
4.	Jaldurg	Krishna	270.0
5.	Narayanpur	Krishna	70.0
Grand Total (Karnataka)			830.0
<b>KERALA</b>			
<b>WAPCOS</b>			
1.	Barapole-II	Varahi-Kuttiyadi	85

1	2	3	4
2.	Perinjakutty	Perinjakutty	120
Grand Total (Kerala)			205

**MAHARASHTRA****WAPCOS**

1.	Kunghara	Godavari	115.0
2.	Ghargaon	Godavari	105.0
3.	Samda	Godavari	95.0
4.	Kasari-I	Kasari	215.0
5.	Kadvi	Vama	215.0
6.	Kumbhi-I	Krishna	170.0
7.	Hiranyakeshi-II	Vedganga	405.0
8.	Pranhita	Pranhita	310.0
9.	Wainganga	Godavari	150.0
Grand Total (Maharashtra)			1780.0

**MANIPUR****WAPCOS**

1.	Nungliban	Barak & Others	85
2.	Khongnem Chalkha-II	Barak & Others	90
3.	Pabaram	Barak & Others	232
Grand Total (Manipur)			407

**MEGHALAYA****WAPCOS**

1.	Sushen	Barak & Others	150
2.	Umjaut	Barak & Others	85
3.	Umduna	Barak & Others	95
4.	Kynshi-II	Barak & Others	175
5.	Umiam Umtru-VI	Kalang	145
6.	Nongkolait	Barak & Others	180
7.	Mawblei Storage	Barak & Others	100
8.	Kyanshi Storage I	Barak	295

1	2	3	4
9.	Umangot Storage	Barak	285
Grand Total (Meghalaya)			1490

**MIZORAM****WAPCOS**

1.	Kakjam	Barak & Others	545
2.	Lunglang Storage	Barak & Others	690
3.	Boinu Storage	Barak & Others	635
Grand Total (Mizoram)			1870

**MADHYA PRADESH****NHPC**

1.	Besania	Narmada	60.0
Grand Total (Madhya Pradesh)			60.0

**NAGALAND****NEEPCO**

1.	Yangnyu Stor.	U. Brahmaputra	135
2.	Tizu	Barak & Others	365
3.	Dikhu Dam	U. Brahmaputra	470
Grand Total (Nagaland)			970

**ORISSA****WAPCOS**

1.	Baljori	Baitami	393
2.	Naraj	Mahanadi	215
3.	Tikkarpara	Mahanadi	205
4.	Lower Kolab	Sabari	375
Grand Total (Orissa)			1188

**SIKKIM****NHPC**

1.	Panan	Tista	230
2.	Namlum	Tista	175
3.	Dikchu	Tista	90
4.	Rangyong	Tista	175

1	2	3	4
5.	Lingza	Tista	160
6.	Rukel	Tista	90
7.	Rongni Storage	Tista	95
8.	Jedang	Tista	185
9.	Ringpi	Tista	160
10.	Teesta St. I	Tista	320
Grand Total (Sikkim)			1680

## UTTARANCHAL

## WAPCOS

1.	Badri Nath	Alaknanda	260
2.	Khartoli Lumti Thali	Sarda	105
3.	Harsil Dam	Bhagirathi	350
4.	Nelang	Jadhganga	190
5.	Jadh Ganga	Jadhganga	110
6.	Karmali	Jadhganga	190
7.	Gangotri	Bhagirathi	70
8.	Kalika Dantu	Sarda	140
9.	Mapang Bogudiyar	Sarda	185
10.	Sela Urthing	Sarda	165
11.	Sirkari Bhyol Rus Bagar	Sarda	145
12.	Sobala Jhimrigaon	Sarda	145
13.	Sirkari Bhyol Bodudiyar	Sarda	240
14.	Chhenger Chal	Sarda	145
15.	Rishi Ganga II	Rishiganga	65
16.	Bokang Bailing	Sarda	145
17.	Deodi	Rishiganga	65
18.	Rishi Ganga I	Rishiganga	115
19.	Jalem Tamak	Dhauliganga	150
20.	Maleri Jhelam	Dhauliganga	90
21.	Devasari Dam	Pindar	78
22.	Khasiyabara	Sarda	280

1	2	3	4
23.	Garba Tawaghat	Sarda	195
24.	Gohana Tal	Birahiganga	95
25.	Garjia Dam	Sarda	295
26.	Bhairon Ghati	Bhagirathi	60
Total (WAPCOS)			4073

## UVJNL

27.	Tapovan Chunar	Dhauliganga	485
28.	Lata Tapovan	Dhauliganga	320
29.	Bhela Tipri	Bhagirathi	100
30.	Nand Prayag Langasu	Alaknanda	180
31.	Tamak Lata	Dhauliganga	200
32.	Khet Tawaghat	Sarda	225
33.	Urthing Sobala	Sarda	340
34.	Ramganga Dam	Sarda	75
35.	Pindar Ghati	Pindar	112
36.	Arkot Tuini (Nakoti Ptasu)	Yamuna/Utt.	70
37.	Jakhol Sankri	Yamuna/Utt.	60
38.	Bagoti Dam	Pindar	64
39.	Naitwar Mori	Yamuna/Utt.	70
Total (UVJNL)			2301

Grand Total (Uttaranchal) 6374

Grand Total (All India) Number of Schemes 162

Installed Capacity (MW) 50580

## Consultants:

UVJNL: Uttaranchal Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited

NHPC: National Hydroelectric Power Corporation

WAPCOS: Water &amp; Power Consultancy Services India Ltd.

NEEPCO: North Eastern Electric Power Corporation

SJVNL: Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.

KPCL: Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd.

HPSEB: Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board

*[English]***Deccan Odyssey Luxury Train**

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

(a) whether the splendid luxury train, "Deccan Odyssey" conceptualized by the Government of Maharashtra has hit the track with specific objects of attracting foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the salient features and tariff of this train and details of the scenic and tourist spots visited by this train; and

(c) the estimated annual income to be generated thereby and the manner in which it would be divided between the Union and the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) An MoU has been signed between the Indian Railways and the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation for running of a luxury tourist train which would originate and terminate at Mumbai and cover the tourist destinations of Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Goa, Pune, Aurangabad, Nasik. The Railways would be responsible for the operation of the train while the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation would provide all the facilities necessary for the onboard services, local sightseeing etc. the arrangements for launch of the train are under finalization.

*[Translation]***Anti-Corrosion Rails**

442. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether corroded rails developing cracks increases the probability of accidents;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered launching an ambitious plan to develop anti-corrosion rails; and

(c) if so, the time by which this project is likely to be started and the amount to be spent for this purpose, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), on the request of Railways, have recently developed corrosion resistant rails.

(c) The development phase is over and the project is currently under trial. Further action shall be taken based on the results of the trial. The project has been done with in-house capability and no separate allocation has been made for this purpose.

*[English]***Accountability on Rail Accidents**

443. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that largest number of railway accidents took place during the tenure of 13th Lok Sabha, till date;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking action against the Administrators in the High Offices and only small railway personnel have been punished;

(c) whether the Government are considering to have a Member of the Railway Board to exclusively look to prevent railway accidents having its counterparts in the Zonal and Divisional Railways and whether the accountability should also be fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) and (b) The number of consequential train accidents since October 1999 (13th Lok Sabha) till November 2003 were 1725 (provisional figures) as against 2073 during the preceding five year period of 1994-95 to 1998-99. However during the last three years, the number of consequential train accidents came down from 473 (during 2000-01) to 414 during the period 2001-02 and further 351 (provisional figures) during the period 2002-03. This is the lowest ever number of consequential train accidents on Indian Railways. Further, the number of consequential train accidents per million train kilometers, an internationally accepted benchmark of safety performance, now stands at 0.44, the lowest figure in the last 40 years.

There exists a system of fixing up of responsibility at appropriate levels as finalised in the inquiry reports.

- (c) No, Sir.  
(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### Setting up of Power and LNG Plants by IOCL

444. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited propose to set up power plants in some States;  
(b) if so, the details thereof;  
(c) whether said corporation propose to set up LNG plants also in collaboration with other countries; and  
(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) is planning to set up a 360 MW power plant at Panipat, Haryana. The project is planned to be executed through 'Panipat Power Consortium Limited' a joint venture company of IOC and Marubeni Corporation, Japan.

(c) and (d) Apart from the ongoing LNG project of Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL), a joint venture company of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) at Dahej, IOC in collaboration with Petronas International Corporation Ltd. of Malaysia, BP Global Investment Ltd. of United Kingdom and Kakinada Sea Ports Ltd. of India is planning to set up LNG import terminal at Kakinada deepwater port in Andhra Pradesh. IOC alongwith GAIL is also in discussion with National Iranian Gas Export Company of Iran for import of LNG.

#### Growth In Sale of Petroleum Products

445. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the growth in sale of diesel, petrol and LPG during the last three years and the growth in retail outlets/LPG distributorship during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): The information is given at the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

*The growth in sale/consumption of Diesel, Petrol and LPG during the last three years is as under:*

		(TMT)		
Product		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Diesel	Sale/Consumption	379.58	365.46	366.45
	Percentage Growth	-3.4	-3.7	0.3
Petrol	Sale/Consumption	6613	7011	7570
	Percentage Growth	11.9	6.0	8.0
LPG	Sale/Consumption	7016	7728	8351
	Percentage Growth	9.3	10.1	8.1

The growth in Retail Outlets and LPG Distributorship in the last three years is as under:—

		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Retail Outlets	Nos.*	18239	18848	19809
	Percentage growth	2.8	3.3	5.1
LPG Distributorship	Nos.*	6477	7486	7910
	Percentage growth	5.1	15.6	5.7

\*At the end of the financial year.

#### Projects of IRCON

446. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Ircon International Limited has entrusted with the construction of residential units for the Army;  
(b) if so, the details about the name of the places where the construction work has been started; and  
(c) the details about the mega projects completed by the Ircon International Limited during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with Ministry of Defence for taking up turnkey construction of housing projects for Defence Personnel.

(b) The work is to be taken up at three locations i.e. Allahabad, Jhansi and Bhopal.

(c) A statement is attached.

**Statement**

S.No.	Name of Project	Month of Completion	Value in Rs. lacs	Date of award	Name of Client
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Year 2000-01</b>					
1.	Construction of Research & Training Centre and Auditorium BUILDING-Bhopal Hospital Project, Phase-III at Bhopal	April' 2000	709	30.1.1997	Hospital Services Consultancy Corp. (India Ltd.)
2.	Construction of Road works & CD works in Bangalore for Bangalore Development Authority	June' 2000	2520	16.9.1998	Bangalore Development Authority
3.	Construction of third Wing of Division of Mycology & Plant Pathology BUILDING, IARI, New Delhi.	July' 2000	407	31.3.1995	Indian Agriculture Research Institute
4.	Vadodara-Halol Road Project for Gujarat Toll Road Company Limited	Sept' 2000	5323	22.2.1999	Gujarat Toll Road Company Ltd.
5.	Andhra Pradesh State Highway Project-APSH-I Warangal-Karimnagar-Raipatnam (115 Km)	Oct' 2000	8633	1.5.98	Engineer-in-Chief (R&B) Administration & EAP, State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
6.	Jaipur Bypass Phase-I	Jan' 2001	6112	7.9.98	National Highway Authority of India
7.	Andhra Pradesh State Highway Project-APSH-3 Cuddapah-Tadipatri (70 Km)	Jan' 2001	5359	1.5.98	Engineer-in-Chief (R&B) Administration & EAP, State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
<b>Year 2001-02</b>					
1.	Rail Link from Palabuhan-Tanjung-Pelepas-Johar in Malaysia	Jan' 2002	58602	13.7.1999	Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB), Ministry of Transport of Malaysia
2.	Sylhet-Tamabil-Jafflong Road Improvement Project, Bangladesh	March' 2002	3261	2.8.01	Ministry of Communication, Road & Highways Department (RHD), Bangladesh
3.	Grid Sub-Station for PEDEEE at Syria.	March' 2002	4393	24.5.2000	Public Establishment for Distribution & Exploitation of Electrical Energy (PEDEEE)
4.	Construction of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry College Campus BUILDING at Saleeh, Aizawl, Mizoram.	June' 2001	2498	31.1.1997	Central Agriculture University IROISEMBA, Imphal, Manipur



1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Construction of Maternity Hospital-cum-Clinic and health administrative units/ BUILDINGS under IPP-VIII at different locations around Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority for CMDA.	Aug' 2001	820	23.4.1999	Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority
6.	Sector Development Project, Noida	Jan' 2002	2900	23.6.1998	New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA)
7.	MGR for Mejia Thermal Power Project at Durlavpur	March' 2002	10799	18.11.1988	Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)
8.	National Bureau of Plant Genetics Resources BUILDING at IARI, Pusa, New Delhi	March' 2002	306	10.9.96	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR)
<b>Year 2002-03</b>					
1.	ROBs over Railway Lines on deferred payment for MSRDC (Phase-I)	May' 2002	9000	01-Mar' 97	Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation
2.	Mechanised Coal Handling Facilities at Paradip Port.	June' 2002	3350	02 Aug-97	Paradip Port Trust
3.	ROBs over Railway Lines on deferred payment for MSRDC (Phase-II)	Sept' 2002	8500	01-Mar-97	Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation
4.	Construction of outer Ring Road bet. Magadi Road and Tumkur Road at Bangalore	Nov' 02	2400	27-Jan-01	Bangalore Development Authority
5.	National Agricultural Science Centre complex BUILDING at IARI, Pusa, New Delhi	Jan' 2003	5207	09-Jan-95	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
6.	Fatuha-Islampur BG Railway line Project for E. Rly.	Jan' 2003	3441	12-Oct-98	Eastern Railway
7.	Construction of Cable stayed bridge and approaches at Bangalore	Jan' 2003	3967	15-Aug-98	Southern Railway
8.	Land development work at new town/ Rajarhat (Contract-I)	Mar' 2003	4572	12-Nov-99	West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corpon. Ltd.
9.	400 KV PGCIL Sub-station work at Mapusa, Goa	Mar' 2003	3321	16-Mar-01	PGCIL
<b>Year 2003-04</b>					
1.	Construction of ballast less track for MTP (Railways) at Chennai	Oct-03	2539	27-Sep-02	MTP (Railways), Chennai
2.	Bangabandhu (Jamuna) bridge Railway Link Project-Bangladesh.	Oct-03	24174	19-Oct-99	Ministry of Communication Roads & Railway Division, Republic of Bangladesh
3.	New Academic BUILDING for Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Versova, Mumbai.	Substantially completed	7400	24-Dec-01	Central Institute of Fisheries Education

**Recruitment in Railways**

447. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to fill the recruitment of Railways on regional basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) have an all India character. The RRBs recruit staff to various non-gazetted posts, calling for applications from candidates from all over the country. The recruitment is done on the basis of the individual performance of the candidates in the examination without any cognizance to the state, sex, creed for religion of the candidates.

**Retail Outlets by Private Oil Companies**

448. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted private sector oil companies to open Diesel and Petrol retail outlets across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount paid by them as royalty or bid amount to the Government;

(c) the time by which they are going to open their retail outlets across the country;

(d) whether it will not affect the Marketing Plans of existing public sector oil companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Government have granted permission to open retail outlets to M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited & M/s. Essar Oil Limited as per guidelines issued vide its Resolution dated 8th March, 2002. They have not paid any royalty or bid amount to the Government.

(c) to (e) These Private Companies as well as Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are free to set up Retail Outlets as per their commercial considerations.

**Revival of NEPA Limited**

449. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Nagaland Pulp and Paper Limited is closed down due to non-availability of fund;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has sought financial assistance for reviving this company to provide the new jobs for the unemployed youths; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to revive the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The operations of the company have been under suspension since October, 1992 due to operational constraints.

(b) and (c) Financial assistance has not been sought. However, a proposal for the revival of the company as submitted by Consultants is under the consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

**Shortage of Electricity in Jharkhand**

450. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are studying way and means to deal with the present acute shortage of electricity in Jharkhand and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment in regard to present shortage of electricity in the said States; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to provide assistance to those States to overcome

the present power crisis and the action taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Electricity is a concurrent subject. The supply and distribution of electricity in a State is in the purview of concerned State Government/State Power Utility. Government of India supplements the efforts of State Government by setting up power plants in Central Sector through CPSUs and augmenting power availability in States. Further, Government of India generally keeps on studying ways and means to deal with acute power shortage prevailing in any State in the country (including Jharkhand and Maharashtra) by monitoring various aspects related to power generation, transmission and distribution. The following steps are being taken to improve the generation and availability of power in the country:—

- (i) A capacity addition of 41,110 MW has been targeted in Central, State and Private Sectors for 10th Five Year Plan out of which 22,832 MW is in the Central Sector.
- (ii) Demand side management and promotion of energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.
- (iii) Implementation of renovation, modernization and life extension schemes for old and inefficient units for overall improvement in generation performance.
- (iv) Enhancement of inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by strengthening of inter-regional transmission links and finally formation of National Grid.
- (v) To bring about reforms in distribution, Government of India has approved an Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for upgradation of sub-transmission system in States as a major step towards reduction of aggregate transmission and commercial losses and attaining commercial viability of the power sector.

(c) and (d) Power supply position in the States of Jharkhand and Maharashtra during April-October, 2003 are given below:—

#### JHARKHAND

	Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)
Requirement	1870	Peak Demand	539
Availability	1775	Peak met	466
Shortage	95	Shortage	73
%	5.1	%	13.5

#### MAHARASHTRA

Requirement	48845	Peak Demand	13612
Availability	44559	Peak met	11078
Shortage	4286	Shortage	2534
%	8.8	%	18.6

Jharkhand is a constituent of Eastern region, which has surplus power and substantial power is being exported from eastern region to other regions on regular basis. The shortage of power prevailing in the State of Jharkhand is primarily attributable to commercial reasons and low Plant Load Factor (PLF) of its own thermal generating stations.

Following measures have been taken to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in the States of Jharkhand and Maharashtra:—

#### JHARKHAND:

- \* In order to improve the availability of power, generating units with total capacity of about 1750 MW have been identified for Renovation, Modernization, Upgrading and Life-extension during the 10th Plan.
- \* Thermal capacity of 320 MW is envisaged to be added in the State during the 10th Plan.
- \* The State will have entitlements in new central sector power projects targeted in the 10th Plan.

#### MAHARASHTRA:

- \* 229 MW has been allocated to the State from the unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations in the Western Region.
- \* 80 MW power has been allocated to the State from unallocated quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region.

- \* Availing 400 MW from GRIDCO (Eastern Region) under bilateral agreement.
- \* Generating units with total capacity of 2760 MW have been identified for Renovation, Modernization, Uprating and Life-extension during 10th Plan.
- \* Capacity addition of 1944 MW has been targeted in State/Private Sectors during the 10th Plan.
- \* The State will have entitlements in new Central and Joint Sector power projects in the Western Region targeted in the 10th Plan.

[English]

#### **Survey of New Jalpaiguri-Gangtok Line**

451. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any survey for a new railway line proposed from New Jalpaiguri to Gangtok;

(b) if so, the outcome of survey;

(c) whether the Government are aware that rail link between Gangtok-New Jalpaiguri existed a long back;

(d) if so, the reasons for not re-connecting Gangtok from New Jalpaiguri by rail; and

(e) the time by which this rail link is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) No survey has been done for new rail line from New Jalpaiguri to Gangtok. However, a survey for new line from Sevok to Gangtok was conducted in 2000-2001. As per the survey report, it is brought out that construction of Railway line is not feasible beyond Singtam upto Gangtok due to extremely difficult topography. The cost of construction of 59.65 km long line from Sevok to Singtam had been assessed as Rs. 1099.79 crore. Due to heavy throw forward of ongoing projects and constraint of resources, the proposed line could not be considered. Further, survey has been taken up for restoration of BG line from Sevok to Giellikhola.

(c) to (e) There had been no rail link to Gangtok. However, narrow gauge line existed between New Jalpaiguri and Giellikhola via Sevok which got washed

away in 1950. The restoration of line from Sevok to Giellikhola would depend upon the result of the survey and the availability of resources.

#### **Modernisation of Motorman's Cabins**

452. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work relating to modernisation, air conditioning of the Motormen's cabins of Mumbai Suburb Railway is completed;

(b) the status in both Western Railway and Central Railway;

(c) the measures are being taken to protect the Motormen's cabins during attack, like stone throwing, law and order problem; and

(d) the manner in which it is likely to improve the functioning of suburb Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Modernisation of rolling stock including the motormen's cab is an ongoing process. The new Electrical Multiple Units to be manufactured for Mumbai Suburb area both for Central and Western Railways will have modern cabs but without air conditioning.

(c) Unbreakable and stone proof lookout glass and door window's louvers have been provided to protect the motormen's cab during attack like stone throwing, law and order problem.

(d) These modifications will provide better comfort and safety to motormen.

#### **Funds under Social Awareness Programmes**

453. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided funds to West Bengal and other States/UTs for various social awareness programmes;

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

(c) the areas selected under these programmes and funds sanctioned/released for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(d) the number of applications received from various Non-Governmental Organisations in this regard, State/UT-wise;

(e) the funds sanctioned and released for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, NGO-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is giving publicity to all its schemes and programmes to generate social awareness across the country through various forms of Media viz. Electronic media, print media, outdoor media, etc. Details of activities undertaken in this regard are as follows:

(i) A weekly radio programme "Sanwanti Jaayein Jeevan ki raahein" is broadcast. (ii) Radio spots/jingles on the schemes and programmes of this Ministry are being broadcast/telecast, (iii) Awareness films are screened in rural areas through the Filed Publicity Units of the Directorate of Field Publicity, a Media Unit of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. (iv) Specific occasions related advertisements are also issued through DAVP to the newspapers all over the country giving information about the schemes and programmes of the Ministry. (v) To publicise Ministry's activities, outdoor Media such as bus back pannels, train panels and animation display board and hoardings are also utilized. (vi) The Ministry has a web-site <http://www.socialjustice.nic.in>, which provides important information about its schemes and programmes that has proved of immense help in dissemination of the information to all those with interest in the related fields.

All these awareness programmes are undertaken centrally and not through States or NGOs. Therefore, no fund is sanctioned/released either to State Governments or NGOs.

#### **Lack of Reservation Facility at Canning Station in West Bengal**

454. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the passengers are facing a lot of difficulties due to the lack of reservation facility for the long distance trains at Canning Station in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the remedial measures taken/to be taken to sort out the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOU DA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) The passengers of Canning station intending to seek reservation in long distance trains can do so from computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centre available at Sonarpur which is well connected to Canning by EMU trains. However, the setting up of a computerised reservation centre at Canning station will be considered in the Annual Plan 2004-2005.

#### **Teesta Hydro Electric Project**

455. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target date fixed for the completion of Teesta hydro electric project stage-III;

(b) the progress made in the completion of that project; and

(c) the names of States likely to be benefited from power project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Government of India has, on October 30, 2003, approved setting up of the Teesta Low Dam Stage-III Hydro Electric Project (132 MW) in West Bengal in the Central Sector by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC).

The completion schedule of the project is March 2007 as per the techno-economic clearance accorded by Central Electricity Authority to the project. Government of West Bengal had agreed to forego 12% free power and to absorb the entire power generated from this project. However, in the event of allocation of the power of this project to other State(s) by Ministry of Power, without any failure on the part of Government of West Bengal to absorb and pay for the power, the Government of West Bengal will get 12% free power.

#### **Assistance to Assam State Electricity Board under APDRP**

456. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided over Rs. 430 crores under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for the Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB);

(b) if so, the details of the project to be financed therewith;

(c) whether the government have received any progress report in respect of this project;

(d) if so, the details of the progress report; and

(e) the reactions for the delay in implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The

Government have sanctioned projects worth Rs. 428.56 crore under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) during 2000-01 and 2002-03, out of which Rs. 116.99 crore has been released so far.

(b) to (d) The details of the projects sanctioned under APDRP to assam are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) The projects under APDRP are required to be executed on turn-key basis. The reasons for delay are attributable to delay in preparation of bid documents, notice inviting tender and award of contract on turn-key basis.

**Statement**

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Sl. No.	Name of the project	Project cost	Funds released	Utilization
2000-01	1.	ST&D Project at Dibrugarh	20.02	20.02	5.05
	2.	ST&D Project at Guwahati-II			
	3.	ST&D Project at Jorhat			
2001-02		Nil			
2002-03	1.	ST&D Project at Dibrugarh	23.71	96.97	0.80
	2.	ST&D Project at Guwahati II	17.83		
	3.	ST&D Project at Jorhat	29.90		
	4.	ST&D Project at Cachar I	39.95		
	5.	ST&D Project at Bongaigaon	18.15		
	6.	ST&D Project at Sibsagar	28.23		
	7.	ST&D Project at Guwahati-I	52.38		
	8.	ST&D Project at Nagaon	46.22		
	9.	ST&D Project at Rangia	44.24		
	10.	ST&D Project at Cachhar-II	26.78		
	11.	ST&D Project at Tezpur	38.59		
	12.	ST&D Project at Mongoldoi	19.46		
	13.	ST&D Project at Kokrajhar	23.10		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>408.54</b>	<b>96.97</b>	<b>0.80</b>
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>428.56</b>	<b>116.99</b>	<b>5.85</b>

[*Translation*]

### Electrification of villages of West Bengal

457. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for electrification of villages in West Bengal during the Ninth Five Year Plan and whether the desired results had been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which all the villages in the State are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Against the target of electrification of 2800 villages in West Bengal during the 9th Five Year Plan Period, 1230 villages have been electrified during the same period.

(b) Targets could not be achieved due to non-availability of adequate financial resources and financial losses of West Bengal State Electricity Board.

(c) By March, 2007 all the villages in the State are required to be electrified.

[*English*]

### Natural Gas Pipeline Policy

458. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the natural gas pipeline policy which *inter alia* envisages appointment of a regulator for transmission and distribution, supply and storage of natural gas?

(b) if so, the details of guidelines provided for the companies to sell gas from the well head to consumers;

(c) whether the Government also propose to set up a National Advisory Council to promote and develop the gas sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government had released a Draft Policy for the development of Natural

Gas sector, inviting comments from various Stake Holders. Apart from other features, the draft Natural Gas Pipeline Policy envisages that any producer of gas, subject to prior permission of the Regulator (and for the PSUs, Central Government) will have the right to sell gas within 100 Kms. of well head or landfall point to consumers directly and lay the pipeline for this purpose.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per the Draft Policy, it is proposed to set up a National Advisory Council consisting of stake holders of the gas grid system. The Council will give advice on the matters to the Government, and if so, desired to the Regulator.

### Gauge Conversion Projects in Tamil Nadu

459. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length and stretches of metre gauge lines in Tamil Nadu as of now;

(b) the stretches of metre gauge where Broad gauge conversion is underway;

(c) the estimated cost of the BG line conversion projects in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the quantum of allocation so far, showing current year allocation separately, for the BG conversion projects of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) As on 1.04.1992, a total of 2907 kms. of Meter Gauge track was existing in the State of Tamil Nadu, out of which gauge conversion of 995 kms. has been completed till 31.3.2003. Work is in various stages of progress on 1280 kms. length.

(c) The total estimated cost of gauge conversion projects in Tamil Nadu is Rs. 2928.09 crore.

(d) Total outlay of Rs. 1338.65 crore has been provided for gauge conversion projects upto March 2003 and the total budget outlay during 2003-04 for all the gauge conversion projects in the State of Tamil Nadu is Rs. 92.89 crore.

### NCC Strength

460. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation and actual strength of NCC cadets each at junior and senior stage in different wings during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any new strength has been added to the strength of the NCC during each of last three years State-wise and wing-wise in each of senior and junior stage; and

(c) the reasons of discrepancy in strength allocations among the States, if any?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The details of allocated and actual strength of NCC cadets at both junior and senior stage

in different wings during the last three years are enclosed as statement I to VI.

(b) Cadet strength has been enhanced in November, 2001 and October, 2002 by 76,560 and 23,440 respectively. Though new cadet strength was added to NCC in two stages, the increase has been allocated to various State Dtes. during the year 2002-2003 according to the additional cadet strength requested for by the concerned State Governments. State-wise and wing-wise distribution in the senior and junior division is given in the enclosed Statement-VII and VIII.

(c) The difference in the allocation of cadet strength among the States is due to the requests for additional strength and commitment for funding support by the State Governments.

### *Statement I*

#### *Cadet Strength of JD/JW as on 31 March 2001*

Sl.No.	State/UT	ARMY		NAVAL		AIR		JW		Total	
		Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40150	38741	4900	4900	4650	4650	15400	14794	65100	63085
2.	Bihar	38650	30984	2950	1850	3100	2750	3500	3061	48200	38645
3.	Delhi	17650	16381	1700	1400	2200	2200	4400	3413	25950	23394
4.	Gujarat	24850	22570	1400	1400	1450	1350	4100	3631	31800	28951
5.	Diu Daman	200	150	0	0	0	0	200	200	400	350
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	6850	6189	800	700	0	0	1900	1848	9550	8737
7.	Karnataka	22700	21875	6450	6020	6350	5554	5000	4750	40500	38199
8.	Goa	850	730	1250	1250	0	0	50	50	2150	2030
9.	Kerala	35750	34405	4950	4850	2150	2150	5150	5150	48000	46555
10.	Lakshadweep	0	0	650	650	0	0	0	0	650	650
11.	Madhya Pradesh	33630	33364	2200	2150	1650	1300	5600	5330	43080	42144
12.	Chhattisgarh	10300	10300	0	0	750	750	1250	1100	12300	12150
13.	Maharashtra	47500	47225	3450	3450	3500	3550	5400	5300	59900	59525
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	3400	3104	0	0	200	180	225	225	3825	3509
15.	Assam	19350	16924	2450	1875	2500	2100	3325	2593	27625	23492
16.	Manipur	3450	3450	50	0	1100	200	650	650	5250	4300
17.	Meghalaya	1550	1055	100	0	300	0	1120	743	3070	1798



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
18.	Mizoram	900	950	0	0	0	0	200	250	1100	1200
19.	Nagaland	2100	2100	0	0	200	200	200	200	2500	2500
20.	Tripura	1800	1837	0	0	0	0	500	541	2300	2378
21.	Orissa	28790	26896	2200	2200	2150	2150	2700	2600	35840	33846
22.	Punjab	23350	21156	1200	1200	2950	2700	2750	2277	30250	27333
23.	Haryana	14400	13693	450	450	1450	1246	1400	1000	17700	16389
24.	Himachal Pradesh	18250	16155	700	617	250	100	1500	1500	20700	18372
25.	Chandigarh	950	950	550	550	200	200	350	350	2050	2050
26.	Rajasthan	21300	20588	3350	3325	5300	5000	2200	2200	32150	31113
27.	Tamil Nadu	54844	51851	5350	5271	5150	4770	6000	5425	71344	67317
28.	Pondicherry	2440	2440	300	300	0	0	200	200	2940	2940
29.	Andaman	750	555	400	400	100	100	250	186	1500	1241
30.	Uttar Pradesh	28650	27900	650	550	3150	3150	3150	3250	35600	34850
31.	Uttaranchal	9500	9350	350	350	0	0	650	650	10500	10350
32.	West Bengal	50750	47313	1650	1450	2850	2500	3500	3250	58750	54513
33.	Sikkim	1000	1000	0	0	0	0	300	300	1300	1300
Total		566604	532181	50450	47158	53700	48850	83120	77017	753874	705206

**Statement II***Cadet Strength of SD/SW as on 31 March 2001*

1	2	ARMY		NAVAL		AIR		SW		Total	
		Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24900	24180	1500	1500	1400	1400	7100	6587	34900	33667
2.	Bihar	29648	22099	200	150	400	350	2200	1991	32448	24590
3.	Delhi	4560	3975	400	400	400	400	5120	4172	10480	8947
4.	Gujarat	15640	15398	600	600	600	600	4210	4064	21050	20682
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	3800	3008	300	220	0	0	1280	927	5380	4155
6.	Karnataka	24730	24196	1100	1100	1200	1200	2400	2295	29430	28791
7.	Goa	640	640	200	200	0	0	320	320	1160	1160
8.	Kerala	20080	18950	1300	1184	200	200	4470	4470	28050	24804

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9.	Lakshadweep	0	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	50	50
10.	Madhya Pradesh	15586	15357	850	850	400	400	3907	3479	20743	20086
11.	Chhattisgarh	3857	3803			200	200	640	628	4697	4631
12.	Maharashtra	25640	25250	1900	1724	600	600	6020	5820	34160	33394
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	320	255	0	0	0	0	30	30	350	285
14.	Assam	8360	7861	400	400	400	381	2770	2304	11930	10946
15.	Manipur	960	960	0	0	200	200	200	200	1360	1360
16.	Meghalaya	1040	869	0	0	0	0	320	302	1360	1171
17.	Mizoram	200	200	0	0	0	0	120	120	320	320
18.	Nagaland	400	400	0	0	200	200	200	200	800	800
19.	Tripura	700	737	0	0	0	0	200	215	900	952
20.	Orissa	6760	6615	600	600	200	200	800	800	8360	8215
21.	Punjab	13110	11708	400	275	800	800	4480	3830	18790	16613
22.	Haryana	10400	9576	200	200	400	400	1600	1490	12600	11666
23.	Himachal Pradesh	2680	2599	200	200	200	200	800	800	3880	3799
24.	Chandigarh	960	960	200	200	200	168	640	640	2000	1968
25.	Rajasthan	12020	11806	400	400	800	8000	1910	1910	15130	14916
26.	Tamil Nadu	16425	16172	1200	1200	1100	1050	3715	3605	22440	22027
27.	Pondicherry	400	400	200	200	200	200	200	200	1000	1000
28.	Andaman & Nicobar	160	158	50	50	0	0	0	0	210	208
29.	Uttar Pradesh	60006	58581	600	600	800	800	11560	11135	72966	71116
30.	Uttaranchal	12214	12057	200	200	0	0	2615	2592	15029	14849
31.	West Bengal	28580	25169	400	400	800	842	3240	3135	33030	29546
32.	Sikkim	160	160	0	0	0	0	215	176	375	336
Total		344946	324099	13450	12903	11700	11591	73282	68437	443378	417030

**Statement III***Cadet Strength of JD/JW as on 31 March 2002*

Sl.No.	State/UT	ARMY		NAVAL		AIR		JW		Total	
		Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40150	39061	4900	4500	4650	4500	15400	13684	65100	61745
2.	Bihar	38650	30984	2950	1850	3100	2750	3500	3061	48200	38645

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3.	Delhi	17650	16050	1700	1500	2200	1800	4400	3325	25950	22675
4.	Gujarat	24850	22570	1400	1400	1450	1350	4100	3631	31800	28951
5.	Daman & Diu	200	150	0	0	0	0	200	200	400	350
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	7050	6076	800	670	0	0	1900	1794	9750	8540
7.	Karnataka	22700	22350	6450	6450	6350	5900	5050	5050	40550	39750
8.	Goa	850	850	1250	1150	0	0	50	50	2150	2050
9.	Kerala	35750	35162	4950	4900	2150	2150	5150	5053	48000	47265
10.	Lakshadweep	0	0	650	650	0	0	0	0	650	650
11.	Madhya Pradesh	33630	33275	2100	1900	1650	1250	5600	4900	42980	41325
12.	Chhattisgarh	10300	10050	0	0	850	750	1250	1250	12400	12050
13.	Maharashtra	47500	46250	3450	3150	3550	3450	5400	5550	59900	58400
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	3400	2315	0	0	200	140	225	175	3825	2630
15.	Assam	19350	14622	2450	1975	2500	1494	3325	1523	27625	19614
16.	Manipur	3450	3388	50	0	1100	200	650	650	5250	4238
17.	Meghalaya	1550	1781	100	100	300	0	1120	630	3070	2511
18.	Mizoram	900	950	0	0	0	0	200	250	1100	1200
19.	Nagaland	2100	2100	0	0	200	200	200	200	2500	2500
20.	Tripura	1800	1837	0	0	0	0	500	541	2300	2378
21.	Orissa	28790	27643	2200	2200	2150	2150	2700	2600	35840	34593
22.	Punjab	23350	21003	1200	1170	2950	2800	2750	2287	30250	27260
23.	Haryana	14500	13439	450	450	1450	1300	1400	900	17850	16089
24.	Himachal Pradesh	18250	16022	700	688	250	200	1500	1500	20700	18410
25.	Chandigarh	950	850	550	550	200	200	350	350	2050	1950
26.	Rajasthan	21300	20260	3350	3190	5300	4750	2200	2200	32150	30400
27.	Tamil Nadu	54844	51689	5350	5146	5150	4520	6000	5100	71344	66455
28.	Pondicherry	2440	2440	300	300	0	0	200	200	2940	2940
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	800	550	400	400	100	100	250	200	1550	1250
30.	Uttar Pradesh	30650	29450	650	650	3150	3050	3150	2950	37600	36100
31.	Uttaranchal	7500	7100	350	350	0	0	850	550	8500	8000
32.	West Bengal	50750	47922	1650	1446	2850	2544	3500	3149	58750	55061
33.	Sikkim	1000	1000	0	0	0	0	300	300	1300	1300
Total		567004	529189	50350	46735	53800	47548	83170	73803	754324	697275

*Statement IV**Cadet Strength of SD/SW as on 31 March 2002*

Sl.No.	State/UT	ARMY		NAVAL		AIR		SW		Total	
		Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24900	23675	1500	1500	1400	1400	7100	6460	34900	33035
2.	Bihar	29648	22099	200	150	400	400	2200	1991	32448	24640
3.	Delhi	4560	4229	400	400	400	400	5120	4787	10480	9816
4.	Gujarat	15640	15398	600	600	600	600	4210	4064	21050	20662
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	3800	3307	300	275	0	0	1280	1258	5380	4840
6.	Karnataka	24780	24265	1100	1100	1200	1200	2400	2400	29480	28965
7.	Goa	640	640	200	200	0	0	320	320	1160	1160
8.	Kerala	20080	19750	1300	1250	200	200	4470	4200	26050	25400
9.	Lakshadweep	0	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	50	50
10.	Madhya Pradesh	15266	14441	850	850	400	400	3907	3686	20423	19377
11.	Chhattisgarh	4177	4177	0	0	200	200	640	587	5017	4964
12.	Maharashtra	25640	25250	1900	1731	600	600	6020	5320	34160	32901
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	320	251	0	0	0	0	30	30	350	281
14.	Assam	8360	7139	400	400	400	161	2770	2076	11930	9776
15.	Manipur	960	879	0	0	200	200	200	200	1360	1279
16.	Meghalaya	1040	892	0	0	0	0	320	262	1360	1154
17.	Mizoram	200	200	0	0	0	0	120	120	320	320
18.	Nagaland	400	400	0	0	200	200	200	120	800	720
19.	Tripura	700	737	0	0	0	0	200	215	900	952
20.	Orissa	6760	6473	600	600	200	200	800	800	8360	8073
21.	Punjab	13110	11987	400	384	800	800	4480	3914	18790	17086
22.	Haryana	10400	9549	200	200	400	400	1600	1544	12600	11693
23.	Himachal Pradesh	2680	2627	200	197	200	200	800	800	3880	3824
24.	Chandigarh	960	960	200	200	200	200	640	640	2000	2000
25.	Rajasthan	12020	11895	400	400	800	800	1910	1910	15130	15005
26.	Tamil Nadu	16425	15770	1200	1200	1100	1100	3715	3551	22440	21621
27.	Pondicherry	400	400	200	200	200	200	200	200	1000	1000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
28.	Andaman & Nicobar	160	160	50	50	0	0	0	0	210	210
29.	Uttar Pradesh	64445	63586	600	600	800	800	12195	11770	78040	76756
30.	Uttaranchal	7775	7295	200	200	0	0	1980	1765	9955	9260
31.	West Bengal	28590	24959	400	400	800	828	3240	3170	33030	29357
32.	Sikkim	160	160	0	0	0	0	215	166	375	326
Total		344996	323550	13450	13138	11700	11489	73282	68326	443428	416503

**Statement V***Cadet Strength of JD/JW as on 31 March 2003*

Sl.No.	State/UT	ARMY		NAVAL		AIR		SW		Total	
		Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52700	40725	5250	4450	4950	4350	17150	12858	80050	62383
2.	Bihar	26550	20139	2250	1400	1550	1450	2500	1900	32850	24889
3.	Jharkhand	12000	5786	700	0	1550	1325	1100	770	15350	7881
4.	Delhi	17900	16511	1700	1700	2400	1800	4400	3656	26400	23667
5.	Gujarat	24850	22270	1400	1400	1450	1250	4100	4088	31800	29008
6.	Daman & Diu	200	150	0	0	0	0	200	200	400	350
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	9450	6743	1250	610	0	0	2750	1886	13450	9239
8.	Karnataka	222700	21779	650	6142	6350	5781	5050	4845	40550	38547
9.	Goa	850	780	1250	1100	0	0	50	50	2150	1930
10.	Kerala	35750	35150	4950	4900	2150	2150	5150	5050	48000	47250
11.	Lakshadweep	0	0	650	0	0	0	0	0	650	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	33630	32530	2100	1950	1850	1500	5600	5100	42980	41080
13.	Chhattisgarh	10300	10050	0	0	850	750	1250	1100	12400	11900
14.	Maharashtra	47500	46409	3450	3150	3550	3475	5400	5400	59800	58434
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	3600	2755	0	0	200	120	425	175	4225	3050
16.	Assam	21950	12805	2450	1975	2500	1311	4375	1779	31275	17870
17.	Manipur	3500	3041	50	0	1100	200	650	650	5300	3891
18.	Meghalaya	1950	1042	100	0	300	0	1670	562	4020	1604
19.	Mizoram	1150	950	0	0	0	0	550	250	1700	1200

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20.	Nagaland	3300	2100	0	0	200	200	1300	200	4800	2500
21.	Tripura	1800	1607	0	0	0	0	500	650	2300	2257
22.	Orissa	28790	27740	2200	2200	2150	2050	2700	2400	35840	34390
23.	Punjab	23350	21071	1200	1200	2950	2525	2750	2287	30250	27083
24.	Haryana	14550	13640	450	450	1450	1250	14000	925	17850	16265
25.	Himachal Pradesh	18250	15617	700	683	250	250	1500	1500	20700	18050
26.	Chandigarh	950	950	550	550	200	200	350	350	2050	2050
27.	Rajasthan	21450	20451	3350	2954	5450	4587	2350	2104	32600	30096
28.	Tamil Nadu	54844	52472	5350	5171	5150	5070	6000	5420	71344	68133
29.	Pondicherry	2440	2400	300	300	0	0	200	200	2940	2900
30.	Andaman & Nicobar	800	600	400	400	100	100	250	200	1550	1300
31.	Uttar Pradesh	30650	28650	650	550	3150	2650	3150	3350	37600	35200
32.	Uttaranchal	7500	7500	350	350	0	0	650	550	8500	8400
33.	West Bengal	50750	47884	1650	1550	2850	2550	3500	3263	58750	55247
34.	Sikkim	1000	950	0	0	0	0	300	300	1300	1250
Total		585954	523247	51150	45135	54450	46894	89270	74018	781824	689294

**Statement VI***Cadet Strength of SD/SW as on 31 March 2003*

Sl.No.	State/UT	ARMY		NAVAL		AIR		SW		Total	
		Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled	Allocated	Enrolled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25060	22567	1550	1550	1440	1440	7312	6321	35322	31838
2.	Bihar	22588	17139	200	200	200	200	1574	1511	24542	19050
3.	Jharkhand	7028	5433	0	0	200	200	678	624	7906	6257
4.	Delhi	4560	4186	450	400	400	200	5120	4577	10530	9363
5.	Gujarat	15640	15190	600	600	600	600	4210	3947	21050	20337
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	4470	3727	350	264	0	0	1710	1170	6530	5161
7.	Karnataka	24780	23821	1100	1100	1200	1111	2400	2389	29480	28221
8.	Goa	640	640	200	200	0	0	320	320	1160	1160
9.	Kerala	20080	19780	1300	1250	200	200	4470	4192	26050	25422
10.	Lakshadweep	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	50	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11.	Madhya Pradesh	15266	14090	850	850	400	400	3907	3639	20423	18979
12.	Chhattisgarh	4177	3951	0	0	200	200	640	587	5017	4738
13.	Maharashtra	25640	25428	1900	1772	600	600	6020	6020	34160	33820
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	480	280	0	0	0	0	30	30	510	310
15.	Assam	9479	7019	400	400	400	230	3255	1948	13534	9597
16.	Manipur	960	954	0	0	200	200	200	200	1360	1354
17.	Meghalaya	1573	719	0	0	0	0	853	163	2426	882
18.	Mizoram	200	200	0	0	0	0	120	120	320	320
19.	Nagaland	400	400	0	0	200	200	200	120	800	720
20.	Tripura	700	376	0	0	0	0	200	200	900	576
21.	Orissa	6760	6732	600	600	200	200	800	748	8360	8280
22.	Punjab	13110	11595	400	345	800	800	4480	4014	18790	16754
23.	Haryana	10400	9585	200	200	400	400	1600	1490	12600	11675
24.	Himachal Pradesh	2680	2585	200	199	200	200	800	800	3880	3784
25.	Chandigarh	960	960	200	200	200	200	640	640	2000	2000
26.	Rajasthan	12123	11880	600	600	800	800	2170	1960	15693	15240
27.	Tamil Nadu	16425	15830	1200	1200	1100	1100	3715	3465	22440	21595
28.	Pondicherry	400	400	200	200	200	200	200	200	1000	1000
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	160	160	50	50	0	0	0	0	210	210
30.	Uttar Pradesh	64445	64139	600	600	800	800	12195	12410	78040	77949
31.	Uttaranchal	7775	7775	200	200	0	0	1980	1765	9955	9740
32.	West Bengal	28590	25664	400	400	800	826	3240	3185	33030	30075
33.	Sikkim	160	140	0	0	0	0	215	137	375	277
<b>Total</b>		<b>347689</b>	<b>323145</b>	<b>13800</b>	<b>13380</b>	<b>11700</b>	<b>11267</b>	<b>75254</b>	<b>68892</b>	<b>448443</b>	<b>416684</b>

**Statement VII***Increase in Strength from 31 March 2002 to 31 March 2003-SD/SW*

Sl.No.	State/UT	ARMY Allocated	NAVAL Allocated	AIR Allocated	SW Allocated	Total Allocated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2828	150	0	2175	5153
2.	Bihar	-6280	0	-200	-146	-6626
3.	Jharkhand	7028	0	200	678	7906

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Delhi	0	50	0	0	50
5.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	820	50	0	440	1300
7.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Goa	0	50	0	280	330
9.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2082	0	0	1068	3150
12.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	160	0	0	0	160
15.	Assam	1545	0	0	920	2465
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	533	0	0	653	1066
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Tripura	368	0	0	53	421
21.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Rajasthan	103	200	0	260	563
27.	Tamil Nadu	1240	150	250	572	2212
28.	Pondicherry	50	0	0	0	50
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0
32.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>10477</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>6823</b>	<b>18200</b>



**Statement VIII***Increase in Strength from 31 March 2002 to 31 March 2003-JD/JW*

Sl.No.	State/UT	ARMY Allocated	NAVAL Allocated	AIR Allocated	JW Allocated	Total Allocated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22700	350	300	5700	29050
2.	Bihar	-11300	-700	-1550	-1000	-14550
3.	Jharkhand	12000	700	1550	1100	15350
4.	Delhi	250	0	200	0	450
5.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2500	350	0	850	3700
8.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Goa	0	0	0	250	250
10.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	300	0	0	200	500
16.	Assam	2950	50	200	1650	4850
17.	Manipur	850	0	50	1250	2150
18.	Meghalaya	400	0	0	550	950
19.	Mizoram	350	0	0	350	700
20.	Nagaland	1400	0	0	1350	2750
21.	Tripura	1050	0	0	450	1500
22.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Rajasthan	400	0	150	150	1000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Pondicherry	0	0	100	0	100
30.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0
33.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>10477</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>12850</b>	<b>48750</b>

[Translation]

#### Demand and Supply of Electricity in Rajasthan

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

(a) the details of present total demand and supply of electricity in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) the existing power generation capacity in the State, plan-wise; and

(c) steps proposed to be taken by the Government for maintaining balance between demand and supply of electricity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Details of power supply position prevailing in the State of Rajasthan in the month of October, 2003 are during the period April-October, 2003 are given below:

	Energy (MU)		Peak Demand (MW)	
	October, 2003	April-Oct. 2003	October, 2003	April-Oct., 2003
Requirement	2288	13835	3662	3820
Availability	2284	13737	3662	3711
Shortage	4	98	0	109
(%)	0.2	0.7	0	2.9

(b) The plan-wise existing power generation capacity in the state sector/share from jointly owned projects in Rajasthan is as under:—

Project	Installed Capacity (MW)
<b>Rajasthan Own Projects</b>	
Kota Thermal Power Station	1045
Suratgarh Thermal Power Station	1250
Mahi Bajaj Sagar Hydro	140
Anoopgarh Hydro	9
Ramgarh Gas Turbine+Steam Turbine	114
Small Hydro	15
Wind Power including Private Sector	28
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2601</b>
<b>Share from Jointly Owned Projects</b>	
Satpura Thermal Power Station in MP	125
Gandhi Nagar*	}
Rana Pratap Sagar*	
Jawahar Sagar*	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2919</b>

\* 50% share in Rana Pratap Sagar (472 MW). Jawahar Sagar HEP (99 MW) situated in Rajasthan and Gandhi Sagar HEP (115 MW) situated in MP

(c) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of

the State Government/State Power Utility concerned. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government by way of capacity addition through Central Public Sector Undertakings. Rajasthan has a firm allocation of 1515 MW in Central Sector Generating Stations (CGS) in the Northern Region and 466 MW in common projects of Bhakra Beas Management Board. In addition, to take care of Rabi irrigation demand, Rajasthan has been provided 20% (158 MW) from the unallocated quota of CGS in Northern region. At present the power supply position in Rajasthan is by and large comfortable.

#### **Use of LPG for Automobiles**

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

(a) whether the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is considered an eco-friendly fuel for automobiles;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to encourage utilisation of LPG as a fuel for automobiles;

(c) whether the government propose to make a scheme for keeping an appropriate gap between the prices of petrol and LPG so as to encourage people to use more of LPG than petrol; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have permitted the use of LPG as auto fuel and Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) as well as private companies are free to set up auto LPG dispensing stations as per their commercial considerations. They are also free to import LPG for this purpose to meet the requirement of their customers.

(c) and (d) OMCs are fixing the price of auto LPG on import parity basis.

[English]

#### **Commissioning of Ezhimala Naval Academy**

463. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken decision to Commission Ezhimala Naval Academy in Kerala in the year 2004; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Ezhimala Naval Academy is planned to be commissioned in December 2004 to commence the training for the first batch in July 2005.

#### **Assistance for Hassan-Mangalore Broad Gauge Project**

464. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Ministry has decided to approve a decision of the Railway Board to sanction Rs. 18 crore to the Hassan-Mangalore railway broadgauge project;

(b) if so, whether this was in addition to the Rs. 2 crore that the Ministry had allocated in this year's budget to the project;

(c) if so, the amount provided so far;

(d) the latest position of this project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore gauge conversion project is sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 312 crore out of which Rs. 179 crore had been incurred upto 31.3.2002. the balance work is being implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called Hassan-Mangalore Rail Development Co. (HMRDC). The balance cost of the project as on 1.4.2002 including contingency and interest charges is to be funded through Rs. 110 crore equity and Rs. 40 crore through debt. Ministry of Railways and Government of Karnataka will contribute Rs. 45 crore each in the equity of HMRDC, Rs. 2 crore will be contributed by K-RIDE (Rail Infrastructure Development Company Limited—Karnataka) and balance Rs. 18 crore will be contributed by other strategic investors.

(c) An amount of about Rs. 42 crore has been spent so far through Railways funds during 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(d) and (e) The gauge conversion of Arasikere-Hassan-Sakleshpur and Kankanadi (Mangalore) to Kabakaputtur has already been completed. The conversion of Kabakaputtur to Subramanya Road is targeted for

completion during 2003-04 and balance is expected to be completed during 2004-05. This would, however, depend upon the provision of funds by the shareholders.

#### **Digital Earth Station at Bangalore**

465. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore has been digitalized;

(b) if so, whether a digital earth station had been set up to improve the audio and video quality;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Conditional Access System has also been introduced in the Karnataka State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Earth Station at Bangalore has been digitalized w.e.f. October, 2003 to improve the audio and video quality.

(c) It is possible to uplink two TV programmes simultaneously from the digital earth station.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Approval to Power Projects of UP**

466. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects being established in U.P.;

(b) the number of projects sanctioned by the Planning Commission during the current financial year;

(c) the time by which these proposals are pending;

(d) the estimated cost of the installed capacity of these projects; and

(e) the steps taken to accord approval to the projects without any delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Following power projects are envisaged to be set up in Uttar Pradesh:

Name of the Project	Implementing Agency	Capacity (MW)
Rihand Super Thermal Power Station St.-II U-3 & U-4	National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)	1000
Feroze Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Plant (TPP) St. III	NTPC	210
Parichha Thermal Power Station Extension Unit 3 & 4	Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (UPRVUNL)	420
Anpara C TPP Unit 1 and 2	UPRVUNL	1000
Rosa TPP Unit 1 and 2	Rosa Power Supply Co. Ltd.	567

(b) to (e) No power project under the State Sector in Uttar Pradesh has been sanctioned by the Planning Commission during the current financial year. Further, under new dispensation, Planning Commission has delegated full powers to State Governments for approval of power projects without any ceiling. Clearance from Planning Commission is to be restricted only to those hydro-electric projects where inter-State issues are involved.

[English]

#### **Helium Based Balloon**

467. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to position "An eye in the Sky" tucked into 152 metre long helium based balloon above the country border; and

(b) if so, the extent to which it is likely to be useful to augment border surveillance and track missiles?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Details cannot be divulged in the interest of national security.

#### **Casualties Caused by Avalanches**

468. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Avalanches have caused heavy casualties in the higher reaches of J&K where jawans are trapped under heavy snow;

(b) if so, the number of such casualties suffered by Army personnel;

(c) the reasons for heavier casualties in recent years;

(d) the special means are adopted to prevent such casualties;

(e) whether the Government have looked out to other countries facing such menace who have been more successful in fighting the problem; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Avalanches in the snow bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir, are a regular occurrence during winter months. There was unprecedented heavy snowball during last winter. The Indian Army suffered 53 casualties during the period 1st January 2003 to 26th November, 2003.

(d) All necessary measures have been adopted to avoid avalanche related casualties, which include the following:—

- (i) Re-sitting of posts from avalanche prone areas.
- (ii) Selection of routes to avoid avalanche prone sites.
- (iii) Movement to take place during early morning hours in areas susceptible to avalanches.
- (iv) Avoiding movement during avalanches by firing of artillery rounds and rockets.

(e) and (f) Snow and Avalanches Studies Establishment is in touch with the research laboratories

of other countries like Switzerland, USA, Canada etc. They have been following the same technology for fighting this menace, though with certain modifications necessitated due to ground conditions like high altitude and intense weather system.

[*Translation*]

#### **Financial Assistance under Social Security Scheme**

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

(a) whether the union Government provide financial assistance to State Governments for the Social Security Scheme;

(b) if so, the financial assistance provided to the State Governments/UTs during each of last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether this fund is being properly utilized by State Governments/UTs; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken against those States/UTs who have mis-utilised the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Union Government does not provide financial assistance to State Governments for the Social Security Scheme.

The National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), earlier being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for the social security of older persons, was transferred to the State Plan from the financial year 2002-03. Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), Central Assistance was being made available to the States/UTs for payment of a monthly pension of Rs. 75/- to destitute persons aged 65 years and above, whose number was estimated on the basis of parameters like, the State's population, poverty ratio and the proportion of 65+age group in the total population. Statement indicating the funds released to the States/UTs under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) for the year 2000-01 to 2003-04 is enclosed.

(c) No irregularities regarding misutilisation of funds given under, the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) to the States/UTs has been brought to the notice of Government of India.

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*Amount released to the States/UTs under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)  
for the year 2000-01 to 2003-04*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States/UTs	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4360.76	4355.65	6541.26	4360.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	66.60	45.42	256.87	171.20
3.	Assam	2344.31	2482.52	32320.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	4268.85	4801.24	6227.38	4150.80
5.	Chhattisgarh	1005.13	965.47	2042.80	1361.60
6.	Goa	27.94	19.54	38.70	25.76
7.	Gujarat	370.53	338.63	617.22	0.00
8.	Haryana	450.14	453.89	577.38	384.88
9.	Himachal Pradesh	200.12	199.72	273.38	182.24
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	228.02	162.54	378.72	252.40
11.	Jharkhand	1250.95	1174.43	1631.43	0.00
12.	Karnataka	2899.69	2581.38	3422.13	2280.96
13.	Kerala	947.96	1096.62	1763.32	1175.36
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3056.14	3297.74	5406.38	3603.60
15.	Maharashtra	3161.48	2560.97	4932.70	3287.84
16.	Manipur	251.00	315.92	323.39	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	297.33	281.00	466.79	311.12
18.	Mizoram	91.62	91.62	131.62	87.76
19.	Nagaland	221.75	206.28	244.18	0.00
20.	Orissa	2962.35	3837.36	4516.85	3010.64
21.	Punjab	429.15	329.25	365.58	
22.	Rajasthan	1390.60	1441.85	1826.60	1217.32
23.	Sikkim	94.57	94.12	127.06	84.72
24.	Tamil Nadu	3086.94	2894.07	4748.64	3166.10
25.	Tripura	497.93	539.42	754.16	502.72
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6629.80	7640.17	9666.29	6576.32
27.	Uttaranchal	386.00	329.02	456.31	354.66
28.	West Bengal	2965.01	3208.91	4155.73	2770.00
29.	A&N Island	0.00	7.81		

1	2	3	4	5	6
30.	Chandigarh	8.83	5.87	15.82	
31.	D&N Haveli	10.62	10.60	12.00	
32.	Daman & Diu	1.95	1.93		
33.	NCT Delhi	0.00	0.00	273.58	
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00		
35.	Pondicherry	24.53	43.84	0.00	
Total		43987.60	46014.80	65624.35	39318.20

[English]

**Investment Plans of HPCL**

470. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has announced an investment plan over the next three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) During Xth Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has planned an investment of Rs. 7500 crore for various Plan projects in Refinery, Marketing and HPCL's equity in Joint Ventures and Rs. 3500 crore for various Non-Plan projects. The outlay envisaged on major Plan projects during X Plan and Annual Plan 2004-05 is given below:

(Figures in crore)

Sl. No.	Project Name	X Plan	Proposed Outlay during 2004-05
1	2	3	4
1.	Punjab Refinery Project (HPCL's Equity)	2251.00	100.00
2.	Green Fuels & Emission Control Project at Mumbai Refinery	1152.00	400.00

1	2	3	4
3.	Clean Fuels Project at Visakh Refinery	1635.00	400.00
4.	Extension to Product pipelines	400.00	85.00
5.	Prize Petroleum (Oil Exploration & Production)	490.00	5.00
6.	LPG Bottling Plants	284.00	50.00

**COCO Pumps**

471. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government in the month of September, 2003 had advised the oil corporations not to develop any more COCO pumps and regularize already developed COCO's as per their commitments;

(b) if so, the number of pumps developed under COCO by the oil PSU's specially by IOCL in the States of UP, Punjab and Rajasthan after the issuance of the above said orders;

(c) the names of the officers involved in the development of more COCO's after the issuance of the Government orders;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct any enquiry in regard to the dates of offer of the land for COCO's dates of visit of the technical committee for passing these sites with a view to fined out the vested interests of the officials concerned;

(e) whether the Government propose to take any action against the officials found guilty in this scandal; and

(f) if so, the time by which the enquiry shall be completed?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Outstanding Amount against CONCOR

472. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earned freight by Railway from the Container Corporation of India during 2002-2003;

(b) the amount of freight of Railways outstanding against the Container Corporation of India; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to recover the outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Rs. 770 crores.

(b) Rs. 5.56 crores (as on 31st March 2003).

(c) Out of the above an amount of Rs. 5.09 crores has been recovered during the financial year 2003-04 and Rs. 47 lakhs is under reconciliation.

#### Production of Crude Oil

473. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether several public and private oil companies are engaged in the production of crude oil in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed the cost of production of crude oil;

(c) if so, the details of the cost prices incurred on the production of crude oil in different sectors alongwith the names of those sectors, the company-wise;

(d) whether the production costs are on the higher side in comparison to other countries; and

(e) if so, the factual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The two National Oil Companies, viz., Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) as well as Private/Joint Venture (Pvt./JV) companies are engaged in oil production in the country.

In view of the fact that the technical factors relating to the producing fields of various companies are different and also that various companies follow different accounting policies as well as different treatments of cost, and are subject to different fiscal regime, it would not be possible to make a 'like to like' comparison of cost of production at any point of time.

However, the cost of production of crude oil during 2002-03 by ONGC, OIL and Pvt./JV companies are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Generally, the production costs of crude oil consist of several elements like operating cost/lifting cost, recouped cost (depletion, depreciation, amortization), financing cost and statutory levies. These elements vary from country to country and company to company depending upon the fiscal regime and accounting procedures. Thus, it is not possible to compare the production costs of oil producing companies of India with the production costs in other countries.

#### Statement

*Cost of production of crude oil during 2002-03*

#### I. National Oil Companies

Name of the Company	(Rs./metric tonne)	
	Onshore	Offshore
ONGC	6,098	5,203
OIL	5,135	—

Note: Inclusive of operating cost, recouped cost, financing cost, statutory levies, etc.



**II. Private Companies/Joint Ventures**

Name of consortium companies	Region/Name of Block	Cost of Production (Rs./metric tonne)
Caim Energy Ind Pty. Ltd. ONGC Videocon Petroleum Ltd., Ravva Oil (Singapore) Ltd.,	Eastern Offshore (Ravva)	1,392
Hardy Exploration and Production India Ltd. ONGC-TPL HOEC	Eastern Offshore (PY-3)	4,745
British Gas Exploration & Production India Limited ONGC Reliance Industries Limited	Western Offshore (Panna-Mukta)	1,446
Geo-Enpro Jubilant Enpro Limited Geo-Petrol OIL	Onshore-Arunachal Pradesh (Kharsang)	3,427
Larsen & Toubro Joshi Technologies Inc.	Onshore-Gujarat (Dholka)	3,530
Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Gujarat State Petroleum Corp. Limited	Onshore-Gujarat (Asjol)	3,271
Selan Exploration Technology Limited	Onshore-Gujarat (Indora, Bakrol & Lohar)	3,512

Note: The above costs include only the operating costs and statutory levies. The other general elements of production cost like recouped cost (depletion, depreciation, amortization) and financial cost are not included in the above costs as per terms and accounting procedures of Production Sharing Contract, 100% cost recovery of all investments is allowed to the contractor before payment of any profit petroleum.

[English]

**Violation of Guidelines by Private TV Channels**

474. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:  
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

(a) whether the Doordarshan has threatened to sue private Televisions for the prolonged use of Doordarshan's cricket footage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private TV channels have violated the guidelines of the Doordarshan in telecasting cricket matches held recently; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) After observing that certain channels were unauthorisedly using the footage of the recently concluded BCCI Cricket Matches telecast on DD-National and DD-Sports in violation of the rights

vested in Doordarshan, all TV channels were advised by Prasar Bharati through an advertisement in the Press to refrain from breach of the rights vested in Doordarshan, failing which Doordarshan will be constrained to initiate appropriate legal proceedings against the offending channels.

[Translation]

#### Selection of Artists in DD/AIR

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

(a) whether only the urban people get the maximum opportunities to get selected as artists of Doordarshan and Akashwani;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the procedure laid down for the selection of these artists; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to provide opportunity to people from rural and backward areas so that their talent may develop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Power Condition in Bihar

476. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from the State Government of Bihar has been received by the Union Government to improve the power condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government for generation and transmission of electricity in Bihar; and

(d) the amount allocated for the same in 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Planning Commission has recommended a package of

Rs. 4420 crores for a period of ten years to improvement the power supply position in Bihar.

		Rs. crores
I.	R&M	421
II.	T&D	994
III.	Rural Electrification	255
IV.	Hydro Development	500
V.	Generation	2250
Total		4420 Crores

A scheme amounting to Rs. 365 crores for improvement of sub-transmission and distribution system in Bihar with a special grant to be made available by the Planning Commission under special economic package for Bihar, (after its bifurcation), has been agreed to and Memorandum of Understanding for the same is being signed. To augment availability of power in the State of Bihar, the following steps are also being taken:

- (i) Besides capacity addition of 135 MW in State Sector in Bihar, a capacity addition of 5650 MW has been planned in Central Sector in Eastern Region in which the State of Bihar will have entitlements.
- (ii) Implementation of Renovation, Modernization and Life Extension (R&M & LE) Scheme for old and inefficient generating units for overall improvement in generation performance.

Under Accelerated Power Development Rural Programme for improvement of ST&D scheme during 2002-03, ST&D Project costing Rs. 737.97 crores have been sanctioned and Rs. 66.11 crores have been released by the Government of India to Bihar Rs. 12.48 crores has been utilized as on 15.11.2003 and NIT (Notice Inviting Tender) amounting to Rs. 291.49 crores has been issued.

Allocation of funds to Bihar for rural electrification works during 2002-03 is as under:—

1. PMGY (Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana) Rs. 24.17 Crores
2. MNP (Minimum Needs Programme) Rs. 68 crores.

[English]

**Pantry Car Facility in Summer Puja Special Trains**

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

(a) whether the Pantry Car facility is available in all Summer Specials and Puja Special Trains;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Railways to provide Pantry Car facility in these trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) to (c) No, Sir However, Railways try to provide catering services in long distance trains including Summer/Puja Specials through static units enroute and wherever, it is not possible to provide satisfactory catering services through these units, long distance trains are provided with pantry car facilities keeping in view the commercial and operational feasibility.

**Incentives to Jawans**

478. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any incentives have been given to encourage Jawans in the Army;

(b) if so, the incentives given to jawans who played a major role during Kargil War;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in order to boost the morale of jawans in Indian Army; and

(d) the achievement made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Jawans are given several promotional and financial incentives. They are given opportunity for advancement to higher ranks. They also have avenues to become officers through various entries like Short Service Commission and Army Cadet College. They are also considered for Selection as Special Commissioned Officers and Regimental Commissioned Officers.

In order to give financial relief to Jawans who have not been able to benefit from the promotional avenues,

Assured Career Progression Scheme has been introduced recently. Sepoys who are overlooked for further promotion are granted time-scale promotion to the rank of Lance Naik three years prior to the expiry of their period of original engagement and before one year as Naik.

In addition to pay and allowances, Jawans are given many allowances such as Highly Active Field Area Allowance, Field Area Allowance, Modified Field Area Allowance, Special Compensatory Counter Insurgency Allowance and Siachen Allowance. These are compensatory in nature for the hardship faced by them while serving in difficult and harsh areas. All jawans are also entitled to adequate pensionary benefits.

Next of Kin of battle casualties are entitled to Liberalised Family Pension, Gratuity, ex gratia benefits etc. War Injury Pension and Constant Attendance Allowances are given to those invalidated out with 100% disability. All Jawans injured in war are eligible for promotion to higher rank even if they are in now medical category.

A comprehensive welfare package has been worked out and implemented for the next of kin of those killed in Kargil Conflict. In addition to the pensionary benefits. Next of kin of those killed in Kargil Conflict were also paid compensation of Rs. 10 lakhs by the Central Government. In addition, Rs. 5 lakh was paid from the National Defence Fund and a further amount of Rs. 2 lakhs each was extended as parent Assistance and Children Education Allowance from Army Central Welfare Fund.

**Procurement of Rocket Launcher**

479. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to purchase rocket launcher, Pinaka from the Tata group of companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DRDO does not possess the necessary technology for commercial production of Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A proposal is under consideration for procurement of Multi Barrel Rocket

Launcher System, PINAKA, indigenously developed by DRDO. Pinaka is developed by many development partners from Public and Private Sector Units. The names of these units are Tata Electric and L&T for Launcher and Command Post Vehicles, OFB (Ordnance Factory Board) for Rocket and OFB and Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML) for Loader-Cum-Replenishment Vehicle.

(c) DRDO is a research and development agency only and not meant for commercial production.

(d) DRDO associates with Private/Public Sector Organisations within the country for development leading to productionisation. DRDO developed the technology for PINAKA and fabricated ground vehicles and launchers in the industry, who have the expertise and infrastructure for their production.

#### **SCs/STs Commission on Wheels**

480. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission for SCs and STs are introducing a system of "Commission on Wheels" to reach the downtrodden people and overcome the deficiencies in its functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Regional Centre situated in Andhra Pradesh is not functioning properly;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being adopted to strengthen this Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Uplinking Permission to Foreign Channels**

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

(a) whether the Government have permitted foreign broadcasters to uplink TV Channels from India;

(b) the names of the companies which have been granted such permission and the channels operated by them with the type of then context of each channel;

(c) whether there are reports of some companies bypassing the procedures and guidelines; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As on date, the Government has permitted 39 companies to uplink 104 channels from India, which carry either news and/or current affairs contents or entertainment contents. Out of these 39 companies, 12 have varying component of foreign equity. A list of such companies/channels is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The permission to uplink TV channels is given, after ensuring compliance of all eligibility criteria, including foreign investment norms.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Permitted TV channels having News and current affairs programs*

Name of Company	Channel name	Share holding	
		Indian	Foreign
1	2	3	4
Asianet Communications Ltd.	Asianet Global (Digital)	100	0
Asianet Communications Ltd.	Asianet (Analog) Malayalam	100	0

1	2	3	4
Associated Broadcasting C.P.L.	TV 9	100	0
Broadcast Worldwide Ltd.	Tara Bangla	93.03	6.97
Independent News Service P.L.	India TV	100	0
Indiavision Satellite Comm. Ltd.	Indiavision	100	0
Jain Studios Ltd.	Jain TV	77.95	22.05
Jeevan Telecasting Corp Ltd.	Jeevan TV	87.52	12.48
Maa TV N/W Ltd.	Maa TV	100	0
Malayalam Communications Ltd.	Kairali	100	0
Mavis Satcom Pvt. Ltd.	Jaya TV	100	0
New Delhi TV Ltd.	NDTV	83.53	16.47
New Delhi TV Ltd.	NDTV India	83.53	16.47
Raj TV Network Ltd.	Raj TV	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay UP	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay National	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay Bihar	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay Mumbai	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay Rajasthan	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay NCR	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay MP	100	0
Sky (B) Bangla Pvt Ltd.	Akash B	100	0
STV Enterprises Ltd.	Punjab Today	100	0
Sun TV Ltd.	Surya TV	100	0
Sun TV Ltd.	Surya News	100	0
Sun TV Ltd.	Udaya News	100	0
Sun TV Ltd.	Sun TV	100	0
Sun TV Ltd.	Teja News	100	0
Sun TV Ltd.	Sun News	100	0
Television Eighteen India Ltd.	CNBC-TV18	89.07	10.93
TV Live India Pvt Ltd.	TV Live	100	0
TV Today Network Ltd	Mumbai Aaj Tak	92.5	7.5
TV Today Network Ltd	Aaj Tak	92.5	7.5

1	2	3	4
TV Today Network Ltd	Delhi Aaj Tak	92.5	7.5
TV Today Network Ltd	Headlines Today	92.5	7.5
Udaya TV Ltd.	Udaya TV	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV 2	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Gujarati	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Bengali	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Marathi	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Kannada	100	0
<i>List of Permitted TV Channels having news and current affairs programs</i>			
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Urdu	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Oriya	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Telgu	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV UP (Hindi)	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV MP Hindi	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Rajasthan Hindi	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Bihar Hindi	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Assami	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Malayalam	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Tamil	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Punjabi	100	0
Vijay Broadcasting Co Pvt. Ltd.	Vijay	100	0
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Zee TV	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Alpha Gujarati	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Zee News	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Alpha Punjabi	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Aloha Bangla	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Alpha Marathi	42.46	57.54
<i>List of Permitted TV channels not having News and current affairs programs</i>			
Asianet Communications Ltd.	Asianet (Digital) Malayalam	100	0
ATN International Ltd.	Animesa	99.24	0.76
Broadcast Worldwide Ltd.	Tara Gujarati	93.03	6.97

1	2	3	4
Broadcast Worldwide Ltd.	Tara Marathi	93.03	6.97
Broadcast Worldwide Ltd.	Tara Punjabi	93.03	6.97
CMM Broadcasting N/W	Aastha TV	100	0
CMM Broadcasting N/W	CMM Music	100	0
Coxwain Technologies	Coaxswain	89.85	10.15
Coxwain Technologies	Sursangeet	89.85	10.15
Diksaat Transworld Ltd.	WIN TV	100	0
Entertainment TV N/W Pvt. Ltd.	ETC Hindi	100	0
Entertainment TV N/W Pvt. Ltd.	ETC Punjabi	100	0
Gemini TV Pvt. Ltd.	Teja TV	100	0
Gemini TV Pvt. Ltd.	Gemini TV	100	0
Gemini TV Pvt. Ltd.	GCV	100	0
Intelvision Ltd.	Splash TV	91.30	8.7
Intelvision Ltd.	Num TV	91.30	8.7
MH One TV Network Ltd.	MH 1	100	0
<i>List of Permitted TV Channels not having News and Current affairs programs</i>			
Positive TV Pvt. Ltd.	NE TV	100	0
Raj TV Network Ltd.	Raj Digital Plus	100	0
Reminisent India TV Ltd.	Gurjari	100	0
Reminisent India TV Ltd.	Lashkara	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara TV Entertainment	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara TV Digital	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara TV	100	0
Sandesh Telefilms Pvt. Ltd.	Sadhna	100	0
Sanskar Info Pvt. Ltd.	Satsang	100	0
Sanskar Info TV Pvt. Ltd.	Sanskar	100	0
Sri Adhikari Bros TV N/W Ltd.	SABe TV	94.86	0.14
Sun TV Ltd.	SCV	100	0
Sun TV Ltd.	Ushe TV	100	0
Sun TV Ltd.	Sun-II	100	0
Sun TV Ltd.	KTV	100	0

1	2	3	4
Sun TV Ltd.	Surya-II	100	0
Tamilan Kalaikoodam Pvt. Ltd.	Tamilan Television	100	0
Tanu Health Care Ltd.	Care TV	98.12	1.66
Technologies Media Group Pvt. Ltd.	TMG Enter	100	0
Udaya TV Ltd.	Udaya TV-II	100	0
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Mansi	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Comedy TV	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Zee Cinema	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Alpha Bharati	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Alpha Kaveri	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Zee Music	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Alpha Krishna	42.46	57.54

*[Translation]*

**Grabbing of Seats by Porters in Unreserved Coaches**

482. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the porters grab seats in unreserved coaches and extort money from the passengers in lieu of those seats;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last three years, till date and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the measures taken/to be taken by the Government to check this unlawful act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) to (c) Some instances of grabbing of seats in unreserved coaches by porters have come to notice. However, statistics regarding this are not being maintained separately. Information to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the Sabha. Regular checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments in association with the Railway Protection Force/Government

Railway Police to prevent concerning of seats by porters and other anti-social elements. In order to check this menace, coaches are brought from the yards to the platforms in a locked condition at the train originating stations and passengers are advised to follow a queue system. At major stations, assistance of Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police is taken in ensuring that passengers board train in a queue.

*[English]*

**Winding up of Metro Channel**

483. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether erstwhile popular Doodarshan entertainment Channel DD Metro was earning huge profits;

(b) if so, the details of the profits earned by the Channel to the exchequer;

(c) the reasons for converting this Channel into a 24 hours News Channel; and



(d) the steps taken by the Government to restore free air telecast of Metro Channel in all over the country particularly sub-urban and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have intimated the details of the revenues earned by DD-Metro during the last five years as follows:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1999-00	46.18
2000-01	87.29
2001-02	82.32
2002-03	22.77
2003-04 (till 31st October, 2003)	10.39

Profit and loss account is not maintained by Prasar Bharati.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the decision has been taken to fulfil a growing desire for news among the viewers, particularly among those without cable connection.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that there is no such proposal under consideration.

#### **Violation of D.T.H. Guidelines**

484. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:

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

(a) whether M/s. A.S.C. Enterprises Ltd. are adhering to all the terms and conditions regarding the allotment of contracts/sub-contracts as provided in the DTH guidelines;

(b) if so, whether the above company assigned some of the rights of programming, marketing and other services to subsidiaries of Zee Telefilms Ltd.;

(c) whether this company retains the cost of uplinking on a "cost plus basis" and all other revenues are transferred through contractual arrangements to Zee Telefilms Ltd. and/or its subsidiaries in violation of the terms and conditions of DTH guidelines;

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

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against this company for violation of DTH guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) As per the DTH guidelines, the ASC Enterprises Ltd. has to comply with the Terms and Conditions attached to the Licence Agreement, signed with it on 16th Sept. 2003. The agreements lays down that except with the prior approval of the Licensor, the Licensee shall not either directly or indirectly assign or transfer its right in any manner whatsoever to any other party or enter into any agreement for sub-licence and/or partnership relating to any subject matter of the licence to any third party either in whole or in part. However, no such instance of breach of Licence agreement has come to the notice of the Government.

#### **Capacity of Refineries**

485. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:  
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:  
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:  
SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK:  
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

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

(a) whether the Government have optimized the refinery capacity utilization;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether new refineries are being established in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated in Tenth Plan; and

(e) the future of Paradeep Oil Refinery in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The refineries have been delicensed and production of petroleum products by the oil companies is decontrolled from 1998.

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

(c) and (d) Following refineries are proposed to be set up during Xth/XIth Plan.

- (i) 9.00 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) capacity refinery near Paradeep port by IOCL. Rs. 622 crore is planned for the first phase of implementation during the Xth Plan period.
- (ii) 6.00 MMTPA refinery at Bhatinda, Punjab by HPCL. Rs. 2251 crore has been allocated during the Xth Plan, towards equity investment.
- (iii) 6.00 MMTPA refinery at Bina, Madhya Pradesh by BPCL, Rs. 501 crore has been planned for investment during the Xth Plan.

(e) Paradip refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited is expected to come up during the later half of 11th Five Year Plan. A Memorandum of Undersigned (MoU) between Government of Orissa and IOCL, clearly defining the commitments from both sides, is under finalization.

#### **Infiltration in J&K**

486. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army propose to retain several forward posts along the Line of Control during the winter months in its attempt to choke infiltration;

(b) if so, the present situation of infiltration along the J&K border after the last winter;

(c) the number of infiltrators have been detected and how many are expected to have entered into India without being detected;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the infiltrations;

(e) whether the arrangements have been made for the stay of the army during winter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The infiltration level continued to remain as high as in the previous years.

(c) In 2003 till date, a total of 104 infiltration attempts have been foiled in which 269 terrorists have been killed and a large number forced to abandon infiltration. It is, however, assessed that approximately 1000 terrorists may have entered into India during the current year.

(d) Adequate military measures have been taken to intercept and eliminate terrorist groups attempting to infiltrate in J&K. The counter measures include surveillance of all known routes of infiltration, including deployment of unattached ground sensors, construction of fence along the Line of Control and multifiered deployment of troops. The counter infiltration posture is constantly being reviewed based on intelligence inputs. Notwithstanding, these measures, the prevailing terrain configuration and climatic conditions, make it extremely difficult to completely seal at the LoC.

(e) and (f) All necessary arrangements for Army's stay during winter months have been made. The posts on Line of control have been adequately stocked and equipped to continue with their present posture of deployment.

#### **Discontinuation of LPG Quota of MPs**

487. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for discontinuation of the MPs gas connection quota; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have requested Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Speaker, Lok Sabha to discontinue the scheme of release of LPG connections through priority coupons by the Members of Parliament in view of the decrease in demand of these coupons due to the release of LPG connections by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies on demand since last three years.

#### **Subsidy on LPG and Kerosene from Budgetary Grants**

488. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide subsidy on LPG and Kerosene from Budgetary grants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to reduce its stake in the oil companies and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the loss likely to be suffered or profit likely to be earned by the Government following this decision;

(e) the reasons of foreign capital in petroleum sector;

(f) the details of foreign capital investment in this sector during the last three years; and

(g) the effective steps taken by the Government to increase foreign capital investment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the Government decision on dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector, the budgetary subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG is on flat rate basis and after accounting for the same, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) could vary the retail selling prices in line with the variations in the international prices of these products.

PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are domestic fuels of mass consumption. Passing of higher international prices of these products in the domestic selling prices would have hurt the consumers. The matter was therefore re-examined and it was decided in consumer interest that the OMBs will not increase the selling prices of these products during 2003-04 and the resultant under-recoveries of OMCs would be absorbed/shared amongst the oil companies.

(c) Disinvestment is a continuous process and Government keep considering proposals for disinvestment of PSUs including Oil PSUs in terms of its declared policy. The Government has not taken any decision about the disinvestment of Government's equity holding in Oil PSUs other than BPCL & HPCL and sale of residual shareholding of Government in IBP through "Offer for Sale". The disinvestment process of HPCL and BPCL has been discontinued in compliance with the Judgement of the Supreme Court dated 16.9.2003 on HPCL & BPCL disinvestment. The process of "Offer for Sale" in case of IBP is currently on.

(d) The disinvestment of Oil PSUs would inter alia enable the Government to realise the following major objectives of disinvestment:

(i) Realising large amount of public resources locked up in non-strategic PSUs for redeployment in areas that are much higher on social priorities.

(ii) Reducing public debt.

(iii) Transferring the commercial risk to the private sector.

(iv) Wider distribution of wealth through offering of shares of PSUs to small investors and employees.

(v) Strengthening the capital market by providing more depth and liquidity through disinvestment of PSU shares.

(vi) Ending public sector monopoly so as to bring greater choices and availability of cheaper and better quality of products and services to the consumers.

(e) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Power Failure in Maharashtra**

489. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:  
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:  
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:  
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a breakdown for the second time in Western Grid;

(b) if so, whether several region across Maharashtra and Gujarat were hit by power failure on 5th November, 2003;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons of power failure;

(d) whether on 6th October, 2003 areas across Western Maharashtra, Vidarbha and Marathwada witnessed a power breakdown after grid failure due to improper maintenance of high tension lines;

(e) the steps Union Government have taken to ensure uninterrupted power supply;

(f) whether there has been no addition of power in Maharashtra and Gujarat in the last decade;

(g) if so, the measures taken by the Union Government to increase production of power in Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(h) whether any inquiry was conducted to go into the cases thereof; and

(i) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) In the recent past, partial grid disturbance occurred in the Western Region (WR) on 6th October, 2003, 5th and 7th November, 2003.

(b) According to Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB), during the grid disturbance on 5th November, 2003, power supply was affected in western Maharashtra comprising part of Pune, Sholapur, Satara, Sanghi, Kolhapur and part of Thane and Raigad districts. Gujarat system is landed and survived with load shedding.

(c) Low voltage in EHV system on account of high import of power from Eastern Region (ER) on AC transmission lines and high reactive load attributable to rabi agricultural pumping load coupled with excessive line loadings in some areas of the western region grid led to grid disturbance on 5th November, 2003. During the above grid disturbance, western regional grid had split into five separate (islands).

(d) A partial grid disturbance occurred in Western Maharashtra on 6th October, 2003 due to bus fault at 400 KV Kalwa sub-station of MSEB, as informed by MSEB, affecting power supply in Aurangabad, parts of Pune, Nasik, Dhule, Thane, Raigarh, Sindhudurg, Satara, Sangli, Solapur and Kolhapur in Western Maharashtra and part of Goa connected to western regional grid. However, power supply in Vidharbha and Marathwada area was not affected.

(e) The matter relating to grid incident of 6th October, 2003 was discussed at the Western Regional Electricity Board (WREB) forum when the concern authorities were advised to take corrective measures such as regulation of loading on transmission lines and improve substation maintenance.

Following the grid disturbances on 5th & 7th November, 2003, Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India took a meeting with all the constituents of WR and Central Public Sector Undertakings concerned at Mumbai on 12th November, 2003, when immediate preventive measures to be taken by the constituents of WR in order to contain low voltage and overloading of lines were identified. It was agreed that the WR States will install shunt capacitors in their

respective system as per targets fixed for 2003-04 by WREB and expedite implementation of approved transmission lines. Further, it was decided that the Standing Committee of WR power system planning will also analyze and suggest short, medium and long term measures for augmentation/strengthening of transmission system in WR.

(f) Power generating capacity of 3600MW and 4200 MW have been added in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat respectively during the period 1992-93 to 2002-03 in State sector, Private Sector and Central Sector (power stations situated in these States).

(g) The following generation capacity addition is planned in the 10th Plan in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat during the 10th Five Year Plan:

	Maharashtra	Gujarat
State Sector	500 MW	431 MW
Private Sector	1444 MW	500 MW
Entitlement in Central Sector Projects	1100 MW	945 MW
Share in Joint Sector Project	391.5 MW	232 MW
(Sardar Sarovar HEP-1450 MW)	(27%)	(16%)

In addition, other steps like improvement in generation through Renovation & Modernization and Life Extension works of old and inefficient generating units, supply of adequate coal etc. are also being taken to increase the production of power from the existing power stations.

(h) The Central Electricity Authority constituted an Enquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Member Secretary, WREB to enquire into the reasons of grid disturbances which occurred on 5th and 7th November, 2003.

(i) The above Committee has concluded as under:—

The grid disturbances on 5th & 7th November, 2003 were mainly caused due to low voltage profile which existed in WR grid prior to disturbance. The cause of low voltage profile was high quantum of power import by the WR from the ER over AC links to meet the gap between availability-and-requirement and high reactive agricultural load in view of Rabi season. This resulted in excessive loading of EHV transmission lines in some areas of the grid on account of the above and inadequate shunt capacitance compensation in the system causing

severe shortage of reactive power in the grid lead to the grid disturbances.

**Creation of National Gas Grid by GAIL**

490. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:  
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:  
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has drawn up a blue print for creating a national gas grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total kms proposed to be covered on implementation of the national gas grid and the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) has drawn up a plan to lay about 7,900 Kms. of Gas pipelines under National Gas Grid at an estimated cost of Rs. 20,000 crores, which would cover the following sections:—

- Dahej-Vijaipur
- Dahej-Hazira-Uran (Pune)-Dabhol
- Dabhol-Bangalore
- Bangalore-Chennai
- Kakinada-Hyderabad-Pune
- Haldia-Jagdishpur
- Kakinada-Chennai
- Kochi-Coimbatore-Mangalore
- Coimbatore-Bangalore.

*[Translation]*

**Rail Link between India and Nepal**

491. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:  
DR. ASHOK PATEL:  
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:  
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an important agreement was signed recently in November to establish India-Nepal rail link via Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the time by which this service is likely to be commenced and the estimated amount to be spent thereon;

(c) whether this bilateral agreement also has a proposal to set up an inland container depot;

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

(e) the details of the amount of be saved in respect of commercial transport as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (e) There is no proposal to establish India-Nepal rail link via Kolkata. However, there is a proposal to introduce freight train services between India and Nepal via Raxaul. The physical works for construction of an Inland Container Depot at Birgunj by Government of Nepal and rail link between Raxaul Birgunj have been completed. Formal agreement in this regard has not yet been signed.

**Sale of Crude Oil to Oil Processing Companies**

492. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the crude oil producing companies in the country sell crude oil to crude oil processing companies at the prevailing international rates;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reasons for allowing oil producing companies to sell crude oil to other companies at the prevailing international market rates in the country;

(d) whether the crude oil producing companies make a huge profit by selling crude oil at the prevailing international market rates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) With the dismantling of Administered

Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the Petroleum Sector effective 1.4.2002, the price of indigenous crude oil of National Oil Companies (NOC's) i.e. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) has become market determined.

Post APM, ONGC and OIL have entered into crude oil supply agreements with the public sector refining companies which inter-alia contain appropriate pricing clauses for different types of crude oils including linkage with international marker crude oils. Under these agreements, while, high international prices of crude oil would benefit NOCs, low prices would go against their interests.

The profit after tax of ONGC and OIL during 2002-03 was Rs. 10,529.22 crore and Rs. 9,16.70 crore respectively.

[English]

#### **Maintenance of Railway Stations**

493. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the unhygiene condition at the New Delhi, Old Delhi and Nizamuddin Railway Stations;

(b) whether any surprised checks has been conducted to improve the conditions of these stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken to maintain cleanliness at said stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) to (d) With a view to improve the standard of cleanliness and maintain hygienic condition at New Delhi, Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway stations, the railways have taken/are taking a number of steps which include introduction of mechanized means of cleaning at Hazrat Nizamuddin and New Delhi railway stations, launching of cleanliness drives, construction of deluxe toilets, provision of more dustbins, awarding of contracts for removal of garbage, associating NGO for creating awareness in passengers about cleanliness etc.

Besides, surprise checks are also conducted from time to time and during 2003-04 (upto October), 25 such

checks were conducted at New Delhi, Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway stations.

[Translation]

#### **Procurement of Advance Jet Trainers**

494. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have entered into an agreement with Britain to strike a deal for Advanced Jet Trainer Aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost involved in the aforesaid deal;

(d) the time by when aforesaid aircraft likely to be inducted in Indian Air Force; and

(e) the time by when India will become Self-reliant in manufacturing of AJT?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government have approved the procurement of 24 HAWK Advanced Jet Trainers from M/s BAE Systems, UK in flyaway condition and 42 to be licensed manufactured at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. No agreement has been signed with UK in this regard.

(d) The aircraft is likely to be inducted in Indian Air Force about 35 months after payment of advance to the supplier.

(e) The licence manufacture of AJT by HAL is expected to start about 42 months after the date of signing the contract.

[English]

#### **Sale of Scrap**

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Nitish Scolds GMs over scam losses" appeared in 'Asian Age' on November 2, 2003;

(b) whether Railways sell nearly Rs. 1000 crores of scrap each year and face huge loss to the public

exchequer due to enduring nexus between Railway Officials and Scrap Mafias;

(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken on the findings;

(e) whether CAG has also pointed out in its report about this scam; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railways sell approximately Rs. 1000 crores scrap every year. Regular checks are made in the area of sale of scrap and wherever irregularities are noted appropriate remedial measures are taken. No incident of nexus between Railway official and scrap mafia has come to notice resulting in huge loss to public exchequer.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Disinvestment of IOCL and Other PSU**

496. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is exploring possibilities of disinvestment of Indian Oil Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Cabinet has asked his Ministry to prepare a feasibility report on IOCL disinvestment;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry has submitted its report to the Government in regard to disinvestment of IOCL;

(e) if so, the main recommendations made by his Ministry in this regard;

(f) whether there was wide ranging protest from the officers and employees of IOCL against disinvestment;

(g) whether his Ministry has opposed the disinvestment of Oil PSUs in the country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and final decision taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) While considering the judgement of the Supreme Court dated 16.9.2003 on HPCL & BPCL, the Government have decided to pursue the following three options simultaneously:

(i) to seek appropriate legal remedies;

(ii) to enact an appropriate legislation by building consensus; and

(iii) to explore the executive option of disinvesting the marketing arm of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

Option (iii) is still at a preliminary stage of consideration and Government is yet to reach any final decision with regard to this option or its modalities.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) and (h) The Government is committed to continue with economic reforms including disinvestment of PSUs.

*[Translation]*

#### **Revival of Mills in Deoghar**

497. SHRI PRADIP YADAV: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many big industrial units in Nasidih industrial area and four rolling mills are lying closed in Deoghar district in the State of Jharkhand for the last many years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to revive these units and rolling mills;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Failure of DD to cover incident**

498. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

(a) whether Doordarshan failed to broadcast and to capture the recent twin blasts news in Mumbai and it was only after the other channels reported & splashed the news;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry into the failure of the Doordarshan in covering the incident;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that the news of the blast was telecast early. Since the visuals of the news story reached late, Doordarshan had to telecast the visuals of the same after giving the main news. They have informed that the matter has been looked into in consultation with Regional News Unit at Mumbai and measures are being taken to avoid recurrence of such delay.

Prasar Bharati has also informed that with the launch of 24 hours DD News Channel, delay in carrying news will be minimal.

*[Translation]***Electrification and Doubling of Lucknow-Howrah Rail Line**

499. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of doubling and electrification of Lucknow-Howrah rail line;

(b) whether the said work is running as per the schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for speedy completion of said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Double line between Lucknow to Utratia and Zafrabad to Howrah already exists. The patch doubling work has been taken up between Utratia-Zafrabad section. At present, the work is in progress at various stages Utratia-Chandrauli; Bandhua Kalan-Sultanpur and Sri Krishna Nagar-Zafrabad sections.

Regarding electrification, rail line from Howrah to Mughalsarai is already electrified. Electrification work of Mughalsarai-Zafrabad section was included in the Rail Budget of 1999-2000 as Phase-I of Mughalsarai-Lucknow project, subject to procedural clearances. The proposal is yet to be cleared.

(b) to (e) The work of doubling is progressing as per availability of resources. It is proposed to take up part work on Utratia-Chandrauli and Sultanpur-Bandhua Kalan sections under Build Own Transfer (BOT).

**Inclusion of Carpenter and Lohar Communities in SCs List**

500. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Members of Parliament hailing from Himachal Pradesh and the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh have made a request to remove existing anomaly relating to the Badai (Carpenter-Tarkhan) and Lohar communities settled in the new areas of the State to include these communities in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the request?

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

(b) and (c) The proposal to include Tarkhan (not Badai Carpenter and Lohar communities) in the list of Scheduled Castes of Himachal Pradesh as recommended by Government of Himachal Pradesh has been referred to the Registrar General of India. After receipt of



comments from the Registrar General of India, further action would be taken as per the approved modalities. Since the proposal requires consultation with several agencies and the amendment in the existing list of Scheduled Castes by an Act of Parliament in view of Article 341(2) of the Constitution of India, therefore, no time frame can be assigned for final decision in the matter.

[English]

### **Missile Stock**

501. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the self life of surface-to-air missiles in the Indian Inventory is about 15 years;

(b) if so, the quantity of missile stock which is older than 15 years;

(c) the reasons for delay in its replacement; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to refurbish the old stock of missiles in all the three services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The shelf life of Indian Inventory of missiles is in the range of 06 to 21 Years.

(b) and (c) The replacement of surface to air missiles is an on going process and it would not be in the interest of national security to disclose further details.

(d) The Refurbishment of old stock of missiles in the three Services is carried out as per requirements.

### **Amendments in NTPC for Bidding of LNG Supply Contract**

502. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have made major amendments in the bidding conditions for three million ton LNG supply contract for Kavas, Gandhar stations;

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

(c) whether the amendments were carried out after NTPC opens the techno commercial bids for the 17 year firm contract;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether any irregularities have been noticed by the vigilance department; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) issued Request for Proposal (RFP) document to the qualified bidders for Kavas Gandhar Stations. This envisaged a pre-bid conference with the bidders, which was held on 15th & 16th May, 2003. Based on the interaction in the pre-bid conference RFP was reviewed and amendments to certain clauses/articles of RFP were issued to all the bidders. The details thereof and reasons therefor are enclosed as statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of answer at (c) above.

### **Statement**

#### **1. Price Currency**

As per the RFP documents, the bidders for Services & Bidders for supply of Natural Gas are allowed to quote in INR only.

As per the amendment, Bidders for supply of Natural Gas and Providing Services are allowed to quote in US\$ or INR or combination of US\$ INR at their own choice.

#### **2. Price Adjustment**

As per the RFP documents, the Prices are required to be quoted on FIRM price basis with out any price adjustment.

As per the amendment, a clause has been introduced allowing 15% of the contract price be subject to price adjustment to compensate. Bidders for fluctuations in price of operating cost.

#### **3. Financial Evaluation**

As per the RFP documents the evaluation of the Financial proposal is to be carried out on NPV basis.

As per the amendment, the criteria for selection shall be the least delivered cost of Fuel Supply option from amongst the RLNG and Natural Gas route as on the date of opening of Financial Proposal.

#### 4. Development Guarantee (DG)

As per the RFP documents, the selected bidder is required to furnish a DG for a value of US \$ 20 million and with validity up to commencement of the fuel supply.

As per the amendment, the DG value shall be of US \$ 4 Million or INR 200 Million for LNG/NG supply (US \$ 1 Million or INR 50 million for Providing Services) and the validity of DG shall be upto CP satisfaction date plus 30 days.

#### 5. Conditions Precedent Provisions

As per RFP Document encashment of DG was linked to Condition Precedent (CP) satisfaction. Bidders have perceived it as a Risk.

The provisions had been reviewed and amendments made on following principles:

- The unilateral right to waive off its own CPs by NTPC has been deleted.
- Right to encash Development Guarantee only in case CP is satisfied by NTPC.

#### 6. Take or Pay in First Year

In the RFP document, no Take or Pay (ToP) provision is envisaged in the First Year of supply (i.e. build up period). Many bidders have requested NTPC to provide ToP in the first year and accordingly the provisions of ToP is amended to include the same.

#### 7. Most favoured Customer

As per the RFP document, the Seller/Developer is required to offer the price and the corresponding terms, which were agreed with the other contracted customers if that contract price is lower than the price agreed with NTPC.

The provision is amended to limit it to "the customers in India"

#### 8. The Interest Rate

The interest rate for delayed payment in the existing bid documents has been specified as LIBOR.

The interest rate for delayed payment has been amended as LIBOR+1% in case of Contract Price being in US\$.

#### 9. Termination

- (i) As per the bid document, NTPC has the right to terminate the agreement if at any time during the operation of this Agreement, Buyer is not able to off-take LNG for a consecutive period of 3 Months, except where Buyer is not able to the off-take LNG on account of the occurrence of an event of Force Majeure.

As per the amendment, this provision is deleted. However, to limit the ToP liability of NTPC in case of continuous non off-take of LNG the clause has been suitably amended.

- (ii) As per the existing bid document, in case of non-payment by NTPC, bidders have right to suspend the delivery, however no right has been provided for the bidder to terminate the agreement.

The Article has been suitably amended allowing for Termination.

#### 10. LNG Ships

As per the RFP document, ships for transporting LNG should be Indian Flag Ships. Bidders have expressed difficulty to the stipulation of the above provision. Based on clearance from Ministry of Shipping, the document has been amended stating that the LNG tankers, which are not Indian Flag Vessels, will be required to switch over to Indian Flag Vessels after the tonnage tax is introduced in India.

[Translation]

#### Pump Storage Project at Kaimur

503. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up pump storage project in Kaimur in Bihar to produce 2580 Megawatt of hydro electricity;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested for the implementation of above project by NHPC under the Central Sector;

(c) if so, whether the Government intend to implement this project immediately keeping in view the shortage of power generation in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Bihar State Hydroelectric Power Corporation (BHPC) has approached National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) for implementation of four hydroelectric projects in Kaimur District of Bihar, viz. Tilhar Kund (4x100 MW), Sinafdar (3x115 MW), Panchgotia (3x75 MW) and Hathiadah-Durgawati (8x200 MW) as Pump Storage Schemes to produce 2570 MW of power. BHPC has proposed to transfer these plants to NHPC but retaining their ownership. NHPC has informed BHPC that since, the funds for implementation of these projects are to be arranged by NHPC, these projects should be transferred on ownership basis or alternatively NHPC can execute these projects as deposit works with funds to be placed at their disposal in advance.

(d) Implementation of the above projects can be taken up only after carrying out detailed Survey & Investigation, preparation of Detailed Project Report and establishing the techno-commercial viability of the projects.

[English]

#### Profit Premium by Ravva Oil and Gas Fields

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

(a) whether the consortium sharing Ravva Oil and gas have not been paying profit premium to Government as per the terms of agreements;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover dues payable to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The Ravva consortium comprises Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd. (CEIL), Videocon Petroleum Ltd. (VPL) and Ravva Oil (Singapore) Pty. Ltd. (ROS). All consortium partners, except, VPL had been paying profit petroleum calculated in accordance with their interpretation of the provisions of Production Sharing Contract (PSC). As the amount of profit petroleum payable in accordance with the interpretation of provisions of PSC by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) is higher, the disputes on the mode of calculations of profit petroleum are subject

matter of arbitrations. As regards payment by VPL, Government through its nominees Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL), GAIL India Ltd. (GAIL) and Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL) has recovered US\$ 15 Million as down payment in June, 2003 and US\$ 6 Million per month from June, 2003 to September, 2003. Thereafter, based on arbitral award of September, 2003 recovery at the enhanced rate of US\$ 8 Million is being effected from October, 2003 till May, 2004.

[Translation]

#### Adulteration in Petroleum Products

505. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of cases of adulteration in petroleum products are on the rise year after year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantum of petroleum products seized and the number of cases registered or persons booked, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to check the sale of adulterated petroleum products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The number of cases of adulteration of MS/HSD detected at retail outlets in the country during the last two years and April-September, 2003 is as under:—

Year	No. of Cases of adulteration detected
2001-2002	301
2002-2003	303
April-September, 2003	109

In all cases of adulteration, action is taken against the erring dealers as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and/or Dealership Agreement and MS/HSD Control Order. The adulterated products in the underground tanks are removed and sent to the nearest refinery installation at dealer's cost for reprocessing the product as per laid down procedure.

(d) Besides the setting up of Anti-Adulteration Cell, steps such as blue dyeing of Kerosene meant for Public Distribution System (PDS), regular/surprise inspection of the retail outlets, introduction of tamper proof locking system for tanker-trucks, revision of Marketing Discipline Guidelines making them more stringent, special vigilance drives, etc., are taken by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). Action is taken by the OMCs against erring dealers under the provisions of the MDG and/or Dealership Agreement. The State Governments also initiate action against any dealer indulging in adulteration of petroleum products and violation of any Control Order issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[English]

#### Identification of Wind Energy Potential

506. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the wind energy potential in the country and particularly in the coastal States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and particularly in the coastal State of Orissa; and

(c) the details of steps taken to tap the wind energy potential of Orissa and other coastal States during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The gross wind power potential has been estimated at 45,195 MW in 10 States including Orissa. The technical potential which is limited by the grid capacity is at present estimated at about 13,390 MW. The gross potential in Orissa has been estimated at about 1700 MW and the technical potential is limited to 780 MW. The State-wise break-up is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) For setting up of demonstration wind farm projects, the Government provides Central Financial Assistance upto 60% of the cost of wind electric generators, including spares and erection commissioning with the ceiling of Rs. 2.1 crore per MW. Fiscal and financial incentives such as accelerated depreciation, concessional customs duty on certain components, term loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, excise duty exemption etc. are available to private developers and

equipment suppliers for setting up of wind farm projects.

Wind power projects of 702 MW have been set up in the country including Andhra Pradesh (4.5 MW), Gujarat (6.2 MW), Karnataka (90 MW), Maharashtra (322 MW) and Tamil Nadu (219.6 MW) between 1st April, 2000 and 31st March, 2003. No wind power project has come in Orissa during the period.

#### Statement

##### Gross and Technical Wind Power Potential

Sl. No.	State	Gross Potential (MW)	Technical Potential (MW)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8275	1920
2.	Gujarat	9675	1780
3.	Karnataka	6620	1180
4.	Kerala	875	605
5.	Madhya Pradesh	5500	845
6.	Maharashtra	3650	3040
7.	Orissa	1700	780
8.	Rajasthan	5400	910
9.	Tamil Nadu	3050	1880
10.	West Bengal	450	450
Total		45195	13390

#### Acquisition of Land for Khurda Road-Bolangir Railway Line

507. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made by the Government to acquire land for the proposed Khurda Road-Bolangir Railway line in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in land acquisition; and

(d) the time by which the land acquisition process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) to (c) Land acquisition is in progress and papers for 68 villages out of 393 villages have been submitted to the State Government. Possession of land in 26 villages has so far been handed over by the State Government. An amount of Rs. 9.65 crore has so far been paid to the State Government for the land acquisition.

(d) The land acquisition is undertaken by the State Government and the matter is constantly being pursued. The actual time of land acquisition would depend upon the State Government and also the availability of resources.

#### **Pipeline Projects of GAIL**

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

(a) whether GAIL is implementing a number of pipeline projects for transmission of gas in the country;

(b) if so, the present projects of GAIL under implementation;

(c) whether many such projects of GAIL are involved in cost overruns;

(d) if so, the projects of GAIL which are behind schedule; and

(e) the steps taken to improve functioning of GAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) is implementing following major gas pipeline projects:—

- Dahej-Vijaipur Pipeline
- Dahej-Hazira-Uran Pipeline
- Chainsa-Gurgaon Pipeline
- Project Blue Sky City Gas Distribution
- Bareilly City Gas Distribution
- South Gujarat Pipeline
- Thulendi-IFFCO Phulpur Pipeline (HBJ-III)
- Dadri—IOC Panipat Pipeline (HBJ-III)
- Cauvery Basin Pipeline for small consumers.

(c) No, Sir. None of the GAIL's projects under implementation are involved in cost over-run.

(d) The Vizag-Secunderabad Pipeline was scheduled to be commissioned by 31.8.2003 but could not be commissioned due to non-availability of LPG. The pipeline was mechanically completed on 22.6.2003. The line shall be commissioned within 3 weeks of receipt of LPG from Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

(e) All the GAIL's pipeline projects are being implemented within approved costs and scheduled time.

#### **Pipeline Project for Sakhalin Oil-Field**

509. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh has approached the Government to approve of a 700 KM pipeline for its Sakhalin Oil-field project;

(b) if so, details of this proposal;

(c) whether the Government has made any efforts to study the extent of high involvement by an Indian PSU in distant lands;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to restrict ONGC Videsh for Oil production in Sakhalin only; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to study the need for ONGC to get into diverse non-oil production activity in distant lands?

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

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

(c) India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025 (IHV-2025) has identified focus areas for major sourcing of equity oil, which include Iran, Iraq, North Africa and Russia. ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), has been scouting for opportunities abroad as per IHV-2025.

(d) No, Sir.

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

#### **Setting up of Hydro Power Projects in Private Sector**

510. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some hydro power projects are being set up in the private sector;

(b) if so, the States where these hydro power projects are being set up;

(c) the installed capacity of each of these power projects; and

(d) the term and condition with which these power projects have been assigned to the private sector?

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

(b) to (d) The required details in respect of private sector hydro electric projects accorded Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) are indicated below:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Date of TEC	Estimated cost as per TEC (Rs. Crs.)
<i>A. Projects likely to give benefits in 10th Plan</i>					
1.	Baspa-II	Himachal Pradesh	300	29.4.1994	949.23
2.	Dhamwari Sunda	Himachal Pradesh	70	6.7.2001	439.96
3.	Vishnu Prayag	Uttaranchal	400	30.6.1997	1614.66
4.	Maheshwar	Madhya Pradesh	400	30.12.1996	1673
<i>B. Projects to give benefits beyond 10th Plan</i>					
1.	Allain Duhangan	Himachal Pradesh	192	20.8.2002	922.35
2.	Srinagar	Uttaranchal	330	14.6.2000	1699.12
3.	Karcham Wangtoo	Himachal Pradesh	1000	31.3.2003	5909.59

The terms and conditions related to sale of power from the above projects are laid down in the Power Purchase Agreement and Implementation Agreement etc., directly entered into between the respective project developers and the State Government/ State owned Utility.

[Translation]

#### Electricity to District of Muzaffarpur

511. SHRI AMIR ALAM:  
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether electricity has been provided to all the villages of Bihar and particularly of district Muzaffarpur during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the desired results have been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the schemes formulated to provide electricity in all the villages and district of Muzaffarpur by the Government; and

(d) the time by which these schemes are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB), out of the total number of 1790 inhabited villages in the district of Muzaffarpur, 941 villages were electrified till the end of the Ninth Plan Period.

(c) and (d) Bihar has taken a policy decision to provide electricity to all the villages in the State including Muzaffarpur by 2007.

[English]

#### Requirement and Availability of Power of MSEB

512. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether with starting of Phase-II (1444 MW) of the Dabhol Power Project, the problem of surplus power is likely to increase due to inability of Maharashtra State Electricity Board to absorb the surplus power;

(b) if so, the requirement and availability of power of MSEB, as on 31st October, 2003, from different sources and the surplus power with it;

(c) the details of scheme, if any, has been worked out for utilization of the surplus power;

(d) whether there is any demand to revise the power purchase Agreement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) During the period April-October, 2003, the power supply position of Maharashtra was as under:

Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)	
Requirement	48845	Peak Demand	13612
Availability	44559	Peak met	11078
Shortage	4286	Shortage	2534
%	8.8	%	18.6

Thus, at present Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) is not surplus in power. Since the peak shortage of Maharashtra is more than the capacity of Dhabol Power Project Phase-II (1444 MW), MSEB can absorb the power from this project.

(c) Does not arise, as MSEB, at present, is not surplus in power.

(d) and (e) Since closure of the Dabhol power project in May, 2001 following contractual disputes between the MSEB and M/s Dabhol Power Company, numerous efforts have been made to facilitate revival of the project by the Ministry of Power, Ministry of Finance, Indian Financial Institutions led by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Government of Maharashtra. The latest initiative has been the constitution of an Informal Advisory Committee (IAC) by the Ministry of Finance to evolve a strategy to restructure & revive the project. The Ministry of Finance has informed that the Committee has discussed the various issues with the concerned stake holders. The decision on revision, if any, of the Power Purchase Agreement, would have to be taken by the respective stakeholders.

[*Translation*]

#### **Loan from America by IOCL**

513. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited has proposed to obtain loan from Bank of America;

(b) if so, the amount to be borrowed alongwith the purpose for which this amount would be utilized; and

(c) the time by which the repayment of loan is likely to be made and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) is planning to raise a loan amounting to US\$ 100 million from Bank of America for financing import of crude oil and petroleum products. This is a short-term loan proposed to be repaid within nine months from the date of drawal.

[*English*]

#### **Import and Export of Petroleum Products**

514. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:  
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) whether public and private sector oil companies have increased export of petroleum products to reap benefits of increased prices in the world market;

(b) if so, the reasons for recent increase in the prices of petrol and diesel in the country;

(c) the amount of additional export earnings that are likely to accrue on the increased rate of petrol and diesel; and

(d) the amount incurred on the import of petroleum products during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The export of petroleum products during the period April to September, 2003 are 7,118 TMT as compared to 5,409 TMT during April to September 2002.

(b) With the dismantling of administered pricing mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April, 2002, the prices of petrol and diesel have been decontrolled. The Oil Companies are now fixing the prices of these products after taking into account the international oil prices. Thus, the fluctuations in the international oil prices are likely to get reflected in the domestic consumer prices of petrol and diesel.

(c) The earning by export of petroleum products during the period April to September, 2003 are Rs. 7638 crore as compared to Rs. 5,084 crore during the period April to September, 2002.

(d) The amount incurred on the import of petroleum products during the last three years is given below:

Year	Rs. (crore)
2000-01	12,093
2001-02	7,249
2002-03	8,847

#### **Sky Bus Service**

515. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sky Bus is not in practice in terms of traffic success in any part of the world;

(b) whether the Railways are considering to introduce Sky Bus Service in Goa;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the viability and commuters advantage of such service in tourist State like Goa; and

(d) the other cities where such service is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Trials for proving the technology are yet to be conducted.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Once the technology is proved and certified, there are 15 cities in India and 7 cities abroad who have

expressed their interest to Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. to have this technology.

#### **Wind Power Potential Sites of Andhra Pradesh**

516. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether thirty potential sites for wind power generation have been identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government and State Government have taken to tap the potential of these sites in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) 31 sites having annual mean wind power density of more than 200 w/m<sup>2</sup> at 50 m height have been identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Wind power capacity of 92.6 MW has been established in Andhra Pradesh so far. An additional wind power capacity of 6 MW has been installed in the State.

For setting up of demonstration wind power projects, the Government provides Central Financial Assistance upto 60% of the cost of wind electric generators, including spares and erection commissioning with the ceiling of Rs. 2.1 crore per MW. Fiscal and financial incentives such as accelerated depreciation, concessional duty on import of certain items, term loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), etc. are provided by the Central Government.

The State Government provides incentives for setting up of wind power projects, such as capital subsidy to the extent of 20% of project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs, allotment of land on priority basis for a maximum capacity of 20 MW wind farms, purchase of energy at Rs. 2.25 per unit as on 1.4.1994 with the base year 1994-95 escalated at 5% per annum until 2004, wheeling at 2%, banking for 12 months at a fees of 2% of energy bank, creation of power evacuation facilities by collecting charges of Rs. 10 lakhs per MW and technical consultancy by Non-conventional Energy Development Agency of Andhra Pradesh.



**Statement**

*Sites having Annual Mean Wind Power Density of more than 200 watt per square metres at 50m Height in Andhra Pradesh*

Sl. No.	State	Latitude °N		Longitude °E		Elevation m.a.s.l.	Annual Mean Annual Wind Speed (kmph)		Annual Mean Wind Power Density W/m <sup>2</sup>	
		Deg.	Min.	Deg.	Min.		Measured at 20/25m	Measured at 20/25m	Extrapolated at 50m	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1.	Alangarapetta*	14	48	77	47	360	20.76	244	272	
2.	Badhrampalli Kottala*	14	55	77	24	440	21.30	248	277	
3.	Bhimunipatnam	17	54	83	27	100	19.10	195	282	
4.	Bandariapalli*	15	1	78	4	438	20.79	240	320	
5.	Borampalli*	14	30	77	9	550	19.40	163	219	
6.	Burugula*	15	8	77	57	540	18.40	147	216	
7.	Chinnababaiyapalli*	13	57	77	37	750	18.50	132	206	
8.	Jamalamadugu I*	14	49	78	23	195	17.50	161	265	
9.	Jamalamadugu II*	14	46	78	22	220	18.60	165	248	
10.	Kadavakallu*	14	48	77	56	340	22.10	303	325	
11.	Kakulakonda	13	43	79	21	981	23.10	332	541	
12.	Kondamithipalli*	15	3	78	3	440	21.22	252	349	
13.	Kodumuru*	15	43	77	45	410	20.83	225	270	
14.	Korrakodu*	14	46	77	15	460	18.67	146	220	
15.	Madugupalli*	14	42	77	51	440	18.70	152	266	
16.	M.P.R. Dam	14	54	77	25	450	19.90	228	269	
17.	Mustikovala	14	15	77	32	600	20.20	201	237	
18.	Nallakonda*	14	7	77	34	757	22.80	276	324	
19.	Narasimhakonda	14	30	79	52	100	20.10	186	403	
20.	Nazeerabad*	17	11	77	55	664	21.00	176	232	
21.	Pampanoor Thanda*	14	38	77	24	490	19.60	182	232	
22.	Payalakuntla	14	53	79	2	340	20.10	230	257	
23.	Ramagiri-I	14	17	77	31	667	19.50	205	308	
24.	Ramagiri-III	14	22	77	32	550	19.40	190	246	
25.	Singanamala	14	46	77	44	469	23.80	366	392	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
26.	Tallimadugula*	14	22	77	32	540	22.20	260	288
27.	Talaricheruvu*	14	57	78	3	360	18.11	144	298
28.	Tirumala	13	40	79	22	880	20.40	226	374
29.	Tirumalayapalli	14	54	78	11	451	19.00	154	285
30.	Ulindakonda*	15	38	77	59	430	17.54	130	225
31.	Vajrakarur	14	58	77	19	507	19.46	173	243

[Translation]

#### IOCL Agreement with British Petroleum

517. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited has signed any agreement with British Petroleum to purchase oil from Syria;

(b) if so, the details of the said agreement;

(c) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited has also signed an agreement with some private firm of Brunei to purchase oil;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited shall have to spent excess amount on the purchase of oil from the said two private companies; and

(f) if so, the reasons for purchase oil from private oil companies in place of Government companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (f) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has not signed any agreement with British Petroleum for purchase of Crude Oil 2003-04.

IOCL has entered into an agreement for purchase of 0.25 MMT of Seria light crude oil for the period July to December, 2003 at official selling price with M/s. Brunei Shell Petroleum Company (BSP) which is 50:50 joint venture (JV) between Government of Brunei and Royal Dutch/Shell. The official selling price of Seria light crude oil is approved by the Government of Brunei on a month

to month basis which is uniformly applicable to all the consumers. Hence, there is no excess amount spent for purchase of crude oil from BSP. Further, in case of Brunei, BSP is the only authorized entity to sell Seria light crude oil and the same is not being by the Government of Brunei.

[English]

#### Defence Land on Lease

518. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence land has been allotted to number of societies, organizations etc. on lease basis;

(b) if so, the basis thereof; and

(c) the persons, organizations and societies to whom the defence land has been allotted alongwith rate, purpose and duration thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Armed Forces have been in occupation of a large area of land for more than a hundred years. Since then, some land has been given on lease to various organizations like State Governments/ Public Sector Undertakings, Registered Societies, welfare organizations, clubs, private parties for different purposes viz. social, religious sports, public utility services like construction of roads, establishment of educational institutions and agriculture etc., by the competent authorities. In all these cases, period of lease and rents are determined depending upon the nature of the organizations/societies to whom the land is leased and the purpose of lease. The period of lease varies from 5 years to perpetuity depending upon the organization to whom and the purpose for which the lease is given.

Defence lands are allotted to private parties at cantonments and military stations. This information is not located at any central point. The time and effort spent in collecting this information would not be commensurate with the result sought to be achieved.

#### Reconstitution of Censor Board

519. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reconstituted the Censor Board and its Regional Committees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which the Censor Board and its regional committees to be reconstituted;

(d) whether the Government have received any plea or request from Non-Government Organizations or public fora with regards to censoring of feature films in regional languages along with in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) As per the Rules framed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952, members of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) hold office for a period not exceeding three years while a member of the Regional Advisory Panel hold office for a period not

exceeding two years. The CBFC and its Advisory Panels are reconstituted from time to time as required.

(d) and (e) As per the Rules made under the Cinematograph Act, 1952, if a feature film has been issued a censor certificate and the same is remade or dubbed in Hindi or in any other language, the producer has to apply for a censor certificate afresh in the Regional Office of Central Board of Film Certificate from where the original certificate was issued.

#### Power Generation through Hydel, Thermal and Atomic Energy

520. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) total power generated throughout India (State-wise) through different sectors of Power Productions during the last three years (Year-wise);

(b) power generated through Hydro/Thermal/Atomic Energy and other Sources, State-wise/Source-wise/year-wise; and

(c) share of Central/State & Private Projects in total Power Generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) State-wise/Category-wise electricity generation in the country from 2000-2001 to 2003-04 (upto October, 2003) is given in Statement-I. Percentage share of generation through Central, State and Private Sector generating stations in the country is indicated in Statement-II enclosed.

#### Statement I

##### State-wise gross power generation (TH+NU+HY)

State	2000-01 Act. Gen.	2001-02 Act. Gen.	2002-03 Act. Gen.	2003-04 Apr.-Oct.
1	2	3	4	5
Delhi Th	7981	7952	8780	5802
Delhi Total	7981	7952	8780	5802
J&K Th	5	0	58	15
J&K Hy	5279	5558	5925	5417
J&K Total	5284	5558	5983	5432

1	2	3	4	5
Himachal Hy.	8604	8374	8735	8472
Himachal Total	8604	8374	8735	8472
Haryana Th.	5841	7943	8664	5324
Haryana Hy.	244	232	244	192
Haryana Total	6085	8175	8908	5516
Rajasthan Th.	12741	13772	16761	9338
Rajasthan Nu.	3578	4674	5047	2428
Rajasthan Hy	376	542	83	123
Rajasthan Total	16695	18988	21861	11889
Punjab Th.	14458	14695	13850	8201
Punjab Hy.	8887	9171	10040	7509
Punjab Total	23345	23866	23890	15710
U.P. Th.	67489	69425	68788	39465
U.P. Nu.	2088	3332	3595	1674
U.P. Hy.	5736	2030	1454	1233
U.P. Total	72615	74787	73837	42372
Uttaranchal Hy.	3648	3326	3770	2818
Uttaranchal Total	3648	3326	3770	2818
Gujarat Th.	42208	40589	44035	23769
Gujarat Nu.	3504	3570	3659	1931
Gujarat Hy.	439	287	587	581
Gujarat Total	46151	44446	48281	26281
Maharashtra Th.	56330	57910	57231	34242
Maharashtra Nu.	2409	2503	2544	1512
Maharashtra Hy.	4813	4906	5372	2646
Maharashtra Total	63552	65319	65147	38400
MP Th.	27475	28113	31481	16065
MP Hy.	1587	2211	1857	1343
MP Total	29062	30324	33338	17408
Chhattisgarh Th.	23395	24348	24058	13100
Chhattisgarh Hy.	233	392	247	152
Chhattisgarh Total	23628	24740	24305	13252

1	2	3	4	5
AP Th.	44232	45057	53048	31143
AP Hy.	7729	6115	3665	1155
AP Total	51961	51172	56713	32298
Karnataka Th.	10745	12193	13576	7931
Karnataka Nu.	1886	2997	3317	1907
Karnataka Hy.	10892	9661	7212	4138
Karnataka Total	23523	24851	24105	13976
Kerala Th.	2878	2083	3232	2221
Kerala Hy.	6221	6791	4860	2233
Kerala Total	9099	8874	8092	4454
Tamil Nadu Th.	35731	38829	42185	24666
Tamil Nadu Nu.	2513	2244	1073	924
Tamil Nadu Hy.	5441	4350	2728	1203
Tamil Nadu Total	43685	45423	45986	26793
Pondicherry Th.	233	250	265	162
Pondicherry Total	233	250	265	162
Bihar Th.	5542	5186	5526	3463
Bihar Hy.	49	58	59	34
Bihar Total	5591	5244	5585	3497
Jharkhand Th.	6470	6358	6813	3635
Jharkhand Hy.	247	248	234	206
Jharkhand Total	6717	6606	7047	3841
Orissa Th.	11573	12234	12482	9517
Orissa Hy.	4612	6456	3153	3102
Orissa Total	16185	18690	15635	12619
West Bengal Th.	29851	31970	35151	21118
West Bengal Hy.	576	583	651	461
West Bengal Total	30427	32853	35802	21579
Sikkim Hy.	325	383	390	286
Sikkim Total	325	383	390	286

1	2	3	4	5
A&N Island	0	0	0	0
A&N Island Total	0	0	0	0
Assam Th.	2293	2308	1909	1216
Assam Hy.	595	549	847	382
Assam Total	2888	2857	2756	1598
Meghalaya Hy.	889	794	822	513
Meghalaya Total	889	794	822	513
Tripura Th.	668	776	845	548
Tripura Hy.	70	68	56	38
Tripura Total	738	844	901	586
Manipur Th.	0	0	0	0
Manipur Hy.	551	569	553	297
Manipur Total	551	569	553	297
Nagaland Hy.	73	141	121	131
Nagaland Total	73	141	121	131
Ar. Pradesh Hy.	13	41	199	773
Ar. Pradesh Total	13	41	199	773
Mizoram Th.	0	0	0	0
Mizoram Total	0	0	0	0
Total Thermal	408139	421987	448538	260941
Total Nuclear	16928	19320	19235	10376
Total Hydro	74481	73940	63834	454338
All India Total	499548	515247	531607	316755

**Statement II***All India Gross Generation Sector-wise and their Share*

Sectors	Thermal (MU)	Nuclear (MU)	Hydro (MU)	Total (MU)	% Share of Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Central Sector</i>					
2000-01	159617	16928	20376	196921	39.42
2001-02	162325	19320	20027	201672	39.14

1	2	3	4	5	6
2002-03	171450	19235	22246	212931	40.05
2003-04	101903	10376	17965	130249	41.12
<i>State Sector</i>					
2000-01	211726	—	52803	264529	52.95
2001-02	221609	—	52167	273776	53.13
2002-03	233032	—	39746	272778	51.31
2003-04	132359	—	25379	157738	49.80
<i>Private Sector</i>					
2000-01	36796	—	1302	38098	7.63
2001-02	38053	—	1746	39799	7.72
2002-03	44056	—	1842	45898	8.63
2003-04	26674	—	2094	28768	9.08
<i>All India Total</i>					
2000-01	408139	16928	74481	499548	100
2001-02	421987	19320	73940	515247	100
2002-03	448538	19235	63834	531607	100
2003-04	260941	10376	45438	316755	100

#### Implementation of Subansiri Hydrel Power Project

521. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) Per-capita availability of power in Assam and other States in the North-Eastern Region, and how it compares with all-India figures, in rural and urban areas separately;

(b) whether per-capita availability of power in these States are likely to be increased with the implementation of the Subansiri Hydrel Power Project;

(c) whether there will be surplus power after implementation of this project; and

(d) how this surplus power is proposed to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Per-Capita Consumption of Power in Assam and other States

in the North-Eastern Region and all India Average for the year 2001-02 are given below:

	Per Capita Consumption* (KWH)
Assam	99.42
Arunachal Pradesh	68.33
Manipur	69.43
Meghalaya	235.35
Mizoram	147.09
Nagaland	57.19
Tripura	108.75
North Eastern Region	104.49
All India	360.97

\*Rural/Urban bifurcation is not being maintained.

(b) to (d) Subansiri Lower, HEP, 2000 MW has been cleared by CEA for likely benefits during 11th, Plan. The Per-Capita availability of Power would improve with the implementation of the project. Power from the project is likely to be absorbed in deficit regions of the country.

#### **Profit In Power Sector**

522. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Sector is running profit in our country specially in generation;

(b) if so, the details of the profit earned during 2nd quarter in the financial year 2003-04 PSUs-wise; and

(c) the details of the per-capita consumption of electricity in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Central Public Sector Undertakings namely National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) involved in generation of electricity have shown profits during the last few financial years. But Utilities/State Electricity Boards have accumulated large outstanding amount to these power generating companies. North-eastern Electric Power Corporation, involved in generation of electricity in North Eastern Region, however, has reported a loss of Rs. 408.75 crores for the year 2002-03. Profitability or otherwise of State Sector and Private Sector generating companies, which account for nearly 62% of overall power generation is not available.

(b) Profit earned by the power generating Central Public Sector Undertakings during the second quarter of the financial year 2003-04 is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Central PSU	Profit earned during 2nd Quarter of 2003-04 as reported by CPSUs (Rs. crores)
1.	NTPC	1283.19
2.	NHPC	126.2
3.	DVC	99.33
4.	NEEPCO	33.28

(c) The per capita consumption of electricity in West Bengal during the year 2000-01 was 207 kwh.

#### **Coaching facilities for SCs/STs/OBCs Candidates**

523. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate a scheme to provide coaching/training to the SCs and OBCs candidates prior to appearing in various examinations/interviews;

(b) if so, the details of each scheme formulated/to be formulated and institutes/NGOs/Universities selected in this regard; and

(c) the funds provided to different States/NGOs/institutions/universities under each scheme to SCs and OBCs candidates separately during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Coaching and Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities for providing pre-examination coaching to students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities, so as to enable them to compete with those coming from socially and economically advantageous sections of the society. Only students belonging to Scheduled Castes, OBCs and Minorities having family income of upto Rs. 1.00 lakh per annum are eligible for assistance under the scheme. The scheme is implemented through State Government's run institutes, Universities and non-Governmental organizations possessing adequate experience in the field. The coaching is provided for recruitment in various services and entrance examinations for professional courses. The proposals received from NGOs/Universities for assistance under the scheme are examined and recommended for sanction by a Screening Committee constituted by the Ministry for this purpose. Assistance is provided under the scheme annually based on performance of the students coached by the Institute. List of Institutes/NGOs/Universities selected in this regard is at Statement-I, II, III and IV enclosed.

(c) The information about funds provided to different State-run institutions and universities is given at Statement





1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
24.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	11.15	11.15	Nil	Nil	NR	Nil
25.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR	Nil
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	2.61	2.61	Nil	Nil	NR	Nil
27.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR	Nil
28.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	2.68	2.68	Nil	Nil	NR	Nil
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR	Nil
30.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR	Nil
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR	Nil
32.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR	Nil
33.	Delhi	2.95	2.95	1.90	1.90	10.00	10.00	NR	Nil
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR	Nil
35.	Pondichery	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR	Nil
Total		102.95	102.95	43.89	43.89	207.69	207.69	0.00	0.00

**Statement II***Coaching and Allied Scheme for Weaker Sections Including SCs, OBCs and Minorities*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Name of University	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kakatiya University	3.37	Nil	Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjuna University	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Osmania University	Nil	2.64	Nil
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Sh. Venkateshwara University	4.06	Nil	Nil
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Acharya NG Ranga Agriculture University	Nil	Nil	3.93
6.	Assam	Gauhati University	Nil	Nil	5.07
7.	Chandigarh	Punjab University, Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	1.87
8.	Haryana	Kurukshetra University	Nil	1.28	2.26
9.	Haryana	Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak	Nil	Nil	3.43
10.	Haryana	Guru Jambheshwar University, Hissar	Nil	Nil	7.28
11.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh Univ.	Nil	5.18	Nil
12.	Himachal Pradesh	HP Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur	Nil	Nil	1.21

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Karnataka	Bangalore University	Nil	14.68	Nil
14.	Karnataka	Karnataka University Dharwad	Nil	Nil	2.07
15.	Karnataka	Mangalore University	Nil	6.51	Nil
16.	Karnataka	University of Mysore	Nil	9.64	Nil
17.	Karnataka	Kuvempu University, Shimoga	Nil	Nil	4.64
18.	Madhya Pradesh	Awadh Pratap Singh Univ. Rewa	Nil	Nil	2.63
19.	Madhya Pradesh	Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore	Nil	Nil	3.58
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Vikram University, Ujjain	6.79	7.53	7.08
21.	Madhya Pradesh	M.P. Bhoj (Open) University, Bhopal	Nil	Nil	21.95
22.	Maharashtra	B.R. Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad	Nil	Nil	8.13
23.	Maharashtra	Nagpur University	Nil	Nil	10.05
24.	Maharashtra	Pune University	Nil	Nil	2.40
25.	Maharashtra	North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon	Nil	Nil	3.12
26.	Maharashtra	Amravati University	Nil	Nil	4.33
27.	New Delhi	Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	Nil	3.16	3.26
28.	Orissa	Utkal University, Bhubaneswar	Nil	Nil	3.20
29.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry University	Nil	5.93	Nil
30.	Punjab	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	4.41	2.83	3.89
31.	Punjab	Punjabi University, Patiala	10.13	Nil	23.98
32.	Rajasthan	Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur	Nil	6.31	Nil
33.	Rajasthan	Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur	Nil	5.93	Nil
34.	Sikkim	Sikkim Govt. College	Nil	Nil	Nil
35.	Tamil Nadu	University of Madras	Nil	4.43	Nil
36.	Tamil Nadu	Madurai Kamraj University	Nil	Nil	4.17
37.	Tamil Nadu	Gandhigram Rural Instt. Dindigul	Nil	Nil	3.71
38.	Tamil Nadu	Allahabad University	12.01	14.48	9.29
39.	Uttar Pradesh	B.R. Ambedkar University, Agra	Nil	Nil	2.99
40.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow University	4.45	5.65	9.24
41.	Uttar Pradesh	Moti Lal Nehru Eng. College, Allahabad	1.06	2.28	4.90
42.	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh Muslim University	Nil	6.77	Nil
43.	Uttaranchal	H.N. Bahuguna University, Garhwal	3.82	5.49	3.25
44.	West Bengal	Jadavpur University	Nil	Nil	3.96
Total			50.10	110.72	170.87

No. fund to the Universities so far released during 2003-2004.

**Statement III**

*Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Coaching and Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State	Name and Address of NGOs	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Action for Integrated Development Agency, Sadasivpet, Adoni	Nil	Nil	1.21	Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Jagruti Educational and Community Development Society, Hyderabad	5.62	6.09	6.10	Nil
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjuna Study Circle, Hyderabad	15.08	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Social Integration and Rural Development Society, Nalgonda	3.89	3.09	4.33	Nil
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Venela Educational Rural Development Soceity, Khammam	1.60	1.70	3.65	Nil
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Sahaya Welfare Association, Nalgonda	Nil	Nil	6.17	Nil
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Ravi Academy for Competitive Examinations, Hyderabad	Nil	Nil	2.00	Nil
8.	Andhra Pradesh	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Youth Association, Hyderabad	Nil	Nil	4.33	Nil
9.	Andhra Pradesh	Markazi Anjuman-E-Qadvie, Hyderabad	Nil	Nil	1.21	Nil
10.	Andhra Pradesh	Islamia Education Society, Siddipet, Medak Distt.	Nil	Nil	0.75	1.21
11.	Andhra Pradesh	Medak Distt. Rural Development & Welfare Asso., Jogipet	Nil	Nil	1.21	Nil
12.	Andhra Pradesh	Osmania Muslim Minority Educational Society, Cuddapah	Nil	Nil	2.43	Nil
13.	Andhra Pradesh	Vivekananda Vidya Sanstha Society, Guntur	Nil	Nil	2.43	Nil
14.	Andhra Pradesh	Sri Raju Educational Society, Nellore	Nil	Nil	3.64	Nil
15.	Andhra Pradesh	Vikas Seva Samiti, Tirupati	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.21
16.	Andhra Pradesh	Rao's Study Centre, Hyderabad	Nil	1.69	Nil	6.55
17.	Andhra Pradesh	Good Hope Study Centre, Krishna Distt.	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.43
18.	Andhra Pradesh	ASRR Minority Education Society, Ongole	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.43
19.	Andhra Pradesh	Nava Chaitanya Youth Assn., Medak Distt.	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Andhra Pradesh	Training Reconstruction Educational Environment Society, Nellore	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.21
21.	Andhra Pradesh	Navya Educational Society, Secunderabad	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.21
22.	Assam	Educational Foundation, Haiborgaon	Nil	Nil	3.64	Nil
23.	Assam	Bahumukhi Krishi Aur Kalyan Samiti, Nagaon	Nil	Nil	1.22	Nil
24.	Assam	Ragourtook Club and Library, Karimganj	Nil	Nil	1.22	Nil
25.	Bihar	Patna Muslim High School-cum-Inter College, Patna	Nil	Nil	3.73	Nil
26.	Bihar	Patna Muslim High School-cum-Inter College, Patna	Nil	Nil	1.86	Nil
27.	Bihar	Abdul Qawi Instt., of Coaching, Gaya	Nil	Nil	3.73	Nil
28.	Bihar	Ideal Institute of Coaching & Guidance, Khagaul	Nil	Nil	3.73	Nil
29.	Bihar	Minority Coaching Institute, Patna	Nil	Nil	Nil	6.16
30.	Chhattisgarh	Maha Koshal Academy for Administrative Careers, Raipur	Nil	Nil	2.52	Nil
31.	Delhi	Hamdard Institute Society, New Delhi	Nil	Nil	1.46	1.37
32.	Delhi	Integrated Institute of Management, New Delhi	Nil	Nil	4.16	Nil
33.	Delhi	Delhi Education Centre, New Delhi	10.37	18.67	4.67	Nil
34.	Delhi	S.N. Dasgupta College, New Delhi	3.58	1.95	Nil	Nil
35.	Delhi	Hamdard Education Society, New Delhi	Nil	Nil	1.60	Nil
36.	Delhi	Hamdard Education Society	Nil	Nil	1.94	Nil
37.	Jharkhand	Delhi Education Centre, Ranchi	Nil	Nil	4.62	Nil
38.	Karnataka	Yogi Narayana Education Trust, Bangalore	Nil	Nil	1.39	Nil
39.	Kerala	Civil Service Institute, Kottayam	Nil	Nil	1.33	Nil
40.	Madhya Pradesh	B.R. Ambedkar Institute, Mhow	Nil	Nil	4.14	Nil
41.	Madhya Pradesh	Gyan Vikas Samiti, Bhopal	2.02	Nil	Nil	Nil
42.	Madhya Pradesh	Krishna Coach Institute, Jabalpur	1.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
43.	Madhya Pradesh	Krishna Coach Centre, Bhopal	4.20	Nil	Nil	Nil
44.	Madhya Pradesh	Maha Kaushal Academy, Raipur	1.94	Nil	Nil	Nil
45.	Madhya Pradesh	Suruchi Vyavsaik Shikshan Sansthan, Gwalior	2.93	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
46.	Madhya Pradesh	Gram Bharati Sansthan, Gwalior	Nil	Nil	1.80	Nil
47.	Madhya Pradesh	Roshan Welfare Society, Bhopal	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.21
48.	Maharashtra	Kaipataru Sanstha, Dhule	Nil	Nil	4.38	Nil
49.	Maharashtra	Dhyanvardhini Educational & Charitable Foundation, Solapur	Nil	Nil	4.38	Nil
50.	Maharashtra	Navbharat Seva Pratisthan, Latur	Nil	Nil	2.52	Nil
51.	Maharashtra	Sarvodaya Educational & Voluntary Association, Nanded	Nil	Nil	2.43	nil
52.	Maharashtra	Jeewan Rekha Pratisthan, Latur	Nil	Nil	2.80	Nil
53.	Maharashtra	Chaitanya Babhuudhesiya Shikshan Samiti, Nagpur	1.02	3.08	Nil	Nil
54.	Maharashtra	Chanakya Mandal, Pune	3.96	Nil	Nil	Nil
55.	Maharashtra	Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sansthan, Latur	2.46	Nil	2.46	Nil
56.	Maharashtra	Trailokya Baudh Sahayak Sangh Gana, Pune	Nil	Nil	1.75	Nil
57.	Maharashtra	Career Development Academy, Aurangabad	Nil	Nil	4.16	Nil
58.	Maharashtra	Ujwal Rural Development Society, Dhule	Nil	Nil	2.52	Nil
59.	Maharashtra	Ahitya Bahuuddhesiya Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Hingoli	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.76
60.	Maharashtra	Indian Institute of Public Health & Hygeine, Latur	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.76
61.	Manipur	Social Awarness and Development Agency, Imphal	Nil	Nil	1.21	1.21
62.	Manipur	Social Development & Rehabilitation Council, Thoubal	Nil	Nil	2.43	2.43
63.	Manipur	Rural Industries Development Association	Nil	Nil	2.43	2.43
64.	Manipur	Institute of Social Development for Weaker Sections, Imphal	Nil	Nil	1.21	Nil
65.	Manipur	Social Reformation & Developmental Org., Imphal	Nil	Nil	1.21	1.21
66.	Manipur	Socio-economic Cultural Upliftment & Development Orgn., Imphal	Nil	Nil	1.21	1.21
67.	Manipur	Type-writing Institution & Rural Development Services, Thoubal	Nil	Nil	2.43	Nil
68.	Manipur	Integrated Educational Social Development Organisation, Khongman	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
69.	Manipur	Parent Devotees' Congress, Canchipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.21
70.	Manipur	Women's Economic Development Society, Imphal	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.21
71.	Manipur	Manipur Rural Service Association, Imphal	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.21
72.	Manipur	Krishan Development Association, Imphal	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.21
73.	Orissa	L.C. Institute, Bhubaneswar	Nil	2.57	Nil	Nil
74.	Orissa	Orissa IAS Study Circle, Bhubaneswar	1.24	1.33	Nil	2.97
75.	Rajasthan	Udaipur Study Circle, Udaipur	3.94	Nil	Nil	Nil
76.	Rajasthan	Aravali College Samiti, Jaipur	Nil	Nil	1.21	Nil
77.	Rajasthan	Vishwa Bal Bharati Samiti, Sriganganagar	Nil	Nil	2.43	Nil
78.	Rajasthan	Raj Classes, Kota	Nil	Nil	4.54	Nil
79.	Tamil Nadu	ICE Career Guidance	3.04	Nil	8.64	Nil
80.	Tamil Nadu	Dr. G.R. Damodaran College, Coimbatore	Nil	5.18	Nil	Nil
81.	Tamil Nadu	Senthil Charitable Trust, Madurai	Nil	Nil	4.33	Nil
82.	Tamil Nadu	Lotus Edu. Soc. Ser. & Charit. Trust, Tiruchirapalli	Nil	Nil	2.00	Nil
83.	Tamil Nadu	Wisdom Educational Memorial, Thiruvannur	Nil	Nil	1.06	Nil
84.	Uttar Pradesh	Sahara Academy, Kanpur	3.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
85.	Uttar Pradesh	Aparna Sanskritik Sansthan, Lucknow	Nil	Nil	4.33	Nil
86.	Uttar Pradesh	Nav Vikas Samiti, Faizabad	Nil	Nil	4.67	Nil
87.	Uttar Pradesh	Amit Gram Vikas Sewa Sansthan, Varanasi	Nil	Nil	5.18	Nil
88.	Uttar Pradesh	K.N. Education Society, Lucknow	Nil	Nil	4.33	Nil

**Statement IV**

*List of Institutions who have received grant-in-aid from 2000-01 to till date under the scheme of pre-examination coaching for Other Backward Classes (OBCs)*

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Name of Institution of repute/ Universities	Project sanctioned	Amount Released (in rupee)	No. of Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>2000-01</b>					
1.	Orissa	L.C. Institute of Social & Applied Services, Bhubaneswar, Orissa	1. Civil Service	100000	40
<b>Total</b>				<b>100000</b>	<b>40</b>

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>2001-02</b>					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Vennela Education & Rural Dev. Society, Khammam, AP	1. Civil Service	397000	40
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Rao's Study Circle, Hyderabad	1. Civil Service 2. Subordinate Service	244050	40 40
3.	Andhra Pradesh	AP Study Circle, Mehboob Nagar	1. State Civil Service 2. Subordinate Service	126990	40
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Social Integration & Rural Dev., Society, Nalgonda, AP	1. Subordinate Service	55050	40
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Jagruthi Educational Community Dev. Society, Hyderabad	1. Civil Service 2. State Civil Service 3. Professional Course	614550	40 40 40
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Youth Association, Khammam, Andhra Pradesh	1. Professional Course 2. Subordinate Course 3. Lower Service	158450	40 40 40
7.	Assam	Trust Education Foundation, Nagaon, Assam	1. Professional Course	150100	80
8.	Delhi	S N Das Gupta Education Society, New Delhi	1. Subordinate Course 2. Lower Service	151775	100 100
9.	Karnataka	Sri Yogi Narayan Education Centre, Bangalore, Karnataka	1. Civil Service	283875	30
10.	Kerala	Aasarya Jan Vidya Kendra, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	1. Subordinate Course	55050	40
11.	Kerala	Institute of Management in Government, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	1. Civil Service	354000	40
12.	Madhya Pradesh	A.P.S. University (SC/ST Coaching Centre), Rewa, MP	1. Subordinate Course 2. Lower Service	250200	80 240
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Krishna Coaching Institute, Gwalior	1. State Civil Service 2. Lower Service	100290	40 40
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Gram Bharati Sansthan, Gwalior	1. Subordinate Course 2. Professional Course	260250	80
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Krishna Coaching Inst. Bhopal	1. State Civil Service 2. Professional Course 3. Lower Service	269425	40 40 40
16.	Madhya Pradesh	Krishna Coaching Inst. Jabalpur	1. Subordinate Course	55050	40
17.	Madhya Pradesh	Krishna Coaching Institute, Jabalpur	1. Professional Course	213400	80
18.	Madhya Pradesh	Padmakar Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal	1. Civil Service 2. State Civil Service 3. Professional Course	612050	40** 40** 40
19.	Madhya Pradesh	Kundan Kalyan Samiti, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	1. Civil Service 2. Subordinate Course 3. Lower Service	456900	40 40 40



1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Maharashtra	Chaitanya Bahudeshiya Sanstha, Nagpur	1. Civil Service 2. Subordinate Course 3. Lower Service	281900	40 40 40
21.	Maharashtra	Adarsh Shikshan Prasarak, Mandal, Deopur, Dhule,	1. Subordinate Course	67563	40
22.	Maharashtra	Navalbhou Pratisthan's Vijay Career Academy, Aurangabad	1. Professional Course	110075	60
23.	Manipur	The Women's Econ. Dev. Society, Khongmam, Imphal	1. Subordinate Course	55050	40
24.	Manipur	The Inst. of Social Dev. for Weaker Sections, Imphal	1. Professional Course	75050	40
25.	Orissa	L.C. Institute of Social & Applied Services, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa	1. Civil Services (Mains) 2. State Civil Service (Mains)	206580	30 30
26.	Orissa	Orissa IAS Study Circle, Bhubaneshwar,	1. State Civil Service	71940	40
27.	Orissa	Sachdeva New P.T. College, Puri, Orissa	1. Civil Service	169000	30
28.	Rajasthan	Mayur Welfare Education Society Banswara, Rajasthan	1. Subordinate Course	38360	40
29.	Uttar Pradesh	All India Services Pre-Exam Training Centre for SC/ST, Allahabad University	1. Civil Service	246250	50
30.	Uttar Pradesh	Social Science Sudha Research Inst. Kalyanpur, Kanpur	1. Professional Course	75050	40
31.	Uttar Pradesh	AANCHAL, Aliganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	1. State Civil Service 2. Professional Course 3. Subordinate Course	296100	40 40 40
32.	Uttaranchal	Study Point Samiti, Dehradun	1. Civil Service	71940	40
Total				6575312	2470

**2002-03**

1.	Andhra Pradesh	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Youth Association Khammam, Andhra Pradesh	1. Professional Course 2. Subordinate Course 3. Lower Service	158450	40 40 40
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Social Integration & Rural Dev. Society, Nalgonda, AP	1. Subordinate Course	55050	40
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Jagruthi Educational & Community Development Society, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	1. Civil Service 2. State Civil Service 3. Professional Course	614550	40 40 40
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Kundan Kalyan Samiti, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	1. Civil Service 2. Subordinate Course 3. Lower Service	456900	40 40 40

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Manipur	Institute of Social Development for Weaker Section, Imphal, Manipur	1. Professional Course— 40 Candidates— 3 months	75050	40
6.	Orissa	Agnishikha, Balasore, Orissa	1. Professional Courses 2. Subordinate Course	135000	40 40
Total				1598400	600
<b>2003-04 (As on 02.12.2003)</b>					
1.	Orissa	Sachdeva New P.T. College, Puri, Orissa	1. Civil Service	169000	30

[Translation]

**Funds Provided under improved Chulha Pariyojna**

524. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided and spent for the "Rashtriya improved Chulha Pariyojna" to Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government upto 31st October, 2003 for effective implementation of the said project in the above State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—National Programme on Improved Chulhas (NPIC), the State Government of Rajasthan was not sanctioned any funds in advance during the last three years, i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03. While, the State Government did not implement NPIC during 2002-03, it has recently furnished details of expenditure of Rs. 32.79 lakh for 2000-01 and Rs. 36.63 lakh for 2001-02, which are under process for sample verification and settlement against the funds released in advance up to the year 1999-2000.

(b) The NPIC stands transferred to the State Plan Sector with effect from 2003-04, subject to the approval of the National Development Council (NDC). However, the State Government of Rajasthan is not implementing the scheme under its State Plan during 2003-04.

[English]

**CNG for Kayamkulam Power Project**

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

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Kerala Government to supply CNG for the Kayamkulam Power Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of Kerala has been representing to the Union Government for expediting the setting up of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal at Kochi by Petronet LNG Limited (PLL), which had been planned considering the requirement of LNG for expansion of Kayamkulam Power Project of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). The Kochi LNG terminal is not progressing since NTPC has not implemented the expansion plans based on LNG off-take from Kochi LNG terminal.

**Non Functioning of Coupon Validating Machines**

526. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of modification took place recently the Coupon Validation Machines in the suburban stations of Mumbai are not functioning;

(b) whether passengers are compelled to approach the TC to get the coupon rubber stamped due to non-functioning of these machines;

(c) whether the Government have taken note of on the spot study by Mumbai Railway Prabasi Sangh and a leading Newspaper that 75% machines are not functioning;

(d) if so, the type of complaints received in this regard;

(e) the corrective actions being taken/to be taken on non-functioning of these machines;

(f) the details about the tickets, amount validated in each machines, maintenance cost, total cost to run the same at New Delhi Station; and

(g) the details about the proportion ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) The modified Coupon Validating Machines (CVMs) installed in Mumbai are functioning properly and their rate of failure is low.

(b) Some non-modified machines do intermittently fail. On such occasions, passengers get the coupons manually stamped from the booking counter or ticket checking staff.

(c) and (d) Railway on its own has conducted survey regarding functioning of CVMs and set right the defects of machines. As a result, the complaint rates have come down significantly. Some complaints were received regarding non-functioning of CVMs due to paper jamming on account of improper use of machines such as insertion of non standard paper in the slot etc.

(e) The working of CVMs is being monitored on day-to-day basis at various levels. On account of faulty maintenance, penalty has also been imposed on the manufacturer company to whom Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) has been given. In addition, a new version of these machines has also been put on trial.

(f) Around 6800 Coupon books were sold at various stations in Delhi area during the period from 1.4.2003 to 30.9.2003 and an amount of around Rs. 2,52,000 was recovered from sale of these booklets. Maintenance cost of these machines is Rs. 3170 per machine and cost of this machine is Rs. 36,698 per machine.

(g) Around 1.7% of the total suburban passengers are using CVMs in Delhi area.

### Use of CNG In Vehicles In Bangalore City

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

(a) whether the Government have given its clearance for using Compressed Natural Gas as fuel for public transport vehicles in Bangalore City;

(b) if so, whether the Reliance Company is setting up a CNG base in Krishna-Godaviri basin;

(c) if so, whether the Government have accorded sanction for using CNG as fuel for public transport vehicles in Bangalore City; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced in the Bangalore City?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Presently, there are no plans to introduce Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as a fuel for public transport vehicles in Bangalore city as there is no pipeline infrastructure available nearby through which natural gas can be supplied for CNG purposes to Bangalore city.

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

### Akash Missile Project

528. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to dump the Akash Missile Project;

(b) if so, the main objectives of the project and the reasons for failure to achieve the same; and

(c) the amount of expenditure incurred on the development of said project?

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

(b) The main objective is to develop medium range Surface-to-Air Missile with a range of 25 km. There have been some technical problems in the sub-systems, which have since been rectified. In fact recent flight tests conducted were successful and user trials are planned next year.

(c) Expenditure of Rs. 330.00 crore has been incurred so far on the project.

**Scholarship/Annual Grants for Children of Dalit Scavengers and Sweepers**

529. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to increase the scholarship and annual grants for children of Dalit scavengers and sweepers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the pre and post rate of scholarship and annual grants for the said children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has w.e.f. 1.4.2003 increased the rates of scholarship and annual grant under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of pre Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations. The details of pre-revised and post-revised rates of scholarship and annual grant are as under:

Class	Pre Revised Rate (Rs. per month)	Revised Rate (Rs. per month w.e.f. 1.4.2003)
<b>Hostellers</b>		
III-VIII	200	300
IX-X	250	375
Annual Adhoc Grant	500	600
<b>Day Scholars</b>		
I-V	25	40
VI-VII	40	60
IX-X	50	75
Annual Adhoc Grant	500	550

[Translation]

**Setting up of Power Plant by Railways in Nabinagar**

530. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up a power plant jointly with NTPC in Nabinagar in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time likely to be taken in commissioning the project;

(d) the proposed equity of N.T.P.C. in the said project; and

(e) the saving in terms of rupees likely to be made by the railways following commissioning of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to install four units of 250 MW each at a cost of Rs. 4374 crores. For this purpose a Joint Venture Company "Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company" is proposed to be formed with National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC).

(c) About seven years from the date of Cabinet approval.

(d) 49%.

(e) Annual saving of about Rs. 400 crores is anticipated on commissioning of this project on the basis of current level of traffic and electric traction tariff.

**Production of Central Public Sector Undertakings**

531. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI. RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed production target in some of Central Public Sector Undertakings and Heavy Industries during the year 2002-2003 and current year;

(b) if so, whether this target was achieved during the said period;

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

(d) if not, the short fall in terms of percentage in the production vis-a-vis the set target alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to meet production target of such CPSUs and Heavy industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) There is no classification of Industries as "Heavy". In so far as the Department of Heavy Industry is concerned, there are 48 Public Sector

Enterprises (PSEs) under its control. A statement indicating the production target set for the PSEs under the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 and percentage achievement during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 (upto October 2003) respectively is enclosed. The reasons for decline in production of some of the PSEs, inter-alia include paucity of orders, obsolete technology, shortage of working capital, high cost of production, excessive manpower, etc. The steps taken for improving the performance of the PSEs include providing financial support for salary & wages, undertaking renewals and replacements, rationalization of manpower through VRS, providing assistance in securing orders etc.

#### *Statement*

*Production Target set for PSEs under the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and percentage achievement against target*

Sl. No.	Name of the PSE	2002-2003			Target for 2003-04 (Rs. in Cr.)	Actual upto October 2003 (Rs. in Cr.)	% age achievement
		Target	Actual (Rs. in Cr.)	%age achievement			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.	168.00	109.98	65.46	190.52	61.30	32.18
2.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	7600.00	7510.00	98.82	8200.00	2716.00	33.12
3.	Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd.	265.00	220.13	83.07	270.00	29.92	11.08
4.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	5.26	2.54	48.29	2.92	0.05	1.71
5.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	75.00	67.71	90.28	90.00	19.61	21.79
6.	Bharat Wagon & Engineers Co. Ltd.	134.00	39.03	29.13	116.44	10.73	9.22
7.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	139.47	75.15	53.88	109.62	39.13	35.70
8.	Braithwaite Burn & Jessop Construction Ltd.	38.00	40.13	105.61	40.00	10.79	26.98
9.	Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd.	415.00	362.63	87.38	410.00	161.58	39.41
10.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd.	227.38	208.35	91.63	226.69	81.64	36.01
11.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	166.77	118.20	70.88	293.48	47.16	16.07
12.	Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.	400.00	327.69	81.92	512.63	193.10	37.67
13.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	248.33	150.43	60.58	252.08	81.78	32.44
14.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	594.49	380.36	63.98	773.52	39.02	5.04
15.	Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.	246.17	206.01	83.69	241.50	139.50	57.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	516.87	551.87	106.77	561.20	309.41	55.13
17.	Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co. Ltd.	24.00	25.03	104.29	37.75	18.44	48.85
18.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	6.67	5.86	87.86	9.94	3.61	36.32
19.	HMT (Bearings) Ltd.	52.00	19.56	37.62	54.00	10.28	19.04
20.	HMT (Chinar Watches) Ltd.	9.00	2.89	32.11	9.00	0.68	7.56
21.	HMT (International) Ltd.	90.00	38.43	42.70	91.39	19.93	21.81
22.	HMT (Machine Tools) Ltd.	289.00	198.36	68.64	300.00	81.43	27.14
23.	HMT (Watches) Ltd.	234.00	44.49	19.01	200.00	10.88	5.44
24.	HMT Ltd. (Holding Co.) with Tractor Division	440.00	141.45	32.15	320.10	51.98	16.24
25.	Hooghly Printing Company Ltd.	7.50	11.57	154.27	7.75	4.43	57.16
26.	Instrumentation Ltd., Kota	137.50	118.45	86.15	185.00	56.63	30.61
27.	National Instruments Ltd.	6.22	3.61	58.04	7.10	0.82	11.55
28.	Nepa Ltd.	72.41	33.18	45.82	113.75	25.75	22.64
29.	Praga Tools Ltd.	10.03	6.29	62.71	16.51	4.22	25.56
30.	Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Ltd.	32.00	38.00	118.75	36.05	20.69	57.39
31.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	80.00	42.89	53.61	75.00	12.07	16.09
32.	Sambhar Salts Ltd.	8.19	4.50	54.95	9.10	2.22	24.40
33.	Scooters (India) Ltd.	139.55	140.72	100.84	145.91	83.09	56.95
34.	Triveni Structurals Ltd.	30.00	30.22	100.73	35.00	1.91	5.46
35.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	35.00	14.01	40.03	30.00	3.04	10.13
36.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	107.56	108.04	100.45	149.92	80.21	53.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13050.37</b>	<b>11397.76</b>	<b>87.34</b>	<b>14123.87</b>	<b>4433.03</b>	<b>31.39</b>

Note (i) 9 PSEs namely: Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd., Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd., Cycle Corporation of India Ltd., Mining & Allied Machinery Corpon. Ltd., RBL Ltd. National Bicycle Corpon. of India Ltd., Rehabilitation Industries Corpon. Ltd., Tannery & Footwear Corporation Ltd. & Weighbird (India) Ltd. have been closed.

(ii) 3 PSEs namely, Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd, Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd. & National Industrial Development Corpn. Ltd. are not in operation.

[English]

**Opening of Command Riding School and Club**

532. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C&AG has questioned the opening of the command riding school and club in Lucknow;

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

(c) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The details are mentioned in the Audit Para No. 13 of the Report of the C&AG of India for the year ended 31st March 2002, Union Government (Defence Services) Army and Ordnance Factories No. 6 of 2003. The reason for this audit para was that a riding school and a club was established by unauthorised attachment of personnel and horses at Lucknow Cantonment without sanction.

(c) Action taken note is being processed according to the laid down procedure.

#### **24-Hour News Channel in Regional Languages on DD/AIR**

533. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:  
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:  
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Government have any plan to start a 24-hour news channels on AIR and Doordarshan in Regional Languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be launched; and

(d) estimated recurring and non-recurring expenditure on the proposed news channel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### **Uniform Media Policy**

534. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:  
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

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

(a) whether representatives of India media Group met the Prime Minister and Information Broadcasting Minister in August, 2003 to discuss issues relating to broadcasting;

(b) if so, the points raised and discussed; and

(c) the action taken to consider their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The representatives of the India Media Group, during their meeting with the Minister for Information and Broadcasting in August, 2003, had discussed various issues concerning the media and also broadcasting. The points raised have been taken note of for appropriate further action, as deemed fit.

#### **Duty Hours on Engine Drivers**

535. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rail Engine Drivers have requested the railways for reduction of their working hours from 8 hours to 6 hours in view of the frequent rail accidents and making them responsible for their duty lapses;

(b) whether they have requested to include their services in the purview of emergency services; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Yes, Sir. The engine drivers have requested that working hours be limited to six hours at a stretch.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Reclassification of engine drivers or change in their duty hours has been considered by various Committees/Tribunals, beginning with Adjudicator Justice Rajadhyaksha in 1946, followed by Justice Miabhoy in 1969, the Committee on Running Allowance in 1980 and 4th Pay Commissioning. All of them have held that the existing classification of running staff as 'Continuous' may continue.

#### **Opening of Sainik Schools**

536. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to open more sainik schools in various States; and

(b) if so, the locations identified in these States?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is a proposal from the Government of Nagaland to open a Sainik School in

Nagaland at Punglwa. This proposal is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Cleanliness at Railway Stations**

537. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of toilets in railway coaches in stationary trains at railway stations has lead to unhygienic conditions;

(b) if so, whether any fresh steps have been initiated to maintain cleanliness at railway stations;

(c) whether an earlier move to clear the sides of railway tracks of all garbage has been given up; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Although notices are displayed in all passenger carrying coaches prohibiting the use of toilets in stationary trains, yet many passengers do not follow these instructions resulting in unhygienic condition at those stations particularly where trains pass in morning hours.

(b) It is proposed to produce new design M/s Linke-Hofmann-Busch (LHB) coaches having toilets with Controlled Discharge facility, which has a holding tank which opens up only when the train is in motion and therefore, the station area does not get dirty even if these toilets are used when the trains are stationery. Besides, mechanised cleaning has been introduced at a few Railway stations to start with and will cover more and more stations in due course for making improvements in standard of cleanliness at stations. In addition, washable concrete aprons are also being provided progressively on platform tracks to enable easy, quicker and effective cleaning.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Procurement of Aircraft Carriers**

538. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:  
SHRI AMBAREESHA:  
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have concluded a final deal on the acquisition of Russian aircraft carrier Adm. Gorshov during the recent visit of the Prime Minister of India to Moscow;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the investment proposed to be made therein;

(c) whether India has the expertise to assess the combat-worthiness of Adm. Gorshkov;

(d) if not, whether any other international experts/valuers were engaged to evaluate the deal;

(e) to what extent the acquisition of Adm. Gorshkov will enhance the combat capabilities of Indian Navy;

(f) whether there is any proposal to acquire more aircraft carrier to strengthen the Indian Navy; and

(g) if so, the investment propose to be made in this regard?

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

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov will provide the requisite offensive capability and will be a major deterrent factor. It can neutralize anticipated threats and initiate offensive action in support of land forces and in the execution of amphibious tasks.

(f) and (g) Government have approved the indigenous construction of an Air Defence Ship for the Indian Navy in 1999. Keeping in view the strategic importance and role of the Air Defence Ship, approval was accorded for a higher capacity ship at a revised cost of Rs. 2880 crores in January, 2003.

#### **Agreement with South Africa in Hydrocarbon Sector**

539. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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



(a) whether the Government has entered into an agreement with South Africa for cooperation in the Hydrocarbon sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the Government and oil companies are likely to be benefited by such an agreement with South Africa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) An Agreement between India and South Africa for cooperation in Hydrocarbon sector was signed on 16th October 2003 in New Delhi during the visit of the South African Delegation headed by the President of that country. The Agreement is aimed at establishing a general framework for cooperation in areas of mutual interest in the Hydrocarbon sector.

(c) The Agreement would, inter-alia, facilitate development of cooperation between the two countries for oil and gas exploration and production, processing, refining, storage and technology transfer in the Hydrocarbon sector in South Africa and India, as well as third country.

#### **Safe Movement of Punctuality of Trains during Foggy Season**

540. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to making some special arrangements to ensure safe movement and punctuality of trains during foggy season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost involved in implementation of such plan;

(d) the time by which the said plan is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the manner in which the Government ensure safe movement and punctuality of trains during foggy season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Detailed instructions exist to run trains during foggy season. However, provision of Anti Collision Device/ Train Protection & Warning System on Indian Railways is already under progress. Such a system along with Double Distant Signals will not only ensure safe movement but also improve train running leading to improved punctuality of trains even during foggy season.

(c) and (d) As per estimation, Rs. 1877 Crores shall be required for the provision of Anti Collision Device/ Train Protection & Warning System on Indian Railways, as included in the Corporate Safety Plan 2003-2013.

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

#### **IAF Participation In Counter-Insurgency**

541. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force will hereafter have greater role in the counter-insurgency operations synergising it with the army; and

(b) if so, the what extent the IAF participation in the counter-insurgency operations would be able to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Indian Air Force (IAF) is playing a significant role in counter-insurgency operations and will continue to do so.

(b) Participation of IAF in counter-insurgency operations ensures effective and efficient deployment of military and para-military resources in the affected areas.

#### **Transportation of Perishable Goods**

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

(a) whether there is any provision regarding speedy transportation of perishable goods at parcel rates by Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have prepared any separate list for perishable goods such as fruits and vegetables being transported at parcel rate;

(d) if so, whether banana has been included in the list of fruits;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have received any representations from Members of Parliament regarding inclusion of banana in the list of perishable goods and transporting it by parcel rates; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) As announced in the Railway Budget 2003-04, the rate structure for booking of parcel and luggage traffic has been rationalised with effect from 1.4.2003 under which all types of commodities including perishables are charged at the same rates under four different scales depending upon the type of train. Instructions exist to give preference in loading and clearance of perishable traffic. In addition to the passenger carrying trains, parcel traffic including perishable are also being carried by social Parcel Express trains being run between important cities to cater to additional demand for speedy clearance. Banana specials and mango specials are also being run to meet heavy demand for their transportation.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Uniformity in Implementations of CAS

543. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

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

(a) whether Conditional Access System (CAS) is likely to be implemented uniformly in the whole country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented uniformly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Section 4A of the Cable

Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 provides that where the Central Government is satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, it may make it obligatory for every Cable Operator, to transmit or retransmit programmes of any channel, through an addressable system, with effect from such date, as may be specified in the notification and different dates may be specified for different states, cities, towns or areas, as the case may be. The Government had initially decided to implement Conditional Access System, in four Metropolitan cities, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, w.e.f. 15th July, 03. It was later decided to implement it, w.e.f. 1st September, 2003, in zone wise manner in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata; while Chennai was taken up in one go. Subsequently, the notification regarding implementation of CAS in Delhi was withdrawn. A number of cases have also been filed in various law courts, regarding the implementation of CAS. Therefore, no time frame can be indicated for its uniform implementation.

#### Production Capacity of LPG

544. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAO:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have assessed the existing production capacity of LPG in the country;

(b) if so, the average yearly production capacity compared to the previous year;

(c) whether this installed production capacity of LPG in the country is not being utilized fully; and

(d) the average yearly production capacity of LPG utilized during the previous years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The refineries have been delicensed and production of petroleum products by the oil companies is decontrolled from 1998.

The capacity of a refinery is in terms of crude thru'put and there is no specific production capacity of LPG or any other product. The yearly production of LPG for the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Qty. in million metric tonnes (MMT)
2000-2001	6149
2001-2002	6992
2002-2003	7288

[English]

#### **Privatisation of NTPC**

545. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to privatize the National Thermal Power Cooperation (NTPC);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether all the power plants under NTPC are also proposed to be privatized; and

(d) if not, the specific proposal under NTPC for privatization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of the above do not arise.

#### **Diversification Programme on NTPC for Coal Mining and Coal Washeries**

546. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC is considering to enter into Coal Mining and Coal Washeries as per its diversification programme;

(b) if so, whether NTPC has already forwarded proposal to the Ministry of Coal for granting stake in captive coal mining in Talcher region;

(c) if so, the details and action taken by the Ministry (Coal);

(d) whether the Ministry of Power has also sought comments from various ministries for public offering of 5% in NTPC;

(e) if so, whether comments have been received; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal will be considered by the Ministry of Coal based on the recommendation of the screening committee constituted by that Ministry for the purpose.

(d) Comments are being obtained from various concerned Ministries/offices for the proposal on public offering in National Thermal Power Corporation.

(e) and (f) After receiving comments from all concerned, the issues will be considered by the appropriate authority.

#### **Production of Wind Power**

547. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total wind power production in the country at present;

(b) the measures taken by the Government to increase the wind power production during the last three years and outcome of those measures;

(c) whether the Government are evolving a comprehensive road map to generate 5000 MW wind power by the year 2007;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the detail strategy chalked out in this regard;

(e) the incentives likely to be given to the States or individual to increase wind power production in the country; and

(f) the extent to which the private participation are likely to play a role in achieving this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) A total wind power capacity of 2074 MW has been set up in the country.

(b) Under the wind resource assessment programme, wind monitoring stations were set up in windy areas in

different States. Centre for Wind Energy Technology was set up for coordinating Research & Development, testing and certification of wind turbines, performance evaluation, technical assistance for micro siting of wind turbines, training, manpower development and consultancy services. 208 sites having annual mean wind power density of more than 200 w/m<sup>2</sup> at 50 m height have been identified in 11 States and 2 Union Territories. For setting up of demonstration wind farm projects, the Government provides Central Financial Assistance upto 60% of the cost of wind electric generators, including spares and erection commissioning with the ceiling of Rs. 2.1 crore per MW. Fiscal and financial incentives such as accelerated depreciation, concessional customs duty on certain components, term loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, excise duty exemption etc. are available to private developers and equipment suppliers for setting up of wind farm projects.

Wind power projects of 702 MW have been set up in the country including Andhra Pradesh (4.5 MW), Gujarat (6.2 MW), Karnataka (90 MW), Maharashtra (322 MW), Rajasthan (58.7 MW), Tamil Nadu (219.6 MW) and West Bengal (1.1 MW) between 1st April, 2000 and 31st March, 2003.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Government has proposed to set up an additional wind power capacity of 5000 MW upto 2012 including 1500 MW upto 2007. Wind power capacity of 734 MW has been established during the 10th Plan so far.

(e) The Government will continue to provide Central Financial Assistance for setting up of demonstration wind power projects to the State Nodal Agencies and State Electricity Boards. Fiscal and Financial incentives for setting up of commercial wind power projects will be continued during the 10th Plan.

(f) Of 2074 MW installed wind power capacity in the country 2009 MW has been set up through private investments. This trend is likely to continue.

#### **Building up of Naval Wing by LTTE**

548. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the building up of a Naval Wing-Sea Tigers by the LTTE;

(b) if so, the implications involved in the event of the Sea Tigers taking control in the Palk Bay; and

(c) the reaction of the Government with regard thereto?

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

(b) India & Sri Lanka control their respective sides of International Maritime Boundary Line. Regular patrolling is undertaken by the ships of both the nations. In addition air surveillance sorties are also undertaken on a regular basis. With the Indian Navy units patrolling on the Indian side of International Maritime Boundary Line, probability of LTTE Sea Tigers taking control in the Palk Bay does not exist.

(c) One country .i.e. Sri Lanka cannot have two Navies. Therefore, India has conveyed its concerns to Sri Lanka. India maintains an abiding interest in the security of Sri Lanka and remains committed to its Sovereignty and territorial integrity.

*[Translation]*

#### **Promotion of Regional Artists**

549. SHRI PRABHU NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to promote regional artists through regional broadcasting stations;

(b) whether the Government are considering to increase the broadcasting time of regional broadcasting stations keeping in view the regional artists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the progress report in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

#### **Requirement of Warship**

550. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Indian navy has a shortfall of worship against its requirements;

(b) if so, the main reasons for such shortfall; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fulfill the requirement of Indian Navy as early as possible?

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

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

(c) Modernisation and development of Navy is an ongoing process dictated primarily by the threat perceptions and prevailing external strategic/security environment as also the emerging technologies. With increased emphasis on induction of high technology, Naval platforms are programmed for periodic upgradation in technology.

#### FDI in Radio Broadcast

551. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering for formulate Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms and guidelines for radio broadcast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the licence fee/entry fee for TV, print media and radio broadcast is very high and the Government propose for abolish this fee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The Government had, on 24th July, 2003, constituted a Committee to make recommendations for radio broadcasting for Phase II. The terms of reference to the committee, amongst other things, included making (i) suggestions regarding extent of foreign Equity Participation in private FM in order to make them economically more viable/sustainable while also keeping in mind regimes in other sectors and requirements of national security, and (ii) assessment of a viable licence fee structure for the various cities (one time entry fee, fixed licence fees, revenue sharing, etc.) to based on

clearly defined parameters. The committee has, on 17th November, 2003, submitted its report to the Government.

Further, no Licence fee/entry fee for obtaining permission of uplinking TV channels is being charged by this Ministry. So far as the Print media is concerned, there is a no licence fee/entry fee prescribed. However an application fee of Rs. 5000 (Rupees five thousand only) is prescribed for considering/processing proposals for foreign investment in news and current affairs/non-news and non-current category.

#### Regulation of Long Distance Pipeline

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

(a) whether the Government has evolved a policy to regulate long distance pipelines;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether this policy will cover existing pipelines or not; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to impose a uniform policy to regulate long distance pipelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The Government has notified guidelines for laying petroleum product pipelines vide notification F.No. P-20012/5/99-PP dated 20.11.2002. These guidelines categorize the pipelines and inter-alia cover the issues of "ownership and access", "tariff" etc. The guidelines provide for at least 25% additional capacity over and above the requirement of the proposer for use by any other industry player under common usage.

These guidelines will remain in force till the Petroleum Regulatory Board is established by an Act of Parliament. The proposed Board will regulate new as well as existing pipelines, which have been declared to be common carrier.

#### Setting up of Lignite based Power Projects

553. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up some lignite-based power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the States where these power projects are being set up in the Tenth Plan;

(c) the installed capacities of these power projects; and

(d) the expected time of their power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The State-wise details of lignite based power projects proposed to be set up during the 10th Plan, their installed capacity and expected date of commissioning are enclosed as Statement.

**Statement**

S. No.	Name of the Project	State	Capacity (MW)	Expected time of completion
1.	Giral TPS M/s Rajasthan Raja Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.	Rajasthan	1x125	October 2005
2.	Barsingsar TPS M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.	Rajasthan	2x125	Unit-1—48 months from investment decision Unit-2—54 months from investment decision. Project is likely to slip from 10th Plan.
3.	Akrimota TPS M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	Gujarat	2x125	Unit-1—September 2004 Unit-2—December 2004
4.	Kutch Lignite Extn. TPS M/s Gujarat Electricity Board	Gujarat	1x75	March 2006
5.	Surat Lignite Extn. TPS M/s Gujarat Industries Power Company Ltd.	Gujarat	2x125	Unit-1 June 2006 Unit-2 December 2006
6.	Neyveli Extn. M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	2x210	Unit-1 synchronized on 21.10.2002
7.	Neyveli II Exp. M/s Neyveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	2x250	Unit-I-40 months Unit-II-44 months from the date of award of order for main plant. Project is likely to slip from 10th Plan.
8.	Neyveli Zero M/s St-CMS Electric Co.	Tamil Nadu	250	Unit synchronized on 11.10.2002

**Pipeline Technology Purchased by GAIL**

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

(a) whether GAIL has purchased new pipeline technology called "Longitudinally submerged arc welded" (LSAW) technology;

(b) if so, the details of this technology;

(c) the specific advantages of this technology;

(d) the expected use of this LSAW technology; and

(e) the additional cost of this technology and cost-benefit studies done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. However, GAIL is using pipelines manufactured by this technology since its inception i.e. for almost 17 years.

(b) The Longitudinally Submerged Arc Welded (LSAW) is a technology used internationally by most of the pipe manufacturers to produce pipes used in the transportation of high pressure hydrocarbons. This is achieved by forming of Plates into 'U' or 'O' shape and welding the seam through longitudinally.

(c) These pipes are safer for high pressure gas transportation application. Also, the LSAW pipes are less prone to corrosion resulting in longer life, and are less prone to failure at welded seam.

(d) LSAW pipes are used for manufacturing of line pipe for transporting gas, liquid hydrocarbons and allied fluids.

(e) Cost of pipe will depend on various factors like raw material cost, demand/supply conditions etc. prevailing at the time of procurement.

#### Revision in Sale Prices of LPG and Kerosene

555. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil marketing companies have urged upon the Government to revise the rates on sale of domestic LPG and Kerosene;

(b) whether the Government considered the proposals for enhancing the rates of LPG and Kerosene of the oil companies;

(c) the extent of increase proposed by the oil companies and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the losses being suffered by the oil companies on the supply of LPG and Kerosene at the existing rates to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) As per the Government decision on dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector, the Government subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG is on flat rate basis and after accounting for the same, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) could vary the retail selling prices in

line with the variations in the international prices of these products.

PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are domestic fuels of mass consumption. Passing of higher international prices of these products in the domestic selling prices would have hurt the consumers. The matter was therefore re-examined and it was decided in consumer interest that the OMCs will not increase the selling prices of these products during 2003-04.

The resultant under-recoveries of the OMCs, projected to be around Rs. 8200 crores, would be absorbed/shared amongst the oil PSUs.

[*Translation*]

#### Late Running of Gomati Express

556. SHRI AMIR ALAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to single rake the Gomati Express running between New Delhi and Lucknow runs late for hours together and continues to run late for the whole week;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are planning to provide another rake for the train to make it punctual;

(d) if so, the details thereof and other measures taken/to be taken for punctuality of the train;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide double rake for trains which have single rake presently; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this direction? -

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) No, Sir. The punctuality of 2419/2420 Lucknow-New Delhi Gomti Express has been affected mainly due to alarm chain pulling, hose pipe disconnection and other miscreant activities. In addition provision of additional stoppage is another factor affecting punctuality of this train.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Railways make all possible efforts to run trains punctually. Intensive round the clock monitoring at different

levels is undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers' level are also being launched from time to time.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Production of LNG**

557. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Natural Gas produced from different sources in various States during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount and rate of royalty paid to each State;

(c) whether any enactment or regulatory model is contemplated to enable the States to have their own policy for exploitation of their petroleum and gas resources; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

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

#### **Thermal Power Plant in Malwa**

558. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a thermal power plant at Malwa in M.P.;

(b) if so, the installed capacity of that power plant; and

(c) the steps taken to set up that power plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board have proposed

to set up a thermal power plant of 1000 MW (2x500 MW) capacity at Malwa in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) The project has been identified for capacity addition during the 11th Plan. The implementation of the Project could be taken up after all the essential inputs/clearances are tied up and technical standards relating to connectivity to the grid is complied with. As per new Electricity Act 2003, Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is not required for the Project.

#### **Subsidy for Transportation of Petrol, LPG and Kerosene**

559. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to provide subsidy for transportation of Petrol, Kerosene and LPG under public distribution scheme in the country' remote areas; and

(b) the time by which this concession is going to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Freight subsidy for far-flung areas for PDS kerosene and domestic LPG is available from the Government budget effective 1.4.2002. No such subsidy is available for petrol.

[Translation]

#### **Purchase of Gas Blocks by GAIL in Foreign Countries**

560. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited is holding negotiations to purchase gas blocks in some countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the GAIL has also initiated Gas exploration work in some countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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



MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) is evaluating a farm-in offer in an offshore Egypt Block in which Shell Egypt is the operator.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. GAIL is a non-operating partner with 10% participating interest in a joint venture in Myanmar Offshore block where exploration work is in progress. The consortium partners and their participating interest in the project are as follows:—

Daewoo International	—	60% (Operator)
ONGC Videsh Limited	—	20%
GAIL (India) Limited	—	10%
Korea Gas (KOGAS)	—	10%

[English]

**Reservation to Economically Backward Classes (EBCs)**

561. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:  
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:  
DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:  
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:  
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether the Government have approved a proposal for Constitutional Amendment and constituted a judicial commission in order to provide reservation quota in Government jobs for people belonging to the Economically Backward Classes (EBCs);

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof including the composition of commission; and

(c) the time by which the said commission is likely to submit its report, legislation to be introduced and the same is to be implemented in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) The Government have approved, in principle, the proposal for amendment to the Constitution. It has also approved the proposal for setting up of a commission to study the issue and work out the modalities to provide reservation for economically backward classes of Citizens not covered by the existing Reservation Policy.

(b) The proposed Commission is required to elicit the views of the State Governments/UTs and others and to work out the modalities for reservation and also to suggest criteria for identification of economically backward classes etc. The commission shall be headed by a chairperson and will consist of 4 other members with suitable expertise.

(c) The proposed commission will submit its report within one year from the date of its appointment. Further action for bringing an amendment to the constitution will be taken after the proposed Commission submits its report.

**Alternate Route for South Bound Trains**

562. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct a survey of the Morappur-Dharmapuri line and to run all the South bound trains from Bangalore or reaching Bangalore via Salem, Dharmapuri and Hozur instead of Salem-Jolarpet-Bangarupet line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far to avoid wastage of time and money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**67 Hydrel Power Projects for North Eastern Region**

563. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in recognition of the high hydel potential of the North Eastern Region, the Government plans 67 hydel power projects for the region;

(b) if so, the estimated total hydel potential of the region;

(c) the details of the projects so planned; and

(d) the action plan, if any, laid down for implementing these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Under the

Hon'ble Prime Minister's 50,000 MW Hydro Electric Initiative, preparation of Preliminary Feasibility Reports of 70 Hydro Electric Schemes having aggregate installed capacity of 32,107 MW have been identified in the North Eastern Region including Sikkim.

(b) As per assessment studies carried out by Central Electricity Authority from 1978-87, the identified hydro capacity of North Eastern Region has been estimated as 58971 MW. Out of the above, 1070 MW of the identified potential has been harnessed so far while another 379 MW is under construction after investment approval (considering Hydro Electric Schemes of capacity more than 3 MW).

(c) The details of the 70 Hydro Electric Schemes identified for preparation of Preliminary Feasibility Reports is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) The harnessing of this potential depends upon the commercial viability of these schemes, availability of environment, forest and other clearances, prospective buyers of generated power and identification of implementing agencies for the projects.

**Statement**

*State-wise List of HE Scheme for Preliminary Feasibility Reports (PFRs.)*

S.No.	Scheme	River/Basin	I.C. (MW)
1	2	3	4
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>			
1.	Bhareli Lift Dam-II	Kameng	330.0
2.	Bhareli Lift Dam-I	Kameng	240.0
3.	Kapak Leyak	Kameng	195.0
4.	Badao	Kameng	120.0
5.	Pakke	Kameng	120.0
6.	Seba	Kameng	105.0
7.	Chanda	Kameng	110.0
8.	Kimi	Kameng	535.0
9.	Kameng	Kameng	1100.0
10.	Bichom-II	Kameng	205.0
11.	Papu	Kameng	160.0

1	2	3	4
12.	Talong	Kameng	150.0
13.	Utung	Kameng	110.0
14.	Tenga	Kameng	275.0
15.	Bichom Storage-I	Kameng	190.0
16.	Hegio	Subansiri	250.0
17.	Emini	Dihang-Dibang	295.0
18.	Amutin	Dihang-Dibang	235.0
19.	Agoline	Dihang-Dibang	235.0
20.	Rigong	Dihang-Dibang	130.0
21.	Kurung Dam-II	Subansiri	115.0
22.	Tato-II	Dihang-Dibang	360.0
23.	Oju-II	Subansiri	2580.0
24.	Attunli	Dihang-Dibang	175.0
25.	Naba	Subansiri	1290.0
26.	Emra-II	Dihang-Dibang	870.0
27.	Etalin	Dihang-Dibang	3045.0
28.	Naying	Dihang-Dibang	495.0
29.	Oju-I	Subansiri	1925.0
30.	Niare	Subansiri	1405.0
31.	Emra-I	Dihang-Dibang	275.0
32.	Minmying	Dihang-Dibang	195.0
33.	Elango	Dihang-Dibang	180.0
34.	Duimukh Storage	Subansiri	170.0
35.	Mirak	Dihang-Dibang	160.0
36.	Hirong	Dihang-Dibang	180.0
37.	Malinye	Dihang-Dibang	335.0
38.	Mihumdon	Dihang-Dibang	145.0
39.	Demwe	Dihang-Dibang	3000.0
40.	Kurung Dam-I	Subansiri	200.0
41.	Hutong	Luhit	950.0
42.	Kalai	Luhit	2550.0
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>25690.0</b>
			<b>(Arunachal Pradesh)</b>

1	2	3	4
<b>Manipur</b>			
1.	Nungliban	Barak & Others	85
2.	Khongnem Chakha-II	Barak & Others	90
3.	Pabaram	Barak & Others	232
Grand Total (Manipur)			407

<b>Meghalaya</b>			
1.	Sushen	Barak & Others	150
2.	Umjaut	Barak & Others	85
3.	Umduna	Barak & Others	95
4.	Kynshi-II	Barak & Others	175
5.	Umiam Umtru-IV	Kalang	145
6.	Nongkolait	Barak & Others	180
7.	Mawblei Storage	Barak & Others	100
8.	Kyanshi Storage-I	Barak	295
9.	Umangot Storage	Barak	265
Grand Total (Meghalaya)			1490

<b>Mizoram</b>			
1.	Kakjam	Barak & Others	545
2.	Lunglang Storage	Barak & Others	690
3.	Boinu Storage	Barak & Others	635
Grand Total (Mizoram)			1870

<b>Nagaland</b>			
1.	Yangnyu Stor.	U. Brahmaputra	135
2.	Tizu	Barak & Others	365
3.	Dikhu Dam	U. Brahmaputra	470
Grand Total (Nagaland)			970

<b>Sikkim</b>			
1.	Panan	Tista	230
2.	Namlum	Tista	175
3.	Dikchu	Tista	90
4.	Rangyong	Tista	175

1	2	3	4
5.	Lingza	Tista	160
6.	Rukel	Tista	90
7.	Rongni Storage	Tista	95
8.	Jedang	Tista	185
9.	Ringpi	Tista	160
10.	Teesta St. I	Tista	320
Grand Total (Sikkim)			1680
Total North Eastern Region			32107

[Translation]

#### Electrification of Villages by Solar Batteries

564. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages electrified in the State of Rajasthan with the help of solar batteries during the last three years;

(b) the funds allotted to the State in this regard and the amount spent so far; and

(c) the funds allotted to the State of Rajasthan under the rural electrification scheme during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) 22 villages have been electrified by the State Nodal Agency of Rajasthan based on stand-alone solar power plants under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) Scheme through State allocation. Work is in progress in another 38 villages. In addition, 22,500 solar domestic lighting systems and 437 solar street lighting systems were installed in rural areas in the State during the last three years under the Solar Photovoltaic Programme of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES).

(b) An amount of Rs. 8.87 crore was allocated and spent on the electrification of 22 villages under the PMGY Scheme. An amount of Rs. 13.60 crore was released by MNES and spent by the State Agency on the installation of solar domestic and street lighting systems.

(c) No funds have so far been released to Rajasthan State under the Remove Village Electrification of MNES during the current financial year.

[English]

**Non-Payment of Statutory Dues of Employees**

565. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to release outstanding wages/salary and statutory dues payable to the employees of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs);

(b) if so, the details of amount (dues) payable/paid to the employees as on date, PSU-wise, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in releasing the said dues to the employees of CPSUs;

(d) whether the superannuation age of employees in some CPSUs have been reduced;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons for not adopting uniformity in the superannuation age in all CPSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government have directed CPSUs to clear the outstanding dues and salary/wages of the employees in a time bound manner. Enterprise-wise and State-wise amount of dues as on 31.12.2002 are given in the Statement enclosed. The delaying payment of such dues in particular CPSUs is mainly due to financial difficulties or legal hurdles faced by them. The CPSUs facing financial difficulties have been advised to submit specific action plan for the future of the enterprise/unit to avail of one time financial assistance from the Government to clear the dues expeditiously.

(d) The retirement age of employees of some PSUs has been rolled back from 60 to 58 years.

(e) and (f) The concerned administrative Ministries have been authorised to decide about the roll back of age of superannuation from 60 to 58 years on case to case basis based upon specific proposals of the CPSUs. The information in this regard is not maintained centrally.

In view of divergent activities, financial condition and level of surplus manpower, uniform superannuation age has not been adopted.

**Statement**

*Enterprisewise & Statewise details of outstanding dues as on 31.12.2002*

(Rs. in lakh)

State	Sl. No.	Name of CPSE/ (location)	Outstanding Dues		Total
			Statutory Dues	Salary/wages Dues	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels (Visakhapatnam)	1254.84	—	1252.84
	2.	Praga Tools Ltd. (Secunderabad)	295.35	186.61	481.96
Total			1548.19	186.61	1734.80

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bihar	1.	Bharat Refractories Ltd. (Bokaro)	3282	977	4259
	2.	Bharat Wagon & Engg. (Mokamah)	1297.83	441.72	1739.55
	Total		4579.83	1418.72	5998.55
Delhi	1.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (Delhi)	38.41	—	38.41
	2.	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd. (Delhi)	1209.02	815.85	2024.87
	3.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corp. (Delhi)	0.89	—	0.89
	4.	Hospital Services Cons. Ltd. (Delhi)	0.76	—	0.76
	5.	National Building Cons. Corp. (Delhi)	—	134.47	134.47
	6.	National Projects Con. Corp. Ltd. (Delhi)	4410	1807	6217
	7.	National Seeds Corporation Ltd.	338.69	189.23	527.92
	8.	NTC (DPR) Ltd.* (Delhi)	Included in NTC's Subsidiaries. Figures of dues of all subsidiaries put together are given separately.		
	9.	State Farms Corporation Ltd. (Delhi)	2538	250	2788
Total		8535.77	3196.55	11732.32	
Gujarat	1.	NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.* (Ahmedabad)	Included in NTC's Subsidiaries		
Haryana	1.	Indian Drugs and Pharma. Ltd. (Gurgaon)	7585	—	7585
	Total		7585	—	7585
Jharkhand	1.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (Dhanbad)	51202	—	51202
	2.	Central Coalfields Ltd. (Ranchi)	22	—	22
	3.	Heavy Engineering Corporation (Ranchi)	9277	881	10158
	4.	Projects and Development India (Noida)			
Total		60501	881	61382.00	
Karnataka	1.	HMT Ltd. (Bangalore)	395	—	395
	2.	HMT (MT) (Bangalore)	2429	382	2811
	3.	HMT (W) (Bangalore)	2346	1242	3588

1	2	3	4	5	6
	4.	HMT (CW) (Jammu)	102	88	190
	5.	NTC (APKKM) Ltd. *(Bangalore)	Included in NTC's Subsidiaries		
	6.	Tungbhadra Steel Products Ltd. (Tungabhadra)	257	553	810
		Total	5529	2265	7794
Madhya Pradesh	1.	Nepa Ltd. (Nepanagar)	437.38	—	437.38
	2.	NTC (MP) Ltd.* (Indore)	Included in NTC's Subsidiaries		
		Total	437.38	—	437.38
Maharashtra	1.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (Pimpri)	1700	—	1700
	2.	Mazagon Dock Ltd. (Mumbai)	18.70	—	18.70
	3.	NTC (MN) Ltd.* (Mumbai)	Included in NTC's Subsidiaries		
	4.	NTC (SM) Ltd.* (Mumbai)			
		Total	1718.70	—	1718.70
Orissa	1.	National Aluminium Co. Ltd. (Bhubaneswar)	77.10	—	77.10
		Total	77.10	—	77.10
Rajasthan	1.	Instrumentation Ltd. (Kota)	823	325	1148
	2.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	—	—	—
		Total	823	325	1148
Tamil Nadu	1.	Hindustan Photo Films. Mfg. (Ootacamund)	293.94	—	293.94
	2.	NTC (TN & Pondicherry) Ltd.* (Coimbatore)	Included in NTC's Subsidiaries		
		Total	293.94	—	293.94
U.P.	1.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors (Allahabad)	1437.54	—	1437.54
	2.	NTC (U.P.) Ltd.* (Kanpur)	Included in NTC's Subsidiaries		
	3.	Projects and Development India (Noida)	2019	—	2019
	4.	Scooters India Ltd. (Lucknow)	16.08	—	16.08
	5.	Triveni Structurals Ltd. (Naini)	885.78	355	1240.78
		Total	4358.40	355.00	4713.40

1	2	3	4	5	6
West Bengal	1.	Andrew Yule & Co. (Kolkata)	1575.81	372.02	1947.83
	2.	Bengal Immunity Ltd. (Kolkata)	508	—	508
	3.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd. (Kolkata)	23.36	—	23.36
	4.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (Durgapur)	76.91	420	496.91
	5.	Bharat Process & Mech. Engg. Ltd. (Kolkata)	59.42	—	59.42
	6.	Birds, Jute & Exports Ltd.	116	38	154
	7.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd. (Kolkata)	418.12	190	608.12
	8.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd. (Kolkata)	2675.77	—	2675.77
	9.	Hindustan Cables Ltd. (Kolkata)	8107.08	—	8107.08
	10.	Hindustan Copper Ltd. (Kolkata)	1563	841	2404
	11.	Hindustan Steel Works Const. (Kolkata)	—	8300	8300
	12.	Hooghly Dock & Port Eng. Ltd. (Kolkata)	35.00	242.00	277.00
	13.	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (Bumpur)	4502	—	4502
	14.	Jessop & Co. Ltd. (Kolkata)	460.42	—	460.42
	15.	National Instruments Ltd. (Kolkata)	263.79	189.13	452.92
	16.	National Jute Man. Corp. Ltd. (Kolkata)	19246	7197	26443
	17.	NTC (WBAB) Ltd.*	Included in NTC's Subsidiaries		
	18.	Smith Stanistreet & Pharma. (Kolkata)	91	—	91
	19.	Tea Trading Corpn. (Kolkata)	872.29	1029.52	1901.81
	20.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. (Kolkata)	912.29	37.01	949.30
		<b>Total</b>	<b>41506.26</b>	<b>18855.68</b>	<b>60361.94</b>
		<b>NTC's Subsidiaries*</b>	<b>25500</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>25500</b>
		<b>Grand Total (60)</b>	<b>162993.57</b>	<b>27483.56</b>	<b>190477.13</b>
		<b>Equivalent to Crore</b>	<b>1629.94</b>	<b>274.83</b>	<b>1904.77</b>

[Translation]

**Air Journey by CONCOR Officers**

566. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of the Container Corporation of India who travelled by air officially during the year 2002-2003;

(b) the expenditure incurred by officers on such air travels during the year 2002-2003; and

(c) the expenditure incurred every year by the CONCOR on all these air travels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Eighty (80) Officers.

(b) Rs. 103 Lakhs

(c) The expenditure incurred during the last three years is as under:

2000-01	Rs. 61 lakhs
2001-02	Rs. 76 lakhs
2002-03	Rs. 103 lakhs

[English]

**Funds from IDBI for Gas based Power Projects**

567. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought Union Government's intervention or guarantee for securing funds from IDBI or otherwise for the three gas based power plants at Kouaseema, Vemagiri and Gautami;

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

(c) the details of gas based power plants under consideration/implementation in Madhya Pradesh and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No

guarantee from the Government of India (Ministry of Power) for securing funds for the three gas based power projects being implemented through the private Sector, has been sought by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. However, Government of Andhra Pradesh have sought assistance of Ministry of Finance for financial closure of 4 Gas Based Projects i.e. 445 MW Konaseema Power Project, 370 MW Vemagiri Power Project; 464 MW Gautami Power Project and 220 MW Jegurupadu Extension Project.

(b) Ministry of Finance have informed that Industrial Bank of India (IDBI) have approved financial assistance to Konaseema EPS Oakwell Power Ltd. (Konaseema) and Phase-II of GVK Industries Ltd. (GVK), being set up in Andhra Pradesh subject to fulfillment of certain conditions relating to payment security.

(c) The details of gas based power projects under consideration/implementation for commissioning during Tenth Plan in various States including Madhya Pradesh are furnished in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*Gas based Thermal Power Projects Targetted/  
Anticipated for Commissioning during 10th Plan*

State & Project Name	Implementing Agency	Capacity (MW) As per benefits original target
1	2	3
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>		
Konaseema CCPP	Konaseema EPS OPL	445
Vemagiri CCPP	Vemagiri Power Gen. Ltd.	370
Gautami CCPP	Gautami Power Limited	464
Jegurupada CCPP Extn.	GVK Industries	220
<b>Assam</b>		
Lakwa WH	Assam State Elec. Board	38
<b>Karnataka</b>		
Bidadi CCPP	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd.	1400#
Hasan CCPP	Hasan Power Co.	189#
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>		
Guna CCPP	M/s STI Power India Ltd.	430#



1	2	3
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
Dabhol CCPP-II	Dabhol Power Co.	1444
<b>Pondicherry</b>		
Karaikkal CCPP	PPCL	100@
<b>Rajasthan</b>		
Mathania ISCC	RRECL	140
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>		
Karuppur CCPP	Aban Power Co. Ltd.	119.8#
Kuttalam CCPP	Tamil Nadu Elec Board	37
Valanthuravai CCPP	Arkay Energy Ltd.	38#
<b>Tripura</b>		
Monarchak CCPP	NEEPCO	500

CCPP: Combined Cycle Power Project

WH: Waste Heat

ISCC: Integrated solar combined cycle

@Thermal units slipping from 10th Plan original target

#Thermal units not included in 10th Plan original target

#### **DTH Services**

568. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has decided to start DTH services from December this year;

(b) if so, the number of channels likely to be launched;

(c) whether Doordarshan has asked the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to reserve a transponder for starting DTH Services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the expenditure involved in this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Doordarshan's pilot project of "Ku-Band transmission" has been approved by the Government. The transmission of thirty free to air channels is expected to commence by the middle of 2004.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan has requested Indian Space Research Organization to provide four Ku-Band transponders.

(e) The Ku-Band transmission project has been approved at a cost of Rs. 164.35 crores.

#### **Improvement in Freight Earnings by Zonal Railways**

569. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Zonal managers have been asked to prepare individual zonal blueprints for improvement in freight earnings in the individual trains;

(b) if so, whether the plans for increasing freight movement in individual trains has been submitted;

(c) if so, the major recommendations made by zonal managers in this regard;

(d) whether incentives will be given to staff if results are shown; and

(e) the details of the incentive scheme finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) No, Sir. There are no separate schemes for individual freight trains.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Procurement of Spares for Sea Harriers and Sea King Helicopters**

570. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to procure vital spares for the Navy's ageing Sea Harrier jump jets and Sea King helicopters from United States of America; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The spares for the Sea Harrier aircraft are being procured from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of the aircraft in the UK. No spares for the Sea Harrier are being procured from the US.

Ninety-eight spares of Seaking Aircraft have been ordered through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Scheme of US Navy. Of these, eighty spares have already been supplied.

**Cost Escalation due to delay in  
Completion of Rail Projects**

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

(a) whether the Railways responsible for the cost escalation of nearly Rs. 10,000 crore of the total of over Rs. 15,000 crore cost escalation due to delays in completing the railway projects as reported by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their latest data probing projects of various ministries;

(b) if so, reasons which contributed the delay in the implementation of the projects; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Ministry to complete the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of initiatives have been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence, additional resources for National Project of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla and funds for National Rail Vikas Yojana.

**Operation of Radio City**

572. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified Several shortcomings in the clarifications on funding and ownership partners provided by M/s. Music Broadcast Private Limited the company that operates Radio City;

(b) if so, whether the Government has written letters to the concerned authorities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which they have been cleared by them; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The Government had issued a Show Cause Notice to M/s Music Broadcast Private Limited on 3rd September, 2003, on the issue of alleged violation of the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement. The matter is currently under examination, in consultation with Department of Company Affairs and Ministry of Law. Further, M/s Music Broadcast Private Limited has filed Arbitration Petitions, before High Court of Bombay with the prayer for restraining the Government from terminating the Licence Agreement and in any manner invoking or making any demand or receiving any money under the Bank Guarantees.

**Theft of Computers**

573. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:  
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:  
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:  
DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:  
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 20 computers were stolen from DRDO office in Delhi alongwith classified data on India's defence strategy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any probe has been ordered into the matter;

(d) if so, the progress made so far;

(e) the action taken by the Government against the persons responsible for security lapses; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to tighten the security arrangements at key locations in DRDO Delhi office?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There was a theft of 18 computers Central Processing Units (CPU) from two laboratories of DRDO situated in Metcalfe House, New Delhi in October, 2003 and the matter was reported to the police and a case registered vide FIR No. 235 dated 9.10.2003 under section 380 IPC, Police Station-Civil Lines. Data lost has been identified and it is of non sensitive nature.

(c) Yes, Sir. The formal inquiries have been ordered.

(d) The inquiry ordered by Raksha Mantri by an outside expert to investigate the sensitivity of stored data has stated that the data lost is of non-sensitive nature. Inquiries by Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) are still continuing.

(e) Departmental inquiry for taking disciplinary action has been ordered.

(f) The new measures to tighten the security arrangements are: strengthening boundary walls with concertina wire, grilling of doors and windows, installing Access Control Measures and Watch Towers, removing wild growth and trimming of overhanging trees over boundary walls and augmenting manpower of security staff.

#### **Pending State Power Projects**

574. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:  
SHRI BHASKAR RAO PATIL:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided that the approval of the new power plants may be done at the State level itself instead of approaching the Union Government for their clearance;

(b) whether the States have to approach the Union Government to seek clearance only from the environmental point of view;

(c) if so, the number of power plants contemplated to be set up by each State during the tenth plan period and the power to be generated there from the financial implications involved;

(d) the extent to which the financial assistance is to be provided by the Union Government for the establishment of such power plants; and

(e) the details of the projects for setting up of new power plants in the States awaiting the clearance from the Union Government, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As per the Electricity Act, 2003, there is no requirement of license for thermal generation. However, any generating company intending to set up a hydro generating station shall prepare and submit to the Authority for its concurrence, a scheme estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding such sum, as may be fixed by the Central Government from time to time, by Notification.

Planning Commission has delegated full powers to State Governments for approval of power projects without any ceiling. Clearance from Planning Commission is to be restricted only to those hydro-electric projects where inter-State issues are involved.

(b) States have to approach the Union Government to seek clearance only from the environmental point of view in respect of thermal power projects. For hydro projects exceeding specified capital expenditure techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority is also required. Further any hydro project which have inter-state issues require clearance form Planning Commission as well.

(c) and (d) The details of power plants to be set up during Tenth Plan along with the estimated cost thereof are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) At present, no hydro power project is pending with Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for according Techno-Economic Clearance.

#### **Statement**

#### *Capacity Addition during 10th Plan*

#### *State Sector*

Name of Project	Hydro (MW)	Thermal (MW)	Total (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Punjab</b>				
Shahpurkandi (H)	168	-	168	1005.76
GHTP-II (T)	-	500	500	1789.67

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Haryana</b>				
Panipat U-7&8 (T)	-	500	500	1785.36
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>				
Larji-I (H)	126	-	126	321.47
Kashang-I (H)	66	-	66	234.16
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>				
Baghaliar (H)	450	-	450	-
<b>Delhi</b>				
Pragati (T)	-	225.78	225.78	1077.30
<b>Rajasthan</b>				
Suratgarh-III (T)	-	250	250	752.74
Ramgarh-II (T)	-	75.32	75.32	300.10
Kota-IV (T)	-	195	195	634.78
Mathania (T)	-	140	140	871.86
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>				
Paricha Extn. (T)	-	210	210	1703.00
Anpara 'C' (1000) (T)	-	500	500	3526.51
<b>Uttaranchal</b>				
Maneri Bhali-II (H)	304	-	304	1249.18
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>				
Korba East Extn. (T)	-	420	420	1845.36
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>				
Bansagar-III (H)	20	-	20	970.81
Bansagar-II (H)	15	-	15	
Bansagar-IV (H)	20	-	20	
Marikheda (H)	40	-	40	-
Birsingpur Extn. (T)	-	500	500	2093.75
<b>Maharashtra</b>				
Ghatghar PSS (H)	250	-	250	725.10
Parli Extn. (T)	-	250	250	1053.90

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Gujarat</b>				
Sardar Sarovar (multi state) (H)	1450	-	1450	3267.25
KLTPS Extn. (T)	-	75	75	304.69
Dhuvan Gas (T)	-	106.62	106.62	310.06
Akrimota (T)	-	250	250	717.00
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>				
Pykara Ultimate (H)	150	-	150	373.06
Bhavani Barrage (H) (I/II/III)	90	-	90	143.53
Perungalam (Valathur) Gas (T)	-	94	94	301.36
Kuttalam Gas (T)	-	100	100	311.11
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>				
Srisailem LBH (H)	450	-	450	2620.00
Jurala Priyadarshini (H)	78.2	-	78.2	547.00
Rayalseema-II (T)	-	420	420	1577.63
<b>Kerala</b>				
Kuttiyadi augmentation (H)	100	-	100	220.50
<b>Karnataka</b>				
Almati Dam (H)	290	-	290	674.38
Raichur U-7 (T)	-	210	210	613.00
Bellary (T)	-	500	500	2307.27
<b>Orissa</b>				
Balimela-II (H)	150	-	150	212.30
<b>Jharkhand</b>				
Tenughat Extn. (T)	-	210	210	-
<b>W. Bengal</b>				
Bakreshwar U 4 & 5 (T)	-	420	420	1312.72
Sagardighi-I	-	250	250	2057.10
<b>Assam</b>				
Karbi Langpi (H)	100	-	100	470.86
Lakwa W.H. (T)	-	38	38	145.00

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Mizoram</b>				
Bairabi HFO (T)	-	22.92	22.92	85.95
Bairabi (H)	80	-	80	441.67
<b>Meghalaya</b>				
Byrinhat (T)	-	24	24	-
Myntdu (Leiska) (H)	84	-	84	363.08
Mendipathar (T)	-	24	24	-
<b>Manipur</b>				
Leimkhong DG	-	18	18	134.24
<b>Tripura</b>				
Baramura GT (T)	-	21	21	95.36
Rokhia GT (T)	-	21	21	85.17
<b>Pondicherry</b>				
Karaikal (T)	-	100	100	-
<b>A&amp;N Islands</b>				
Rangat Bay	-	5	5	26.39

#### **Generation of Electricity by Garbage**

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

(a) whether garbage dumped everyday in the cities and towns can be used for making electricity and biogas;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified areas for effective disposal of garbage by making use of it;

(c) whether the electricity and biogas are produced from the waste across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps are being taken to make it compulsory in all the areas for effective disposal of garbage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The biodegradable and combustible

segregated from the garbage can be used for production of biogas and electricity through processes such as bi-methanation, combustion, pyrolysis, gasification, etc.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban and Industrial Wastes to promote setting up of projects for recovery of energy namely biogas and electricity from urban and industrial wastes. The scheme is applicable for all states and Union Territories. Projects with a total installed capacity of about 40.70 MW equivalent have been installed so far in the country. This includes a 5 MW plant at Lucknow and a 6 MW plant at Hyderabad, based on city/municipal wastes.

(e) The Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India has notified the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 under the Environmental (Protection) Act. As per these rules, every municipal authority shall, within the territorial area of the municipality, be responsible for implementation of the provisions of the rules, and for any infrastructure

development for collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes.

### Freight Earnings

576. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway freight earnings have declined during 1st half of current financial year as compared by the corresponding period last year;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase its margins and control the expenses;

(d) the details of the target set by the Government in revenue receipt during the current financial year;

(e) whether the above target has been achieved; and

(f) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railways are working under an Action Plan which envisages following steps to augment earnings besides containing the expenditure:

(i) Rationalisation of freight structure and flexible tariff to counter the market competition.

(ii) Running of new trains and extension of various mail/express passenger trains to cater to the passenger traffic across the country.

(iii) Continuous drives against ticket-less travel.

(iv) More delegation to General Managers in respect of 'Station to Station' rates.

(v) Drive for realisation of outstanding dues.

(vi) Better manpower management for improvement in per capita productivity.

(vii) Energy conservation.

(viii) Efficient utilisation of assets.

(ix) Reduction in equipment failure.

(x) Stringent financial and budgetary control through the mechanism of fixation of spending limits and monthly budget proportions and also through control on cash outgo.

(xi) Austerity in areas of hospitality, publicity, advertisement etc.

(d) The target of Gross Traffic Receipts as envisaged in the Budget, 2003-04 is as under:

Passenger earnings	Rs. 13,620 cr.
Other Coaching earnings	Rs. 1,020 cr.
Goods earnings	Rs. 27,815 cr.
Sundry earnings	Rs. 990 cr.
Gross earnings	Rs. 43,445 cr.
Traffic Suspense	Rs. 50 cr.
Gross Traffic Receipts	Rs. 43,495 cr.

(e) and (f) The approximate total earnings to end of October, 2003 at Rs. 23,969 cr. constitute 55.17% of Gross Earnings target. The position is being closely monitored.

### Import of Rolling Stock

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

(a) the total import of rolling stock by Railway during 2002-2003 and till October 2003 alongwith the names of the countries from which these are imported;

(b) the total export made by Railways in the said period, item-wise and country-wise;

(c) whether the imports involve global tenders; and

(d) if so, the details of parties involved and the details of lowest party including Indian Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Total import of Rolling stock by Indian Railways during 2002-2003 was Rs. 77.73 crore (Austria-Rs. 76.28 cr, USA-Rs. 1.45 cr) and from April 2003 to October 2003 was Rs. 57.97 crore (Austria-Rs. 57.03 cr, USA-Rs. 0.94 cr.).

(b)

Item	Value (Rs. Cr.)	Country
1	2	3
YDM4 Diesel Loco	26.95	Vietnam
Loco Spares	0.50	Bangladesh
Loco Spares	0.04	Sri Lanka
Loco Spares	0.12	Tanzania
Loco Spares	0.33	Vietnam

1	2	3
Loco Spares	1.51	Malaysia
Spares for Bogies	0.03	Sri Lanka
Spares for coaches	0.19	Tanzania
Wheels & Axles	0.57	Malaysia
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.24</b>	

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Statement is enclosed.

**Statement**

S. No.	Tender No.	Item	Names of the participants	Name of lowest technically acceptable tenderer
1	2	3	4	5
<b>2002-2003</b>				
1.	Track-III/2001/22/0101	Dynamic Track Stabilisers	1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria 2. M/s Jessop, Kolkata	M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria
2.	Track-III/2001/22/0106	Worksite Tampers	1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria 2. M/s Metex, Moscow	1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria 2. M/s Metex, Moscow (for Dev. Order)
3.	Track-III/2001/22/0102	Ballast Cleaning Machines	1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria 2. M/s Jessop, Kolkata 3. M/s Ameca, Italy	M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria
4.	Track-III/2001/22/0105	Shoulder Ballast Cleaning Machines	1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria	M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria
5.	Track-III/2002/22/0103	Dynamic Track Stabilisers	M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria	M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria
6.	Track-III/2002/22/0102	Worksite Tamper	1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria 2. M/s METEX, Moscow	M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria
7.	Track-III/2002/22/0101	Points and Crossing Changing Machines	1. M/s L. Geismar, France 2. M/s Ameca, Italy	M/s Ameca, Italy
8.	Track-III/2002/22/0106	Utility Vehicles	1. M/s San Engineering & Loco, Bangalore 2. M/s Jessop, New Delhi 3. M/s Phooltas., Patna 4. M/s Ventra Locomotives, Medak	M/s Phooltas, Patna M/s Standard Castings, New Delhi (for Dev. Order)



1	2	3	4	5
			5. M/s Jalan Enterprises, Kolkata 6. M/s Sunag Corporation, USA 7. M/s BHEL, New Delhi 8. M/s Standard Castings, New Delhi	
9.	Track- III/2002/22/0107	Points and Crossing Tampers	1. M/s METEX, Moscow 2. M/s Plaster & Theurer, Austria	Tender under consideration
10.	Track- III/2002/22/0104	Ballast Cleaning Machines	1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria 2. M/s Ameca, Italy	Tender under consideration
11.	Track- III/2002/22/01011	Utility Vehicles	1. M/s Phooltas, Patna 2. M/s Venra Locomotives, Hyderabad 3. M/s China Railway Material Import and Export Co. Ltd., China 4. M/s METEX, Moscow 5. M/s Ovis Equipment Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad 6. M/s Standard Castings, New Delhi 7. M/s BHEL, New Delhi. 8. M/s San Engineering & Loco, Bangalore 9. M/s Sterling Transtel, New Delhi	1. M/s Phooltas, Patna 2. M/s Ovis Equipment Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad (for Dev. Order)
12.	Track- III/2002/22/0109	Worksite Tampers	1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria	Tender under consideration
<b>2003-04 (upto Oct 03)</b>				
1.	Track- III/2002/22/0108	Dynamic Track Stabilisers	1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria 2. M/s BHEL, New Delhi	1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria 2. M/s BHEL, New Delhi (for Dev. Order)
2.	Track- III/2002/22/01010	Ballast Cleaning Machines	1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria 2. M/s BHEL, New Delhi.	Tender under consideration
3.	Track- III/2002/22/01013	Track Relaying Trains	1. M/s Harsco Track Technology, USA 2. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria 3. M/s Matisa, Switzerland	Tender under consideration
4.	Track- III/2002/22/01015	Sets PQRS Machines	1. M/s Plasser India, Fardabad 2. M/s Simplex Engineering Works Ltd., Bhilai 3. M/s BEML, New Delhi 4. M/s Ameca Engineering, Italy	M/s Simplex Engineering Works Ltd., Bhilai
5.	Track- III/2002/22/0101	Mobile Bridge Inspection Units	1. M/s Moog, Germany 2. M/s Speedcraft Ltd., Patna	Tender under consideration

**Gauge Conversion Work Pending under East Coast Railway**

578. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the gauge conversion work pending under East Coast Railway;
- (b) the year since when these conversion projects are pending; and
- (c) the present status of those pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is only one narrow gauge line in East Coast Railway from Naupada to Gunupur, the gauge conversion of which has already been taken up. Land acquisition, earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress. An amount of Rs. 15 crore has been provided for this project during 2003-04.

**Joint Venture of BSCL with Railways**

579. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has requested to the Railway Ministry for taking over of Burnpur Unit (Wagon manufacturing unit) at West Bengal alongwith Mujaffarpur and Mokama at Bihar as reported in the *Economic Times* dated October 27, 2003;

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

(c) whether the Government are also considering joint venture of BSCL and Railways for real survival of vital wagon unit in the State of West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The case of Bumpur Works of BSCL was referred to the Ministry of Railways twice. Firstly in May, 2002 and second time in July, 2003. The Ministry of Railways expressed their inability to take over

this unit as Wagon Manufacturing is not a core activity for the Railways.

This Ministry had also suggested to the Railway Board in December, 2002 to consider taking over of the Muzaffarpur and Mukameh units of Bharat Wagon & Engineering Company Limited (BWEL) as their captive units or on lease. The final response of the Railways is awaited.

**Recommendations of Radio Committee**

580. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government have set up a Radio Committee to bring about reforms into the radio broadcasting industry;

(b) if so, whether the committee have submitted its report to the Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the committee and the decision taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) Yes, the Committee has submitted its report on 17th November, 2003.

(c) A copy of the executive summary of the recommendations of the Committee is enclosed as a Statement. No decision has yet been taken on these recommendations.

**Statement**

**Executive Summary**

**1. Licensing Process**

The Committee is of the view that the open auction bid process was not suitable for auctioning of the frequencies and it did not yield the desired results. Various legal challenges were raised in connection with the open auction bid process followed in case of Phase I of the liberalization of FM broadcasting. The Committee

recommends that adoption of tender process for radio licenses is more suitable for the following reasons:

1. It is a standard and simple process followed by the Government in numerous sectors whereby sufficient experience has been garnered. The process is also judicially well recognised.
2. It is an internationally well-accepted process<sup>1</sup>.
3. It is the preferred process, specifically for broadcasting licenses. It is one of the prescribed processes in case of auction of spectrum licenses in Australia and is also followed in the United Kingdom. The European Community recommendation on Independent Broadcasting Regulator also envisages a tender process for broadcasting licenses.

The License process shall consist of the following rounds:

- (a) The first round should be the prequalification round and only bidders complying with the financial and technical eligibility criteria specified in the tender documents and as certified through a viability/sensitivity study by an Eligible Financial Institution/Bank should qualify for the next round. The security for participating in this stage should be the earnest money deposit as specified in the tender document. The security amount should be in line with phase I tender document.
- (b) After the pre-qualification stage, the financial bids of the qualified applicants should be opened at a notified time and place to determine the Entry Fees.

The bid license amount must be based on the business plan and the security for the same should be in the form of an irrevocable, unconditional and confirmed bank guarantee for the full amount of the quoted license fees. The bank guarantee shall be the security for the period from the date of application till the date of payment in full of the entry fees (i.e. the date of allocation of frequency).

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<sup>1</sup>It is the standard process in international competitive bidding recognized and elaborated upon in a number of International Instruments like the WTO Agreement of Government Procurement; UNCITRAL Model Law on the Procurement of Goods (Under Article 18 tendering is the preferred mode of procurement), World Bank Guidelines on Procurement etc.

In the tender process the entry fees should naturally be different for each bidder. The number of highest bidders that equal the number of frequencies available, would automatically win the frequencies at each center (e.g. if there are seven frequencies available at a center, the seven highest bidders would be allotted the frequencies).

Immediately upon award of the bid, 25% of the entry fees should be payable and the frequency should be allocated only upon payment of the balance amount of the entry fees.

## 2. License Fees

The fixed annual license fee (that escalates annually at the rate of 15%) determined by the auction procedure in Phase-I of FM Licenses for Private Broadcasters has proved to be unviable. In such a scenario, migration to a one-time entry fees plus revenue sharing model, as in the case of cellular licenses (Telecom) in India, is the most suitable option.

**Entry fees:** *The Committee recommends that the entry fees should be determined by a competitive bid process that will reflect the true market value of the frequency.*

**Revenue Share:** in light of the fact that:

- The Tenth Plan has also envisaged a revenue share mechanism in radio.
- The revenue sharing arrangement has been tried in a number of instances in India (like Telephones/Major ports etc.) and in the media sector as well (in case of DTH).
- Revenue understatement may be a cause of concern in the case of large public utilities. But radio is comparatively a small local industry with much smaller capital investment and revenue flows. The only form of revenue in the radio industry is in the nature of advertising and opportunities of revenue understatement are therefore much less in comparison to an infrastructure industry like electricity or oil.
- Detailed guidelines have been formulated in relation to related party transactions in Accounting Standard 18 of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.
- Internationally the revenue share model is used in spectrum allocation (As in Australia) and broadcast licenses.

The Committee recommends a revenue share of 4% of gross revenue.<sup>2</sup> This revenue share shall be subject to review by a committee every five years and may be increased/decreased, depending on the then prevailing market conditions. Such revision, covered under the agreement, will not be considered as a change in law.

### 3. Duration of License

The duration of the licenses in Phase-I of the award of FM broadcast licenses was fixed at ten (10) years and no extensions were permissible on any grounds whatsoever. Internationally, the initial period of license is lower [e.g. in Canada the period is seven (7) years<sup>3</sup>, in U.K. it is eight (8) years]. However, in most countries, renewal of the licenses is permitted, which taken together with the original license period, would mean that the term of the license extends more than 10 years (e.g. in Canada renewals of license for terms not exceeding seven years (7) is permitted<sup>4</sup> while in U.K. licenses are renewable for one term not exceeding eight (8) years, after the completion of the first eight (8) years of license).

The Committee recommends that the license would be valid for a period of 10 years from the date of grant of operational license by WPC, as in the case of Phase-I. The Committee also recommends that the renewal of license be permitted, for a further period of five years, subject to satisfactory performance by the licensee and provided that no default has occurred during the license period. This assessment and recommendations for renewal of license will be made by the independent regulator to the Government, once the regulator is in place.

### 4. Multiple Licenses in a City

In Phase-I the licensees were not permitted to own multiple to own multiple frequencies in the same city. The recent trend internationally is towards abolition of such restrictions, as evident in (say) the Canadian Commercial Audio Policy, 1998. Due to non-viability of market in the Indian context, the restriction on multiple licenses in the same center needs to be reviewed, without losing sight of the potential for monopolies/oligopolies.

<sup>2</sup>The revenue share percentage suggested by industry players varies in the range of 2-3% of gross revenue. On the other hand the revenue share percentage suggested in Earnest & Young Report is in the range of 3-5%.

<sup>3</sup>Section 9(b) of the Broadcasting Act, 1991.

<sup>4</sup>Section 9(d) of the Broadcasting Act, 1991.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that:

- (a) The number of frequencies that an entity, directly or indirectly, may hold in a particular center by restricted to 3 or 33% of the total licenses available in the center, whichever is less.
- (b) No entity shall hold more than one frequency (license) for news and current affairs in any one center.
- (c) Further, such additional licenses should be permitted only if the total number of frequencies available in a center to establish a broadcast station (including frequencies in Phase-I) is equal to or more than six (6).

### 5. Total Number of Frequencies that an Entity May Hold: Containing Monopoly

The total number of frequencies that an entity may hold, directly or indirectly, nationally in each phase should not be more than 25% of the total number of frequencies being tendered during the phase.<sup>5</sup> The bidder should at the time of submitting a bid furnish a declaration to the effect that it shall not accept bids for more than 25% of the frequencies offered in any phase.

An undertaking should be said to be in a dominant position, if it holds more than 25% of the total operationalised licenses in the country and in the event of abuse of dominance by such dominant undertakings, the Government or the regulator, as the case may be, should have the power to order the sale of the licenses, through a tender process, to other undertakings that are not connected in any manner whatsoever, with any dominant undertaking. This condition of reserving the right of the Government or the regulator (as the case may be) to break up a monopoly, should be part of the tender documents so as to minimize the chances of litigation.

The content plan for each separate frequency at the same center being bid for, by the same bidder must be different to ensure wider availability of choices to the listeners.

The licensees would neither be permitted to network among the multiple channels in one center, nor would they be allowed to network with another licensee in the same center.

Each license should constitute a separate undertaking and licensees should maintain separate accounts for each

<sup>5</sup>Similar restrictions obtain internationally e.g. in UK.

frequency allocated to them. It should be the endeavour of each licensee to properly segment the expenditure with reference to each license in accordance with the applicable accounting standards or guidelines issued by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

## 6. Networking

Networking or chain broadcasts means simultaneous transmission of programmes by various broadcast stations (transmitters). Licensees in Phase I were not permitted to Network except on important occasions with the prior permission of the Government.

In light of the fact that networking can significantly reduce the Capital Expenditure and Operating Expenditure of a broadcasting station (especially in small cities), we recommend that networking be permitted. We believe that the market mechanism will ensure differentiation of content reflecting listener's choice.

Please note that Networking be permitted only amongst the broadcast stations of the same entity and not across the licensees. Furthermore, networking should not be permitted in the same city.

## 7. News and Current Affairs

Phase-I licensees were not permitted to broadcast news and current affairs. The Committee recommends that the restriction on news and current affairs should be lifted and the committee strongly recommends that the AIR Code of Conduct and the applicable industry codes should be strictly followed. The violation of any aspects of these codes would result in the immediate revocation of the license.

## 8. Co-location

Co-location, in this particular context, is the term used to mean locating the transmitting setups of various broadcasters of a particular city in the same premises and sharing the common tower. This term gathers more significance in the situations of lesser frequency separation between the channels allotted for the same city. The basic idea behind co-location is that the Effective Radiated Power (ERP) of all the channels would be nearly the same and since they are located at the same site, they will be attenuated similarly with the distance thus maintaining the same protection between the channels.

In this context, following observations are made:

- (i) Co-location in metro cities was mandatory in Phase-I. The objective was to increase the

availability of frequencies by spacing 400 kHz instead of 800 kHz.

- (ii) Most of the representations received by the Committee have opposed to co-location due to the following reasons:
- (a) For co-location purpose, it is necessary for private broadcasters to form a consortium.
  - (b) It is very difficult to form a consortium of private broadcasters competing with each other.
  - (c) If a Private broadcaster backs out, his share of cost on common infrastructure would have to be borne by the remaining ones.
  - (d) Private broadcasters have to bear substantial cost on studio-transmitter link as in co-location case, the studio setup would mostly be at a different location.
  - (e) There are number of other operational difficulties.

In view of the above difficulties expressed by the private broadcasters, it is recommended that co-location may not be made mandatory in Phase-II.

## 9. Reserve Entry Fees

In Phase-I the Government divided the centers (cities where frequencies were offered to private bidders) in five categories for the purposes of license fee: A+(reserved license fee Rs. 125 lacs), A (reserved license fee Rs. 100 lacs), B (reserved license fee Rs. 75 lacs), C (reserved license fee Rs. 50 lacs) and D (reserved license fee Rs. 20 lacs).<sup>6</sup>

In light of the following:

Internationally (e.g. in case of Spectrum Allocation in Australia) the Government is free to determine a reserve price in case of scarce resources like frequencies so that due to imperfections, the market does not grossly undervalue the frequencies. In Phase I also, some licenses were granted to the bidders at the reserve price, as there were no other applicants. Even internationally, instances wherein there is only one bidder for a particular frequency are quite common (please see the note on Canada and Australia, Annexure III).

However, the purpose of such reserve price is again not meant for revenue maximization but only to prevent gross undervaluation. Reserve price must be objectively

<sup>6</sup>Section 1 of the Tender Documents.

calculated on pre-published criteria in the light of alternate and probable uses of the frequency. It should necessary reflect the lowest permissible price.

The Committee recommends that the historical reserve price of Phase I be followed. The Government can consider revising the reserve price in subsequent regimes.

#### 10. Foreign Investment

The Committee is in favour of a simplified foreign investment regime for radio.

We recommend that the following safeguards be introduced in the license agreement:

- (a) FDI up to 26% should be permitted in FM broadcasting (news as well as entertainment).
- (b) While calculating the 26% limit on FDI, the foreign holding component, if any, in the equity of the Indian shareholder companies of the licensee should be duly factored in on a pro rata basis to determine the total foreign holding in the licensee<sup>7</sup>. The equity held by the largest Indian shareholder group should be at least 51% of the equity excluding equity held by public sector banks and public financial institutions.
- (c) 75% of the directors of the licensee, the Chief Executive Officer of the licensee and/or head of the channel and all key executives and editorial staff of the channel must be resident Indians appointed by the licensee without any reference on or from any other company for all news channels. For all entertainment channels exception to the above could be made for 'People of Indian Origin' cardholders/NRIs for the position of key executives and editorial staff. This facility will not be available to channels providing any kind of news. It should be obligatory on the part of the licensee to inform the Ministry in writing before effecting any alteration in the foreign share holding pattern or in the shareholding of the largest Indian shareholder and/or in the CEO/Board of Directors. Further, the licensee should be liable to intimate the Ministry the details of any foreigners/NRIs employed/engaged by it for a period exceeding 60(sixty) days. Further, there should be a bar on direct/indirect outsourcing of content to foreign parties.
- (d) The licensee should be required to make disclosures of any shareholders agreements, loan agreements and such other agreements that are finalized or proposed to be entered into. Subsequent changes to the said agreements should be permitted only with the prior approval of the Ministry. Further, the licensee should not be permitted to raise loans from foreign entities for all news channels beyond the proportion of foreign equity allowed. (In other words, for Licensees putting out news, upto 26% of their total equity can be taken as loans from words, from foreign sources and no more).
- (e) In the light of the aforementioned changes to the FDI policy, in respect of FM broadcasting, the existing licensees should be required to effect the necessary amendments to their Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association and relevant agreements no later than two months from the date of migration of their licenses from Phase I to Phase II.

#### 11. Increase in Number of frequencies for Private Broadcasts

Committee is of the view that the released frequencies for phase II of liberalization of FM transmission will include unutilized spectrum in phase I after migration.

The spectrum being a scarce resource has to be used rationally, efficiently and optimally by all.

The committee strongly recommends that as the market develops and gathers the required momentum, Government should release additional frequencies in subsequent phases of liberalization, so as to boost further growth of the market.

The Committee is of the opinion that some other available frequencies may be more effectively utilized for the purposes of educational broadcasts by IGNOU. It has been brought to the notice of the Committee that during the last few years AIR is in the process of migrating high quality music programmes like Vividh Bharati from MW to FM. The possibility of availing these MW transmitters from AIR for the purposes of educational broadcasts by IGNOU requires serious consideration. This would address the issue of costs as IGNOU will not have to incur heavy expenditure on building broadcast infrastructure because AIR facilities could be used by IGNOU at a reasonable cost. This arrangement would lead to the best possible use of spectrum and release of additional frequencies.

<sup>7</sup>See revised eligibility criteria Clause (b) and (d)

## 12. Non-Commercial Channels

The PBS (Public Broadcast Service in the USA) model and the BBC model for non-commercial channels is widely followed abroad, where the programmes are funded by various organisations.

The Committee proposes a similar model wherein, out of the 4% revenue share that the Government would receive from the FM broadcasters, 1% point of the revenue share should be set apart as a separate fund dedicated for the purpose of developing the non-commercial channels (related to a wide range of areas such as culture and heritage of India, public health etc.) The resources which will accumulate in this fund, will be sought by private broadcasters to develop non-commercial channels and programmes, in accordance with the directions of a Committee of eminent personalities of the nation formed by the Government. The funds should be disbursed through transparent rules and regulations framed for this purpose by the esteemed Committee. There would be a yearly audit of the broadcaster and the audit report would be presented to the Committee.

Such non-commercial channels will be initially required in all A+. A and B category towns, followed by its expansion in other cities in the future.

Considering the fact that the number of commercial channels are already limited, it is suggested that additional frequencies be released at the earliest for the above non-commercial channels.

## 13. Niche Channels through Fiscal Incentives

The Committee is of the view that it is possible to help the market process in the direction of development of niche channels. In this respect the Committee recommends the following:

In every city, certain frequencies should be reserved for niche channels to be tendered separately with a low reserve fee and low revenue share percentage. Detailed terms and conditions may be prescribed to ensure that such channels are exclusively developed for niche programming and no partial niche programming be allowed.

The Committee feels that such niche channels will be initially required in A+, A and B category towns, followed by its expansion in other cities in future. The Committee also strongly urges the Government to consider releasing additional frequencies to encourage such niche channels.

## 14. Foreign Satellite Broadcast

Presently, Government of India has a policy on uplinking of TV channels. The following two major benefits have accrued from this policy:

- (a) Outflow of foreign exchange has been curtailed since the uplinking is done from the Indian soil instead of foreign countries.
- (b) Government is able to enforce a code of conduct for the TV channels.

In the absence of similar policy on the uplinking of Radio channels in the country, valuable foreign exchange outflow is taking place and the Government is unable to enforce code of conduct on Satellite radio channels.

In view of the above, it is recommend that Government should come out with a policy on uplinking of satellite radio channels and downlinking process, so that the forex outflow could be curtailed and a code of conduct could be enforced.

## 15. Migration

For the purposes of migration to the new regime, 24th July 2003 (the day of appointment of this Radio Broadcast Policy Committee) shall be taken as the "Cut-off Date" from which the rights and obligations under the new regime will be applicable to the players. Rights accrued and Liabilities incurred till the Cut-off Date shall be governed by the old regime.

The Committee, is of the opinion that operationalisation of license or at least a serious attempt at operationalisation should be the criterion for distinguishing between serious licensees and not to serious ones. Therefore, the following should be entitled to migrate to the new regime:

- (a) Successful bidders that have operationalised the license and have paid the license fees till date. From the cut off date all fees paid shall be adjusted (but not refunded) against the new system of revenue share.
- (b) Successful bidders that operationalised the license but later due to non-viability of business defaulted in payment of license fees.
  - (i) They will have to pay the original license fees due till the Cut off Date.
  - (ii) Defaults in the original license fee that was to be due, after cut off date, are to be ignored.

(iii) Payment will be treated as one time entry fee.

(c) In case of delay in operationalisation due to co-location, those who are operating under "deemed operationalisation", should be granted a revised deadline, either to co-locate by say December 31, 2003 or set up independent by say March 31, 2004. On completing either of the above, they shall be entitled to migrate to the Phase II licensing system. Till the point of operationalisation, they will be governed by the old regime.

The Committee strongly recommends that there should not be any blacklisting of bidders for new licensees on the basis of their default in Phase-I, as the Phase-I was characterized by acute market and regulatory imperfections that rendered the market unviable. Also, the Committee appeals to all bidders who have gone to court to withdraw their litigations and take advantage of the new Phase II regime.

#### 16. Import Duty

In this sector, almost all the broadcasting equipments are imported and none of them are manufactured domestically. To make the economics more viable, the Committee suggests that the import duty on the broadcast equipment be brought in line with that of the Telecom sector.

#### 17. Code of Conduct

The Committee suggests that broadcast by private broadcasters must not, *inter alia* contain the following (as per the AIR code):

- Criticism of friendly countries.
- Attack on religion or communities.
- Anything obscene or defamatory.
- Incitement to violence or anything against maintenance of law and order
- Anything amounting to contempt of court.
- Aspersions against the integrity of the President, Governors and Judiciary
- Attack on political party by name.
- Hostile criticism of any State or the Centre.
- Anything showing disrespect to the Constitution or advocating change in the constitution by

violent means, but advocating changes in the constitutional way should not be debarred.

AIR code and the advertising code to be looked at as per current scenario and appropriate changes can be made, if required.

#### 18. Shift of IGNOU (Educational Broadcast) to Medium Wave and availing of MW Transmitters from AIR.

In Phase-I of liberalization of FM broadcasting one frequency in each of the forty cities was reserved for educational broadcast by IGNOU. However, so far IGNOU has been able to operationalise only 10 FM stations. It appears that due to limits on availability of funds IGNOU may not be in a position to operationalise all these frequencies. On account of paucity of spectrum it is not advisable to allocate FM frequencies for educational broadcasts.

The Committee is of the opinion that some other available frequencies (like medium wave) may be more effectively utilized for the purposes of educational broadcasts by IGNOU. It has been brought to the notice of the Committee that during the last few years AIR is in the process of migrating high quality music programmes like Vividh Bharati from MW to FM. The possibility of availing these MW transmitters from AIR for the purposes of educational broadcasts by IGNOU requires serious consideration. This would address the issue of costs as IGNOU will not have to incur heavy expenditure on building broadcast infrastructure because AIR facilities could be used by IGNOU at a reasonable cost. This arrangement would lead to the best possible use of spectrum.

#### 19. Broadcast Regulator

The radio industry in India is in a nascent stage of growth. However, as the market develops a number of legal and social issues (like content regulation, networking regulation etc.) as well as technology issues (like digital radio broadcasting (terrestrial/satellite) subscription radio channels etc. are likely to raise in relation to radio. The market competitive forces may not always work in harmony and sometimes may require reconciliation of competing interests. Therefore, as the industry develops it will require maintenance of an appropriate regulatory environment through an autonomous regulator.

The Committee in this respect shares the views and the concerns of the Hon'ble Supreme Court as reflected in the case of *Secretary, Ministry of Information and*



*Broadcasting vs. Cricket Association of Bengal*,<sup>8</sup> wherein it was observed that the Central Government should establish in independent autonomous public authority representative of all sections and interests in the society to control and regulate the use of airwaves.

The Committee therefore, recommends the constitution of an independent broadcasting regulator.

The Committee would like to clarify that the Broadcast Regulator should provide and maintain appropriate regulatory environment to foster market led growth rather than seek to supplant and substitute market forces through regulation. The main objective of the Broadcasting Regulator should be to seek proper enforcement of rules and regulations and its actions should primarily be complaint driven.

We suggest to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting that pending the creation of a Regulator (which is likely to take time, requiring Parliamentary approval), a non-statutory Committee be set up which has Terms of Reference similar to what the Regulator would have. (We understand that the formal creation of SEBI was proceeded by such a Committee).

## 20. Penalty for Non-Operationalisation of Awarded Licenses

The Committee strongly recommends that after being awarded the license, it is mandatory for Licensee to operationalise the license within a maximum period of one year. If the licensee does not operationalise the license within one year from the date of the award, the Government, as a condition of the license, will forfeit the license and re-tender it in public interest.

### MIG-21 Crash

581. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in connection with MiG-21 crashes the IAF has unprecedented and severely indicated HAL in the matter of quality control in engine repair and overhaul and that Russian expert "audit team" is proposed to be posted at HAL sites to ensure better quality control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Indian Air Force has not indicated HAL in the matter of quality control in engine repair/overhaul.

Whenever an aircraft accident takes place, a Court of Inquiry is held to establish the cause of the accident and recommend appropriate remedial measures. Specialists from the Air Force as well as other connected agencies are associated with the Court of Inquiry. In case the aircraft is manufactured or overhauled by HAL, then HAL representatives form a part of the Court of Inquiry team. Recommendations of the Court of Inquiry, duly approved by Air HQ, are sent to HAL, if applicable, for instituting suggested remedial measures. When and if required, the original manufacturer, viz. Russians in the case of MiG-21, are also involved with the Court of Inquiry.

Joint inspection of HAL facilities and Indian Air Force bases was recently carried out to check if proper practices were being meticulously followed. Recommendations made by the joint team have been/are being implemented both by HAL and Air Force. Also, recently a Russian team was associated with quality audit of both HAL and Air Force facilities.

Assistance from the Russian, original equipment manufacturers is available for use when required.

### Launching up of APDP and APRP

582. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) and the accelerated Power Reforms Programme (APRP) have been launched during the last three years;

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

(c) the performance of each State during those years in implementing these programmes; and

(d) the extent to which the main objective of these programmes have been achieved in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Government of India have launched a scheme viz. Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) in

February 2001 which was amended and rechristened as Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the year 2001-02.

(b) and (c) The details of the funds released under APDP and APDRP State-wise along with the utilization of funds are given in Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(d) The main objective of the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) is to strengthen and upgrade the sub-transmission and distribution network and to reduce commercial losses. Some States have reported improvement in distribution system and cash loss reduction. During the financial year 2001-02, four States viz. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana and Rajasthan have shown cash loss reduction as compared to the year 2000-01 to the tune of Rs. 2138.44 crore.

#### Year 2001-02

Sl.No.	State	Cash loss reduction
1.	Gujarat	1072.30
2.	Maharashtra	579.74
3.	Haryana	210.98
4.	Rajasthan	275.42
<b>Total</b>		<b>2138.44</b>

In addition to this, States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal have reported reduction in overall losses during the year 2002-03 as compared to previous year.

#### Statement I

##### Year 2000-01

S.No.	Name of State	Cost of the projects sanctioned	Funds released under APDRP	Funds utilized
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	194.70	97.45	171.81
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.32	6.32	0.00
3.	Assam	20.02	20.02	5.05

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	42.88	21.44	7.04
5.	Chhattisgarh	20.52	10.26	20.52
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	219.22	109.62	72.99
9.	Haryana	99.23	49.62	65.11
10.	Himachal Pradesh	25.32	25.32	27.47
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.99	6.99	2.43
12.	Jharkhand	43.96	21.97	0.00
13.	Karnataka	162.98	81.50	147.92
14.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	99.06	40.32	75.91
16.	Maharashtra	268.88	134.44	146.55
17.	Manipur	0.72	0.72	0.72
18.	Meghalaya	1.81	1.81	1.81
19.	Mizoram	1.06	1.06	1.06
20.	Nagaland	1.89	1.89	1.89
21.	Orissa	76.00	38.00	24.50
22.	Punjab	75.40	37.70	34.06
23.	Rajasthan	89.98	45.00	63.78
24.	Sikkim	6.38	6.38	6.38
25.	Tamil Nadu	131.08	65.54	131.08
26.	Tripura	5.00	5.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	124.40	62.23	69.06
28.	Uttaranchal	87.50	44.05	4.80
29.	West Bengal	87.17	43.50	38.11
<b>Total</b>		<b>1898.47</b>	<b>978.15</b>	<b>1120.05</b>

**Statement II****Year 2002-03**

S.No.	Name of State	Cost of the projects sanctioned	Funds released under APDRP	Funds utilized
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1511.40	188.92	193.16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	85.99	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	408.54	96.97	0.80
4.	Bihar	737.97	66.11	12.48
5.	Chhattisgarh	424.58	53.07	70.25
6.	Delhi	946.46	105.51	346.38
7.	Goa	176.34	22.04	20.12
8.	Gujarat	1035.80	105.42	108.30
9.	Haryana	453.41	56.33	118.27
10.	Himachal Pradesh	327.81	163.91	12.11
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	401.10	200.50	20.00
12.	Jharkhand	444.85	12.00	73.36
13.	Karnataka	1161.19	145.15	136.85
14.	Kerala	350.35	43.80	64.96
15.	Madhya Pradesh	679.08	84.87	31.21
16.	Maharashtra	1347.85	168.48	84.73
17.	Manipur	10.13	2.67	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	42.26	21.13	0.00
19.	Mizoram	57.91	28.96	3.78
20.	Nagaland	47.22	23.61	2.67
21.	Orissa	592.22	54.35	0.00
22.	Punjab	706.38	53.98	75.10
23.	Rajasthan	1255.06	125.64	272.30
24.	Sikkim	63.48	31.74	15.76
25.	Tamil Nadu	968.17	121.02	173.17
26.	Tripura	27.54	2.67	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Uttar Pradesh	812.86	80.12	0.00
28.	Uttaranchal	361.51	180.76	17.20
29.	West Bengal	204.26	25.53	18.52
Total		15641.72	2265.26	1871.48

**Expansion of Tamluk-Contai Rail Line**

583. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of expansion work of Tamluk-Contai rail line in South Eastern Railways;

(b) the length of rail line in kilometers to be expanded;

(c) the amount is likely to be spent on the above expansion work; and

(d) the targets set for completion of said rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (d) On Tamluk-Digha (87.50 Km) new line project, the work of Tamluk-Kanathi (Contai) (56.6 Km) section has been completed. Efforts are being made to complete the work beyond Kanathi (Contai) up to Digha during 2004-05. The Tamluk-Digha (87.50 Km) new line work is presently sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 293.97 crore.

**Subsidy on LPG**

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

(a) the break-up of LPG subsidy provided in the last financial year and in the first half of this financial year, State-wise;

(b) whether some States have been getting most of this subsidy indirectly;

(c) if so, whether any efforts have been made to reduce the production and distribution costs of LPG; and

(d) if so, the details of such plans to reduce the production costs of LPG in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the subsidy scheme, the subsidy on domestic LPG is given to the oil marketing companies. The subsidy entitlement of the oil marketing companies during 2002-03 and 2003-04 (April-September) is as follows:

	(Rs. in crore)
2002-03	3,690.88
2003-04 (April-Sept)	1,284.50

(c) and (d) In a deregulated scenario, after the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector, the domestic producers of LPG would be forced to cut down their costs to remain competitive. The PSU oil companies continuously monitor the overall cost of production of petroleum products including LPG and undertake several control measures which inter alia include zero based budgeting, inventory control, optimum utilization of utilities, technical audit for control of chemicals/catalysts consumption, minimizing the manpower cost, energy conservation measures etc.

#### **Marketing Rights to Shell India Limited**

585. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shell India Marketing Private Limited sought permission of the Government to set up a wholly owned subsidiary to market and to transport fuel in the country;

(b) if so, whether the company have furnished a bank guarantee of the required amount and have also met the criteria of a minimum Rs. 2000 crores worth of investment in India;

(c) if so, the details of proposed investment by the company in India and whether the permission has been granted for marketing its products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Shell India Pvt. Limited (SIPL) has submitted a proposal to Government for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary company in India to market transportation fuels. However, SIPL has not completed an investment of Rs. 2,000 crore in eligible activities for

grant of authorization, nor furnished a bank guarantee of Rs. 500 crore as per extant guidelines in the matter. Hence, no marketing rights for sale of transportation fuels have so far been granted to SIPL by Government.

#### **Facilities for LPG Customers**

586. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to introduce new facilities for LPG customers;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has already introduced such facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to direct other oil companies to provide such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing companies (OMCs) introduce various facilities for convenience of LPG consumers from time to time.

(b) and (c) Indian oil Corporation has introduced 'Star Distributors' concept with the object to set new standards on customer services and care. These distributors will provide tailor made services to their customers which include delivery all seven days a week, refills delivered at customer's preferred time, automated 24 hours refill booking through a common telephone number etc.

(d) In the deregulated scenario, OMCs are free to introduce such schemes to satisfy the need of their customers.

[Translation]

#### **Increase in Capacity of Mathura Refinery**

587. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited has taken a decision to enhance the refining capacity of its Mathura Refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has accorded its approval;

(c) if so, the whether the increase in refining capacity of Mathura Refinery would cause further damage to Taj

Mahal and other historical monuments near the refinery; and

(d) if so, the norms fixed by the refinery for the protection of these monuments?

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

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

#### **Kerosene Agencies at Panchayat Level**

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

(a) whether the rural areas in the country are fully dependent on kerosene and its demand is not met; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to allot kerosene agencies at Panchayat level in order to resolve the said problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the Oil Marketing Companies have freedom to choose locations for setting up SKO-LDO dealerships in various parts of the country, including rural areas provided the locations meet certain norms like commercial viability and non-encroachment of the existing dealerships.

[English]

#### **Installed Capacity of ASEB**

589. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam State Electricity Board operates much below the installed capacity, despite the fact that per capita electricity consumption in Assam is the lowest and is less than one-third of the National Average;

(b) if so, the details of the installed capacity of ASEB and the level it operates;

(c) whether Assam Development Bank has approved assistance to boost the capacity of Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme to be financed therewith; and

(e) the steps taken so far to implement the same and the progress so far made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes Sir, the Plant Load Factor (PLF) of thermal power stations of Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB) is low. During April-Oct 03 the PLF of ASEB-GT stations was 31.5% as against the national average of 69.8%. The per capita consumption of electricity in Assam during 2001-02 was 99.42 kwh which is not the lowest as against the national average of 360.97 kwh.

(b) Details of monitored capacity, generation and PLF of ASEB during April-October, 2003 are as under:—

Sl. No.	Power Plant	Monitoring Capacity (MW)	Generation (MU) April-October, 2003			Plant Load Factor (%) April-October, 2003	
			Programme,	Actual,	% of Programme	Programme	Actual
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>State Sector</b>							
	Chandrapur*	60	0	0	0	0	0
	Namrup ST*	30	75	0	0	48.7	0
	Bongaigaon*	240	0	0	0	0	
	ASEB Thermal	330	75	0	0	4.4	0
	Namrup GT	81.5	167	180	107.8	39.9	43.0
	Namrup WHP	22	34	29	85.3	30.1	25.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Lakwa GT	120	210	187	89.0	34.1	30.3
	Mobile Gas T-G	21	0	0	0	0	0
	ASEB G.T.G.	244.5	411	396	96.4	32.7	31.5
<b>Private Sector</b>							
	DLF Pvt. Assam	24.5	102	63	61.8	-	-

\* The power plants are not in operation reportedly due to various reasons like Renovation & Modernization/refurbishment works, maintenance works etc.

(c) to (e) It is presumed that the question refers to Asian Development Bank and not Assam Development Bank. Asian Development Bank is providing Technical Assistance (TA) to Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC). The details are given in Statement enclosed.

#### **Statement**

#### **Technical Assistance for being provided by Asian Development Bank (ADB) Capacity Building of Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC)**

- Technical Assistance (TA) would be provided in two phases. In the first phase, training support with regard to various regulatory issues will be provided to working staff of the current AERC and Government of Assam officials involved in the power sector reform. The second phase will start after AERC is reconstituted under the reform Act.
- The objective of the TA is to assist AERC to develop its operational standards and procedures and build up its institutional capacity to handle regulatory matters effectively and efficiently so as to promote the power sector reform of the State of Assam.
- The total cost of the TA is estimated at \$ 625,000 equivalent, consisting of \$ 445,625 in foreign exchange and \$ 179,375 in local currency equivalent. ADB will finance the entire foreign exchange cost of \$ 445,625 and \$ 54,375 of the local currency cost, for a total of \$ 500,000. The TA will be financed by ADB on a grant basis. Government of Assam/AERC will finance the remaining local currency cost of \$ 125,000 in kind.

- The TA will be completed in about 20 months i.e. from February, 2003 to September, 2004.

#### **Retail Outlets of IOCL**

590. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:  
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

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

(a) the total number of retail outlets of IOCL in the country and abroad;

(b) whether a major share of the profit earned by IOCL is generated through its retail outlets in the country and abroad; and

(c) if so, the details of the total profit of IOCL alongwith the separate details of the income generated through its retail outlets during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited IOCL had 8,034 retail outlets in the country as on 31.3.2003. IOC has no retail outlets outside India on its own. However, IOC is carrying out retail operations in Sri Lanka through its subsidiary company, viz., M/s Lanka IOC Pvt. Ltd. (formed during 2002-03). 114 retail outlets are being operated in Sri Lanka by the subsidiary company.

(b) and (c) The total profits after tax earned by the IOC during the last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)	
Year	Profit earned
2000-01	2,720
2001-02	2,885
2002-03	6,115

The IOC has no system for arriving at the profit earned through retail outlets.

#### Omkareswar Hydro Power Project

591. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Omkareswar Hydro Power Project in Madhya Pradesh, indicating the rural and urban population likely to be covered under this project; and

(b) the targets fixed and the financial provision made therefore under the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Omkareshwar Project in Madhya Pradesh is a multi-purpose project with an overall installed capacity of 520 MW. The project was approved for implementation by the Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Limited (a Joint Venture of Government of Madhya Pradesh and the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd.) in May, 2003. The project will meet the power and irrigation requirements of Khandwa, Khargone and Dhar Districts of Madhya Pradesh. The project, which is scheduled for commissioning in February 2008, is presently under initial stages of construction. Under the Tenth Plan a financial provision of Rs. 214,268.49 lacs has been made for the project.

#### Rural Electrification Scheme in the Country

592. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:  
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for rural electrification scheme in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government provide funds to respective States for rural electrification;

(c) if so, the details of allocation of funds during the last three years to respective States;

(d) the unspent amount lying with the States till the end of October, 2003, State-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) All the villages are required to be electrified by the end of the 10th Plan. Details are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) In order to accelerated the process of rural electrification, Government provides funds to the states under various rural electrification programmes viz. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). In addition funds are also available to the States under Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme (AREP) at subsidized interest rates from the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for village electrification.

(c) Details of funds released to the States during the last three years are given in enclosed Statement-II & III respectively.

(d) and (e) Information being collected from the States.

#### *Statement I*

##### *Details of unelectrified Villages as on 31.3.2003*

Sl. No.	States/UT	Total No. of Villages as per 1991 census	Total villages electrified	No. of unelectrified villages
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2342	1307
3.	Assam	24685	19045	5640
4.	Bihar	38475	18026	20449
5.	Jharkhand	29336	6416	22920
6.	Goa	360	360	-
7.	Gujarat	18028	17940	-
8.	Haryana	6759	6759	-

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	16890	107
10.	J&K	6477	6295	182
11.	Karnataka	27066	26764	296
12.	Kerala	1384	1384	-
13.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	50344	1462
14.	Chhattisgarh	19720	18321	1399
15.	Maharashtra	40412	40351	-
16.	Manipur	2182	2004	178
17.	Meghalaya	5484	2730	2754
18.	Mizoram	698	691	7
19.	Nagaland	1216	1216	-
20.	Orissa	46989	37307	9682
21.	Punjab	12428	12428	-
22.	Rajasthan	37889	36906	983
23.	Sikkim	447	405	42
24.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	-
25.	Tripura	855	817	38
26.	Uttar Pradesh	97122	79080	18042*
27.	Uttaranchal	15681	12896	2785
28.	West Bengal	37910	30216	7694
Total (States)		586165	490320	95967

\*Does not include de-electrified villages

### Statement II

State-wise details of funds released under MNP during the last three years for Rural Electrified

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	961	961	1200

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	2652	2652	6000
4.	Bihar	3767	948	6800
5.	Jharkhand	-	2819	6800
6.	Goa	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	-	-	-
8.	Haryana	-	-	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	72	72	200
10.	J&K	77	77	-
11.	Karnataka	7	7	-
12.	Kerala	-	-	-
13.	Madhya Pradesh	549	263	800
14.	Chhattisgarh	-	286	800
15.	Maharashtra	-	-	-
16.	Manipur	131	131	270
17.	Meghalaya	1872	1872	3000
18.	Mizoram	16	16	-
19.	Nagaland	38	38	130
20.	Orissa	1133	1133	6000
21.	Punjab	-	-	-
22.	Rajasthan	507	507	-
23.	Sikkim	-	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-
25.	Tripura	14	14	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4547	3923	15000
27.	Uttaranchal	-	624	7000
28.	West Bengal	1157	1157	6000
29.	Delhi	-	-	-
Total (States)		17500	17500	60000



**Statement III**

*State-wise details of funds released under PMGY for the year 2001-02 and 2002-03 for Rural Electrification*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	2001-02	2002-03 (MMP)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1705.00	1705.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	684.00	684.00
3.	Assam	6011.00	3000.00
4.	Bihar	2457.90	2417.30
5.	Chhattisgarh	851.70	515.00
6.	Goa	4.50	6.00
7.	Gujarat	362.80	0
8.	Haryana	187.90	142.90
9.	Himachal Pradesh	100.00	110.00
10.	J&K	1922.00	800.00
11.	Jharkhand	379.60	1116.90
12.	Karnataka	841.00	1000.00
13.	Kerala	594.50	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1460.62	1275
15.	Maharashtra	1901.08	1664.00
16.	Manipur	600.00	600.00
17.	Meghalaya	600.00	600.00
18.	Mizoram	598.00	598.00
19.	Nagaland	452.60	650.00
20.	Orissa	1703.80	100.00
21.	Punjab	1488.25	444.00
22.	Rajasthan	1080.00	1061.00
23.	Sikkim	0.00	400.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	1173.60	1608.20
25.	Tripura	850.00	500.00

1	2	3	4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9417.00	10187.00
27.	Uttaranchal	976.75	2000.00
28.	West Bengal	2820.00	2774.00
Total		41223.60	35,958.30

**Retention of MIG-21 Aircrafts**

593. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Defence accompanied a Wing Commander who piloted a MIG fighter aircraft at Ambala base;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to retain all MIG-21 variants in the IAF; and

(d) if so, the exact stand of the Union Government in this regard?

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

(b) The sortie was flown in a MIG-21 trainer with Wing Commander N. Harish on 1st August, 2003.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) MIG-21 variants from the bulk of the fighter fleet in the Indian Air Force. These aircraft will be phased out once they complete their total technical life.

**Modification in LPG and Kerosene Subsidy Scheme**

594. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have announced major modifications in the domestic LPG (cooking gas) and kerosene subsidy scheme 2003;

(b) if so, whether under the new scheme, oil marketing companies will be allowed to recover one-third of the under-recoveries on sale of these two fuels;

(c) if so, the details of the new mechanism announced by the Government;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(e) to what extent it has been helpful and welcomed by all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) As per the Government decision on dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector, the Government subsidy on PDS kerosene and Domestic LPG is on flat rate basis and after accounting for the same, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) could vary the retail selling prices in line with the variations in the international prices of these products.

PDS kerosene and Domestic LPG are domestic fuels of mass consumption. Passing of higher international prices of these products in the domestic selling prices would have hurt the consumers. The matter was therefore re-examined and it was decided in the consumer interest that the OMCs will not increase the selling prices of these products during 2003-04 and the resultant under-recoveries of OMCs would be absorbed/shared amongst the oil companies.

As per the broad mechanism finalized for sharing of these under-recoveries amongst the oil PSUs, the OMCs would strive to make up for about one-third of the projected under-recoveries by cross-subsidisation through other retail products and the balance under-recoveries would be shared between the OMCs and the upstream companies (ONGC and GAIL).

#### **Draft Power Tariff Policy**

595. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a draft power tariff policy in consultation with the Crisil which is aimed at promotion of efficiency, introduction of competition, rationalization of electricity tariff and transparency in subsidy administration;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the draft policy has been sent to all State Government for their comments;

(c) if so, the time by which the final tariff policy is likely to be finalized; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to be beneficial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Section 3(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides inter alia the Central Government shall prepare the tariff policy in consultation with the State Government and the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). A preliminary discussion paper on tariff policy was prepared with the assistance of CEA and Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd. (CRISIL) and circulated to all the State Governments for their comments and suggestions.

(c) and (d) Since tariff policy is of vital importance for the smooth development of the power sector, the Government of India has constituted a Task Force on Power Sector Investment and Reforms under the Chairmanship of Shri N.K. Singh, Member (Energy), Planning Commission, with the terms of reference, inter alia, to recommend Electricity Tariff Policy and also to evolve and recommend a National Electricity Policy. Several meetings have been held with various stakeholders. The Task Force is yet to submit its report.

#### **Exclusion of Private Companies for Supply of LPG and Kerosene**

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

(a) whether the Government are considering exclusion of privately owned oil companies from subsidising supplies of LPG and Kerosene meant for weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government would come forward to make it mandatory for the oil industry, including private sector, to share its burden of supporting the weaker sections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) As per the Government decision on dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector, the Government subsidy on PDS kerosene and Domestic LPG is on flat rate basis and after accounting for the same, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) could vary the retail selling prices in

line with the variations in the international prices of these products.

PDS kerosene and Domestic LPG are domestic funds of mass consumption. Passing of higher international prices of these products in the domestic selling prices would have hurt the consumers. The matter was therefore re-examined and it was decided in the consumer interest that the OMCs will not increase the selling prices of these products during 2003-04 and the resultant under-recoveries of OMCs would be absorbed/shared amongst the oil companies.

As it is the Government decision to freeze the prices of PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG upto 31.3.2004, as such in a deregulated scenario, the burden on this account has to be shared/absorbed amongst the Government companies and the private companies are not being asked to share such burden.

#### **Pakistani and Bangladeshi National in Defence Forces**

597. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh have been recruited in the Defence Forces through various recruitment centers;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to recheck the antecedents of new recruits of defence forces in the past few years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Auxiliary T.V. Studios**

598. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned some Auxiliary T.V. Studios for Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the auxiliary T.V. Studios are proposed to be set up at those places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The schemes of TV Studios at Warangal in Andhra Pradesh and Dehradun in Uttaranchal (permanent set up) have been sanctioned.

(c) Installation of Studio at Warangal has been completed. Site for Studio centre at Dehradun is yet to be made available by the State Government. It would like about 3 years to set up the Studio centre, after the site becomes available.

#### **Private Sector participation in Railways**

599. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase private sector participation in Railways;

(b) if so, the areas in which private sector is allowed to work; and

(c) the new areas identified for private sector participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) Some identified non-core activities are already being executed by agencies other than Railways. Recently, activities like catering, tourism and telecommunication development with optic fibre cables have been corporatised through IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) & RAILTEL (Railtel Corporation of India Limited). Ministry of Railways is exploring possibilities of forging public-private partnerships in funding of rail infrastructure projects.

#### **Target Set up for Rural Electrification during Tenth Plan**

600. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified KBK districts and other districts in Orissa as on date; and

(b) the details thereof particularly the progress in rural electrification in Dhenkanal Parliamentary constituency comprising Dhenkanal, Angul Biramaharajapur and Athamalick?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Implementation of Hydro Electric Project in Rajasthan**

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

(a) the number of hydro-electric projects being implemented in the State of Rajasthan; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to complete the projects of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) There is no hydro-electric project of over 25 MW capacity being implemented in the State of Rajasthan at present. Projects below 25 MW capacity do not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Power.

The State is, however, allotted its share of power from the central hydro generating stations of the northern region in accordance with the extant norms for allocation of power from such generating stations.

12.00 hrs.

#### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy 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 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Earth movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003,

alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8075/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 907(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 2003 approving the scheme of division of the Punjab Wakf Board issued under sub-section(2) of section 102 of the Wakf Act, 1995.
- (2) A copy of the Government's view on the division of Punjab Wakf Board (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8076/2003]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): 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:—
  - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Railtel Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Railtel Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8077/2003]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Container Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Container Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8078/2003]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Ircon International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Ircon International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8079/2003]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8080/2003]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the RITES Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the RITES Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8081/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8082/2003]

- (3) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against Vacancies Reserved for them in Recruitment and Promotion Categories on the Railways for the year ending the 31st March, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8083/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Power, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8084/2003]

12.01 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

### Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth Report

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

12.01 1/2 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

### Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the 14th sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House held on 18 August, 2003.

12.02 hrs.

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Fifty-Sixth Report

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the fifty sixth report (Hindi and English versions) of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.03 hrs.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think the House agrees that the Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

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\*Treated as laid on the Table.

- (i) **Need to re-define Manjhi (Manjhwar) caste in view of its various sub-castes in Madhya Pradesh for inclusion in list of Scheduled Tribes.**

*[Translation]*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Sir, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has included Manjhi Caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes through a constitutional amendment. However the difficulty lies in identifying as to which sub castes be included in the Manjhi caste as the Manjhis are known also as Mallah, Dhiwar, Kehar, Kevat, Bhoi, Dhimar Turka and Keer etc. and at some other places the Manjhi caste included the sub castes Kashyap, Nishad, Raikewar, Batham etc. All these castes belong to a single community but are variously known in different regions of the state. The Union Government has been requested to explicitly define Majhi (Majhwar) community. The tribal Research and Training Institute of the state has defined Manjhi as the ferrymen and boatmen but this definition is not comprehensive and does not include all the sub castes of the Manjhi community.

Hence, the Government of India is requested that the sub castes of Manjhi like Dhhemar, Bhoi, Kahaar, Dhiwar, Mallah, Nawra, Turha, Kevat (Kashyap, Nishad, Raikewar, Batham), Keer, Britia, Vrita, Singhrah, Alari, Sendhia etc. which have been declared as socially and educationally backward class of Madhya Pradesh, be included in the Scheduled Caste category to provide them justice.

- (ii) **Need to Include Santhali and Bodo languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution**

*[English]*

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj): Santhali language should also be included in the VIII Schedule along with Bodo language during this winter session of Parliament since Santhali is the largest tribal language in India and is spoken in six States in India. Santhali is the leading language of Austro-Asiatic group of languages also. Though this language group is the most ancient in India, it is yet to get due recognition. The Central Government and the Parliament must do the needful for Santhali language.

- (iii) **Need to expedite construction of Rail Over-Bridge at Ghatkopar, Mumbai and other FOBs by Central Railways in Maharashtra**

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): The work of ROB at Ghatkopar, Mumbai is very slow. The work of three FOBs in Central Railway at Kanjur Marg, Ghatkopar and Govandi is also not progressing in spite of Budget announcement/support. As a result of this 5 lakh commuters are facing inconvenience. There is an urgent need to take immediate measures and additional efforts by the Ministry of Railways to expedite the work.

- (iv) **Need to provide adequate outlets for smooth drainage of water across the National Highway No. 8 at Hond Village in Navasari district, Gujarat**

*[Translation]*

SHRI MANSINH PATEL (Mandvi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the Budget session I had raised the issue that the village like Hond, Bhaslan, Chimla, Tejlav, Tlavchora and Chikhli etc. of district Navsari of my parliamentary constituency are submerged in flood water in Monsoon season as the level of the National highway No. 8 passing through the region has been raised by 7-8 feet. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highway had also formulated a scheme to construct a culvert to ensure the drainage of water as recommended by local officers of the department of Road Transport and Highways. The matter was even taken to the Court and even the Court had directed the administration to construct the culvert there. Even the local administration has proposed to construct a culvert to ensure the drainage of water but the Union Government is still to consider the matter.

Through the House I would request the Minister of Road Transport and Highways to look into the matter personally and also to review the performance of the officers of the region. Hence the culvert be immediately constructed for smooth drainage of water here.

- (v) **Need to sanction adequate funds for setting up hostels for the benefit of tribal girls in Gajapati district, Orissa**

*[English]*

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur-Orissa): There are five Blocks in Gajapati District of Orissa, which are part of the scheduled areas under the Constitution of India. The tribal people of this area are poor. Education among the tribals of this area is not satisfactory. Still more

deplorable is the education among tribal girls. A large number of tribal girls drop out of school when they reach the fifth standard. This is mainly due to lack of hostel facility for girls in the remote hilly areas.

There is necessity of upgrading Upper Primary Schools to M.E. Schools for imparting education up to class VII. Each upgraded School may have a tribal girls hostel so that they can get education up to the seventh standard.

The Government of India may sanction adequate funds under Article 275 of the Constitution of India for setting up of tribal girls hostels in Gajapati district of Orissa.

**(vi) Need to restore concessional tariff to rural landline telephone subscribers in Dakshina Kannada Telecom district**

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Landline subscribers have been the mainstay of Telecom Department's services but the Department has been neglecting landline subscribers in preference to cellular/WLL subscribers.

The Telecom Department has arbitrarily withdrawn the concessional tariff to many rural subscribers by converting their status as 'Urban' solely on the basis of 2001-Census figures. But the respective State Governments still consider these pockets as 'rural' and still retain them in the revenue records as 'rural' habitants. Many such rural exchanges, falling under Dakshina Kannada telecom district, hitherto enjoying 'rural' status and concessional rental tariff, have now been shifted to 'Urban' classification with urban slab to rentals. These subscribers are engaged in vocations like marginal farming, beedi rolling and other rural enterprises. I urge the Government to reconsider its decision and restore the 'rural' status for them.

I would also urge the Government to enhance the commission rate for PCO Booth operators, who are mostly from the weaker sections of the society as their families are solely dependent on the earnings of commission from PCO booth operations.

**(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Karnataka for establishing a Modern Training Institute and Research Centre for drivers at Hassan, Karnataka**

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan): There is a proposal to establish a Modern Training Institute and

Research Centre for Drivers at Hassan, Karnataka. The Transport Department of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (K.S.R.T.C.) has submitted the proposed project to the State Government. The total estimated expenditure is only Rs. 300 lakh. The Karnataka Government has already sent the proposal to the Centre on 30.9.2003.

This institute is expected to provide essential knowledge and driving skills to make the drivers efficient and encourage safe driving in the interest of road safety.

KSRTC owns 92 acres of land at Hassan for this purpose. All other infrastructural facilities are also available for establishing this research centre.

At present, the transport system in Karnataka, particularly in cities like Bangalore, Mysore, Hubli and other cities is in a mess. Everyday accidents are taking place, especially on the national highways. Hence, there is an urgent need to establish such a research centre in Hassan. I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and National Highways to release the required fund of Rs. 300 lakhs immediately for the purpose.

**(viii) Need to expedite setting up of a LPT Maintenance Centre at Adoor, Kerala**

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): The Prasar Bharati Corporation had decided to start a LPT maintenance centre at Adoor in Kerala. This proposal was included in the Annual Plan of the Ministry. The LPG centres at Adoor, Kayamkulam, Chengannur Pathanamthitta, Punalur and Kottarrakkara are being maintained from the Tirunelveli centre. Tirunelveli maintenance centre is far away from these places. Non-availability of maintenance staff in these LPG centres is causing serious problems. Tirunelveli maintenance centre is not able to look after all these centres. The Adoor LPT maintenance centre is, therefore, very essential. The Prasar Bharati Corporation has been stating that at there is insufficient staff for running LPT maintenance centre at Adoor.

The setting up of LPT maintenance centre at Adoor is a long pending demand of the people of Adoor. I have given many representations to the Prasar Bharati Corporation as well as the Information and Broadcasting Ministry in this regard but no action seems to have been taken by the Government.

I, therefore, request the Information and Broadcasting Minister through the Hon'ble Speaker to start the proposed LPT maintenance centre at Adoor at the earliest.

- (ix) **Need to open a single window facility in Kerala for attestation of educational certificates of candidates seeking jobs in Gulf countries**

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): The UAE Government has made it mandatory that all educational certificates, professional or academic, emanating from India must be attested by their Embassy in New Delhi provided the certificates were also attested first by the HRD Ministry and Consular Section of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Nearly half of more than three million Indians working in various Gulf countries are from Kerala. Since this exercise of attestation is the preliminary step towards applying or renewing an employment visa in UAE, the most affected by this law are the applicants from Kerala.

I request the Government of India to take necessary steps to establish a single window facility for the attestation of the certificates in Kerala itself integrating the notarial functions of the HRD Ministry, External Affairs Ministry and the UAE Embassy. The UAE Embassy is attuned with the suggestions to open up a single window facility for attestation in Kerala.

- (x) **Need to provide additional grants to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to meet the goal of 'Education for All' by 2006**

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kumool): I inform this august House that the State of Andhra Pradesh has achieved the literacy rate of 61.11 per cent. During the last decade, the percentage of literacy has increased by 14 per cent. The 21st century will need a redefinition of national priorities, as literacy and human resources of high quality alone can ensure sustainable growth and development. To make the plan work, allocations have been stepped up by 10 per cent; 1.6 lakh teachers have been trained; distance education through TV and other electronic media including internet is being taken up and incentives are being given to girl students. Further 19 lakh children have been enrolled in schools while 60 lakh adults have been made functionally literate. The Andhra Pradesh Government is taking all steps to educate everyone in the State by 2006, ahead of the national target of 2010. While the State Government is spending Rs. 4000 crore annually, it needs Rs. 5000 crore additionally to meet the goal of Education for All by 2006.

I humbly urge upon the Prime Minister to share the financial burden of the State by extending additional grants to make this dream come true in the field of education.

- (xi) **Need to run Kaifiat Express from Mau Junction in U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mr. Speaker, Sir through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the 'Kaifiat Express' running between Ajamgarh-Delhi. Even before the introduction of this train, hon. Minister and hon. Prime Minister had been requested several times through the House that the said train be started from Mau junction that is only 40 kilometers away from Ajamgarh. Every day an average of 100 tickets for Delhi and other places are booked from the Mau junction for the said train. Once this train is started from Mau, the passengers of the neighbouring districts like Balia, Gajipur etc. could also avail the facility of travelling by this train. Mau city is a world renowned sari manufacturing and business centre and all the facilities for running train are available there and most of the work related to trains are done at Mau junction even though the train starts from Ajamgarh.

Hence it is requested that the Government should ensure the running of the Kaifiat Express from Mau junction.

- (xii) **Need to enhance the rates of royalty on non-coal major minerals**

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): The revision of rates on royalty of non-coal major minerals has yet been effected though the statutory requirements of three years is complete since 12th September, 2003. The Government has been intimated that the Study Group on revision of major minerals has already completed its deliberation and has submitted its report. Now, it is for the Government to consider it and take action on it. But, the expected notification amending the Second Schedule for revision of rates royalty is yet to be issued.

In the meanwhile, prices of some of the minerals, particularly iron ore have increased manifold. While such an increase in the price is benefiting the iron ore miners, Orissa exchequer is denied the benefit because the existing royalty structure is not based on *ad valorem* basis.

As the State of Orissa is facing serious resource crunch, an additional revenue is urgently required to augment the State's resources to ameliorate the present situation. I urge upon the Government to take prompt



action for upward revision of the rates of royalty on non-coal major minerals at the earliest.

**(xiii) Need to introduce a new route linking Ladakh with Mt. Kailash and Mansarovar by negotiating with the Chinese authorities**

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): I seek to draw the attention of the House that it is heartening to know that in the recent discussions between our Prime Minister and the Chinese Prime Minister, the question of starting a new route to Mt. Kailash and Mt. Mansarovar from Ladakh came up. This proposal will considerably reduce the risk of travel and will also cut short the time involved drastically. The Government of India should take these negotiations with the Chinese authorities seriously to sort out the matter.

**(xiv) Need to rationalize telephone rentals for rural and urban areas in the country**

SMT. NIVEDITA MANE (Ichalkaranji): Sir, at present telephone rentals are calculated for urban area on the basis of equipped capacity of entire taluka and for urban area, individual exchange capacity is considered. Usually rural exchange is having 360 capacity. If number of connections exceeds 360, then 1K capacity is to be installed. Thus, as soon as capacity becomes 1K, the rentals jump from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 bimonthly. Thus by mere addition of 100 or more customers, the entire rural customers are penalized through higher rent. Despite all infrastructure remaining same, rentals are increased only on the basis of capacity addition. When cost of electronic switch is on a decreasing trend, the rental should not be associated with exchange capacity as well as entire taluka capacity.

Similarly, rental for urban area will depend on entire Tehsil capacity. If total Tehsil capacity exceeds 1,00,000 the rentals jump from Rs. 360 to Rs. 500 in urban area. Thus, mere addition of one exchange in remote part of the Tehsil will have effect on urban rentals. Thus, the co-relation of rentals with Tehsil capacity is not justified on any ground.

Sir, I therefore, request the Union Government that rentals may be fixed based upon urban and rural areas and it should not be linked up with either exchange capacity or total capacity of Tehsil.

**(xv) Need to improve the service conditions of the employees of Regional Rural Banks**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards

the conditions of the employees including officers of the 196 Regional Rural Banks functioning in different States.

The Regional Rural Banks have been working for the rural poor for more than 27 years. There has been no business linked manpower planning in such banks, so far. There has been no recruitment for nearly thirteen years and there have been almost no promotions for staff since the very inception of the Banks. It may be noted that the Supreme Court has directed the Government to ensure parity of wage structure on par with public sector banks. Yet, staff of rural banks are to get the parity of pension benefit though it is a part of the wage settlement in the Banking industry.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to kindly intervene in the matter and take appropriate decision at the earliest.

\_\_\_\_\_  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am going to take up the notices of Motion for Adjournment. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as yesterday I had raised an issue relating to plight of Biharis in Assam, I would like to know your ruling in this regard as to when discussion on this issue would be held in the House? Integrity of the nation is in danger, therefore, I would like to know when discussion on it would be held in the House?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: In view of the seriousness of the issue raised by you yesterday in the House, it has been decided in the BAC that it would be discussed tomorrow in the House. I have convened meeting of all the leaders at 10 a.m. tomorrow to decide as to in which manner the discussion should be held and what sort of atmosphere should be maintained in the House during the discussion. This issue would be taken up in the House seriously.

...(Interruptions)

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Delkar, you had also raised an important issue yesterday about collapse of a bridge in Daman. I have gone through the matter. I am going to take up the issue in the next meeting of the Business Advisory Committee in order to allow you to discuss the issue in some form or the other during the next week.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli): Sir, I had requested that it should be taken up under Rule 193....*(Interruptions)* It is an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what we are trying to do.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government have relaxed criteria for procurement of paddy but so far this relaxation relating to procurement of paddy has not been extended to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Lakhs of farmers in Uttar Pradesh are perplexed...*(Interruptions)*

12.05 hrs.

## OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

### **Re: Notices of Motion for Adjournment**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: There is a notice of Motion for Adjournment on a serious matter. We are taking up this notice for discussion because 44 Members of the hon. House have given it to me. The subject, in general, is: "Alleged involvement of some Ministers seeking favours from PSU Chiefs and involvement of a former Union Minister in bribery case."

In some different words yesterday, a similar notice was also given to me, and I had announced the name of Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak on this issue.

Please remember that though there are 44 Members who have given notices, I am not going to allow each and every Member. A few Members will be allowed to make their observations and thereafter I will give my ruling on the issue and further business will be taken up thereafter.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, various newspapers have reported that Central Vigilance Commissioner Shri Shivshanker met hon. Prime Minister and stated that six Cabinet Ministers are extorting money from public sector undertakings. As per statement of Prime Minister published by newspapers CVC had not discussed names of Ministers with him.

Sir, it is a very serious issue and if said Ministers who are all in all of PSUs under them put pressure on undertakings for extortion of money naturally comes under suspicion.

This Government is deeply involved in corruption. Every day one or the other charges of involvement in corruption are levelled against it. As per the official press release, Central Vigilance Commissioner had met hon. Prime Minister. Therefore, my submission is that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should investigate the matter relating to extortion of money from PSUs.

Second most important issue, although meeting of Business Advisory Committee was convened, yesterday and Prime Minister would give statement on this, is concerning video tape wherein Shri Dilip Singh Judev has been shown taking bribe from an Australian firm for leasing of a mine in Orissa. As per NDTV, there is no doubt that Shri Dilip Singh Judev had accepted taking of money and it was also stated that he accepted money to prevent religious conversion. He compared himself with Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Shaheed Bhagat Singh and said that they too took money. It is a very serious matter.

People in this Government encourage corruption as they are involved in it. The Cabinet is collectively responsible. My charge is that this Government are extorting money from public sector undertakings. In view of the policy, intention and functioning of the Government I would like to request you that discussion on my Adjournment Motion should be held immediately.

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker Sir, this Lok Sabha has a very rich tradition, irrespective of party's power in the Treasury Benches, to oblige the constitutional provisions in terms of the accountability of the Council of Ministers in this House.

Mr. Speaker Sir, our sacred Constitution is very clear in article 75(3) that the Council of Ministers shall be

collectively responsible to the House of the People, that is, Lok Sabha'. The special privilege is only to Lok Sabha and not to the other House because we are elected directly by the people. Sir, when the Leader of the House, the Prime Minister, inducts a Minister in his Cabinet, in this House on the first day of the Session, he takes the opportunity to introduce his colleagues, who have been in his Council of Ministers and who have been recently inducted in the Council of Ministers. This tradition is in link with this accountability part.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not here to discuss the merit of an issue. I would like to touch a few points only. An Adjournment Motion should not be dealt, should not be placed and should not be given through the notice in a very casual fashion or on casual matters. The two very important things have been reported and reported widely to the national media, reported widely to the national Television, commented upon by various Heads of the Government, various Heads of the Departments, including the Cabinet Secretary.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the public sector, whose budgetary support is granted by this Parliament, whose expenditure is scrutinised by the CAG, the Departmental Minister of that public sector—I do not say that the looks into the everyday ninty-gritty—is accountable to Lok Sabha...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is talking about CVC...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I did not use the word 'CVC'...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Malhotra ji, would you not listen to even Das Munsiji?... (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has become nervous. The public has given its verdict today and it has become clear today...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You know that Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is capable enough to defend himself.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): The public has given its verdict in this regard...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why all of you are standing please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: CVC did not mention name of PSUs and Dasmunsi has also publically declared that he did not name any person...(Interruptions) He has not told about any public undertaking...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to hear him before I make up my mind on the Adjournment Motion notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They are repeatedly talking about it....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotraji, you have told what you had wanted to say. Now you sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Chandrakant Khaire ji, I am telling that the name of CVC has not been mentioned...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): He has mentioned the name...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Chandrakant Khaire Ji, please sit down.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this country there is a standard pattern from this side or that side that whenever anything of a serious nature involving the Government comes in the newspaper—whether Shri Madhu Limaye was in this side, Shri Atal

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Bihari Vajpayee and Shrimati Indira Gandhi were on that side—they bring it to the notice of the Government first and then try to bring it to the Lok Sabha in a proper manner. I am not here with a motion against a particular Minister, naming a particular Minister and I am only reporting two things as to why I felt proper that this adjournment motion should be admitted, and nothing beyond that. The adjournment motion is very clear. In the adjournment motion, you have to report the recent occurrence.

Rule 58 says:

"The right to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance shall be subject to the following restrictions, namely:—

- (i) not more than one such motion shall be made at the same sitting;
- (ii) not more than one matter shall be discussed on the same motion;
- (iii) the motion shall be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence...."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are all respectable. It is not good for any Member of this House to make any unfounded allegation against any individual Member of the House or a Minister or even against any authority of the office be it CVC or C&AG. I am not going to touch that. What I am trying to bring to the notice of the Speaker is, as per article 75(3) of the Constitution, about the accountability of the Government as Council of Ministers to the Lok Sabha.

I know that there are public sector undertakings which are not budgeted by the Parliament like ONGC and on their own they can run. I know that there are public sector undertakings whose budgetary support is granted by this Parliament, be it coal, be it steel or anything.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I again repeat that I am not mentioning the name of any Minister. I am only saying that in response to a letter by the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the hon. Prime Minister was very nice to reply to her letter and I quote:

"In fact, the CVC apprised me of certain initiatives taken by the Vigilance Commission during the past one year. In addition he made a number of suggestions to make the public sector perform with due autonomy and efficiency and also to hold it

accountable for maximising returns to stakeholders. ..."

Concluding the letter, the Prime Minister says:

"I directed the Cabinet Secretary to hold a meeting of the Committee of Secretaries to discuss the points raised by the CVC. The first meeting of the Committee has taken place on 14th November, 2003."

Now, what I want to say is that the apprehension in the minds of many including the media was centered around what exactly transpired between the public sector and the CVC.

Since the Prime Minister himself has acknowledged that after such meeting, he directed the Cabinet Secretary to hold immediate meeting, it becomes more concerned to understand what actually transpired between the CVC Report on the Public Sector, what transpired in the meeting of the Committee of Secretaries and what actually was the Prime Minister's direction.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I have a point of order.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, did I say anything irrelevant, anything wrong and anything pernicious? Did I violate any rule? I do not understand this.

MR. SPEAKER: You are aware that I can say on this after I hear him.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the rule is 56. It is written:

"Subject to the provisions of these rules, a motion for an adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance."

He says he does not know what transpired between the CVC and the Prime Minister. So, is it a definite matter of public importance? That is the exact thing that I am raising. He himself does not know. It is a matter of just conjecture. So, how can he say that he is raising a definite matter for the Adjournment Motion? That is my point.

MR. SPEAKER: He is still arguing his case. Let me listen to him.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in regard to the other issue, I cannot say whether he is right or wrong

till it is substantiated. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this Lok Sabha the day I have started sitting in this Bench, I always meticulously study what Shri Jyotirmoy Basu spoke, what Shri Somnath Chatterjee spoke and what Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee spoke; how they planned and how they articulated and I found that they always fix a Minister if his conduct is not above question.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Minister in the Council of Ministers is shown to the entire television network that he is accepting money and no less than the Leader of the House, on his arrival to India, gave the first reaction to the media, "If I find something wrong, then I will take action." The Hindi words are "Agar kuch Galti Milegi to Hum karvayi Karenge." Immediately after two hours, he asked him to resign. But he did not explain till today why he had asked him to resign and what were the reasons behind it. I know he can be reinstated in any manner. That is the style of this Government. That is different. But a Minister in the Council of Ministers is shown in public to take money. He had to resign and the resignation was accepted. In spite of the different statement of the President of the ruling Party, the Leader of the House, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee supported the legacy of the parliamentary democracy and the morality. The reasons are not known to the House. Therefore, I think these two incidents are definitely a matter of public importance. Not only that, but it is also a matter linked with article 74(3) about the accountability of the Council of Ministers to this House.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I strongly feel that these Adjournment Motions should be considered. The Government should have the courage to explain that why no less than the Prime Minister had asked the Minister to resign, what happened there and also regarding the Report and minutes of the Committee of Secretaries' meeting. The Government should also explain that under what circumstances, the Prime Minister had no other option but to advise the Cabinet Secretary to go into the details of the allegations of the CVC in regard to the interference into the internal autonomy of the Public Sector Undertakings. If the interference is to check the corruption, we will welcome the Ministers. If the interference is for certain other benefits, they have to answer to the House. Therefore, to demand this motion is not wrong and not contrary to the tradition of the Parliament and this House. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I plead, with all humility, that both the conduct of Shri Dulip Singh Judev, the subsequent decision of the Prime Minister to accept his resignation and the matter referred by Shri Ramji Lal Suman on the Public Sector Undertakings deserve total merit. Both are matters of recent occurrence and urgent

public importance because public exchequer is misused in the Public Sector Undertakings.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly admit these two motions moved by both Shri Ramji Lal Suman and by me as Adjournment Motions. It is up to you to give whatever priority you feel and we shall abide by your ruling.

But, Mr. Speaker, Sir, if corruption of this nature is compromised at every level and that too at the behest of the Council of Ministers, then what is the point of our being in Parliament? Therefore, it cannot be compromised. It should be taken up immediately and the Government should come forward with their clear statement. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, our demand to the President of India is that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should sit, examine the correspondence between the CVC and the Public Sector Undertakings and the reports and minutes of the Committee of Secretaries and then it will give the final version in the form of report to the Parliament. We do not mind if you can fix it as time-bound after the debate. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I stood here on behalf of our Party to plead that you kindly admit these Adjournment Motions.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the issues are concerned, they have been mentioned. What is the urgency?...*(Interruptions)* I am happy that my friends are not involved in this. But a Minister of a Government does not give voluntary resignation. It was not a voluntary resignation that he tendered. He was asked by the Prime Minister of the country to tender his resignation and the PM accepted it forthwith. I do not know whether it is an ordinary event in this Government. It is surely not an ordinary event. Even this Government will not accept that. The question is: what was the nexus or the proximate cause? The proximate cause is what appeared on television, news channels and what subsequently transpired both in the electronic media and in the print media. He is supposed to have said, 'Yes if I take money for social causes, what is wrong?' Money is needed to run the Party. Now the question is: do you do it stealthily in a hotel room over some energising drink? I do not know, but that is the position here.

What troubles many of us—I am sure, Sir you are also troubled—is that probity in the administration has become the biggest victim. That is a big question mark and scam after scam we are getting evidences and

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

materials. Therefore, how do we maintain probity in the administration? If the Opposition does not see, at least alert enough, which Shri Ram Naik used to do in the Opposition, to expose that and hold the Government responsible for it, then we are not discharging our duty to the people of this country. A Minister was forced to resign. What is the most unseemly spectacle thereafter it took place that this hon. ex-Minister is chaperoning the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister who are extolling his virtues and he is being projected as the victim of some circumstances. If the Prime Minister knew he was a victim of something, then why did he ask him to resign and why did he accept his resignation?

The hon. Prime Minister was here on the first day. He was here yesterday also. Till today no explanation has come on this matter. He will make a statement afterwards. Certainly he has gone for important duties, but two days have elapsed.

The other issue is also of great importance. Sir, undoubtedly the CVC has made comments about the functioning of the Central Public Sector Undertakings. He has expressed his concern about the interference with the autonomy of these Corporations. Now, as it is, the CPSUs are under great strain. One after another has become sick or is becoming sick or is being sold away irrespective of the objection of the concerned Minister. This is happening. These are, according to us, great assets of this country. Autonomy has to be given to them for their functioning. The CVC considers this from vigilance angle. Sir, it is not a mere sort of study of their performance. The CVC looks into these matters from vigilance angle, from the angle of impropriety, financial misdemeanours. Now, he chooses to make a report which goes to the Prime Minister even. The Prime Minister, as rightly pointed out by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, calls the Secretary, talks to him and makes reference that due autonomy of the CPSUs has to be maintained.

The CVC feels disturbed and the Prime Minister feels disturbed. Therefore the Prime Minister immediately asks the Cabinet Secretary or a Group of Secretaries to look into it.

Shall we not ask these matters to be immediately taken up for discussion? Will it depend on somebody's *ipse dixit* when he would find time, when he would file a report and with whom he would file a report?

We have the great honour and responsibility to represent the people of this country. Naturally, today, people are suffering. Every day, they are coming to us. One after another company or one after another public sector undertaking is facing problems. Even today, an institution like the IDBI is gasping for breath. Yesterday, the people from the Indian Telephone Industries came to us. They say, it seems they could not be saved and so they request us to see that they get the VRS. This is the agony of the working people in this country; not a single public sector undertaking is allowed to function properly. Either they are being sold away for a song or are being made victims of so-called globalisation, which we have adopted with open hands; or, they are being subjected to all sorts of financial irregularities, to put it very mildly. It is the bounden duty of us in the House to take up this matter and as soon as the House has reopened we have taken up this matter. I implore you that these are matters which should not be kept under the carpet. These have to be exposed. If the Government has a good answer, they would give an answer. What is the difficulty in that? The country would know if the Government does not want to stonewall. We have been strengthened more in our belief and in our conviction that there are many things that they want to hide. Therefore, I earnestly appeal to you to kindly accept this notice for an Adjournment Motion so that we can discharge our duties properly...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want many hon. Members to speak on this issue. Two or three hon. Members have already spoken.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): I wish to say that a lot of discussion has taken place here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for Adjournment Motion...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

I should be allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: All Members have given the notice of Adjournment Motion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: 44 Members have given notice for Adjournment Motion. I will not allow all of them and that is also not the practice in the House. It is not possible for me to give permission to notices of Adjournment Motions of all the Members. The two-three Members who have risen to speak may put their points for two minutes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Basu Deb Achariaji, you need not speak as your leader has already spoken.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I have a new point...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The three Members who have risen would speak for two minutes each.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj):...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no such subject.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Please don't do injustice....(Interruptions) Beg your pardon but the Chairman of CVC has himself said this on Television. And the Chair is holding discussion on that...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: All this would be expunged from the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Please give me chance to speak for one minute...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdasji, please sit down. Today we are holding serious discussion on this subject. So how can I give you permission to speak?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: This would be non serious....(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Two incidents which have been mentioned in the House are very serious in nature. Elections in four states were being held and the kind of CDs shown on different T.V. channels during this period would have been surely condemned by the ruling party if there were no elections in some States. As the elections

were there, so these people had to defend that mistake too...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: They did not let the House run to discuss the 'Taj Corridor issue'....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: They are not referring the 'Telgi issue' to the CBI. All persons including the Chief Minister would go to jail...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: At that time these people were supporting us in that issue too...(Interruptions) It has been shown in the CD that money is not god. But it is not even less than god people who talk high about the culture of India are doing such acts. The kind of things shown in that CD and the kind of support given in it to the culture of India is really very shameful...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: These facts should be revealed...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, I have given you only two minutes.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, I would speak, if they would let me do so. And after this I would reply to his point too. The mention made by CVC regarding the six Ministers has been published in the daily Hindustan Times dated 11th November.

[English]

\*The Cabinet Secretariat on Monday clarified that Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) P. Shankar had not named any minister in his letter to Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The letter reportedly refers to the pressures on senior executives of public sector undertakings (PSUs)

[Translation]

It has been admitted that the PSU's Chiefs are being pressurised. CVC has only said that he has not mentioned the names of Ministers on 11th November when CVC was asked.

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

[English]

Whether he had raised the issue of PSUs Chiefs complaining against Ministers, Shankar replied. "There are certain things one cannot say one way or another."

[Translation]

What else proof do we need that the CBI filed an Affidavit in the High Court against an ex-Minister of Social Welfare, which states that major irregularities have been committed. Besides this, it has been published on the front page of Indian Express that a person Mr. Dubey has been murdered only because he had made a complaint to the Prime Minister against the Transport Ministry and so far as the 'Taj Corridor issue' is concerned...(Interruptions) I would finish within a minute please.

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji please let him speak and complete his point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: So far as the 'Taj Corridor issue' is concerned, the entire Central Government was involved in it, but no action has been taken against any Minister. In this connection, the assets of Mayawatiji, are being identified...(Interruptions) The CBI are trying to find out her wealth from even her dustbins...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, action is being taken against her family Members. I also urge that action should be taken in regard to assets of all the Ministers...(Interruptions) The assets of each Member should be identified...(Interruptions) The CBI cannot take any action only against Mayawatiji's parents. These are double standards that the CBI inquiry is being conducted despite watching the CDs. No enquiry is needed in this regard. I urge that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be constituted which may enquire into the entire matter.

[English]

Sir, I request you to admit the Adjournment Motion.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, a serious situation has arisen in the country when one of the Union Ministers, Dilip Singh Judeo, was caught on camera while

he was engaged in receiving money from the agent of an Australian Company in order to lease out mines in Chhattisgarh and Orissa. It is an astonishing matter. He has defended himself and compared his misdeeds with the Father of the Nation, late Mahatma Gandhi. He told in the media that Mahatma Gandhi took money from the Birla Company for the cause of freedom movement. He was asked by the hon. Prime Minister to submit his resignation. He has submitted his resignation.

We do not know what are the reasons behind it. Not only that, but it appears from the media that the CVC has made a complaint before the hon. Prime Minister that at least six members of his Cabinet were constantly creating pressure upon the executives of the PSUs to extract favouritism from the PSUs. It is a serious matter. The entire country is anxiously waiting for the discussion by the Parliament. It is an issue of serious and urgent nature and of public importance. A joint parliamentary committee should be constituted to ascertain the facts.

It is a fit case to be admitted for discussion. I humbly submit that it is a matter of urgent nature and of public importance and you will be kind enough to admit the Motion and suspend the other work and allow a discussion on this. Thank you...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Though my name is there, yet as I was not present at that time, therefore, I may also be given a minute's time.

MR. SPEAKER: I would give you a chance after him.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion. Just now hon. Members raised that issue and urged you to accept the motion. As it is specific one, therefore, it is of public importance. We are observing that hon. Prime Minister is protecting corrupt persons. One of Ministers referred to Gandhiji and Bhagat Singh etc. and admitted that he took money for bringing Hindus converted in Christianity back into Hinduism. thus action should be taken against him, whereas the Government are doing just opposite to it and it is being investigated by CBI as to who videoed a Minister taking money. And the Government feel that there is no need of an enquiry against a person who has been witnessed by the whole world while taking money.



Similarly, a newspaper has published names of six Ministers, CVC has stated that it has not named any Minister though it had referred to the Department. Everyone of us is aware as to which department is under which Minister and they are extorting money from PSUs. Today, 'The Times of India', has carried out a news item alongwith the photograph of a Minister showing the Minister taking one lakh rupees for clearing proposal. Such an atmosphere prevails in the country and there is none in the Cabinet who does not take bribe. Loot is rampant everywhere and bribery is ruling the roast. Satyendra Dubey, an Officer with National Highway Authority of India wrote to the Prime Minister alleging corruption in project and requested for keeping his identity secret. But, his identity was disclosed and consequently he was murdered. Thus corruption has overpowered everything and there is not a single Minister in the Cabinet who is not taking bribe. Corruption is rampant everywhere in the country. I charge the Prime Minister of protecting corrupt persons and encouraging corruption. The House should agree on this Adjournment Motion and it should be passed. The persons giving the slogan of rooting out corruption are involved in loot. It seems Minister resigning from the Cabinet would be re-inducted. Therefore, my submission is that the Adjournment Motion should be passed and the country saved from onslaught of corruption.

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, two incidents of corruption have come to notice. One is about a former Minister Shri Dilip Singh Judeo. Millions of people have seen the Minister taking money for handing over the mining lease in Chhattisgarh and Orissa. Another is about the CVC report on PSUs. Almost all the newspapers have carried out this report. One Director of a PSU has made a statement that he was asked to pay an amount of Rs. one crore for his extention.

Sir, these are very serious matters. The resignation is not sufficient. Up till now, that former Minister has not been interrogated by CBI and the charge-sheet has also not been filed against him. The Government owes an explanation to this House. This is a fit case for an Adjournment Motion.

Sir, I demand that you may kindly admit the Adjournment Motion which has been tabled by us.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHI MA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, two issues have come up from the views expressed by Members of Opposition pleading for admissibility of Adjournment Motion. One is resignation of a former Minister and CVC's Report. So far as the issue of resignation of former Minister is concerned, hon. Prime Minister is ready to make a statement on behalf of the Government. But, as we are aware, he is going to attend CHOGAM's meeting and he would be back by 7th only. Accordingly to his convenience, we can fix 8th or 9th for his statement. So far as CVC Report is concerned, I hope you have listened to my colleagues. You had informed yesterday that you have asked for a detailed note from Cabinet Secretary and then you may decide whether Adjournment Motion should be admitted or not and accordingly you may fix any date. We are ready for it. Hon. Somnathji had demanded a reply from the Government and the Government are ready. The Government have nothing to hide. He has stated that if the Government are not ready for discussion, it would mean they have something to hide. I would like to say that we have nothing to hide. In fact, we would like to make our stand clear on the charges levelled against the Government by the Opposition parties, then only the dust would settle. Though it has been settled by the public itself today, yet, we would like it to be settled in the House also. And, it would be settled only when we listen to them, and clarify their doubts. We want to avail this opportunity and we are ready to hold the discussion under whichever rule you want. We are ready to face it.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have gone through different Adjournment Motions, which were.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, I want to say something to you.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Normally, Members are not permitted to speak on this issue. Do you want to say something other than this?

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, as election results are being declared today, so every body's attention is diverted towards that. Therefore, if you feel you may adjourn the House today.

MR. SPEAKER : If the House agrees, I have no objection.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad): People are dying of train accidents in my constituency. I had given a notice also to this effect.

MR. SPEAKER: You raise it tomorrow in Zero-Hour. You cannot raise to here.

[English]

I will permit you tomorrow.

Hon. Members, I have heard the Members who argued in favour of Adjournment Motion. I have also heard the reply given by the hon. Minister. I have listened to both the sides. I must place it on record that matters which are discussed here are of serious nature. As agreed in the Business Advisory Committee, about the former Minister's case of alleged bribery, as said in the notice, the hon. Prime Minister will be making a statement and thereafter, on his statement, the debate can take place after Monday. It was also discussed in the Business Advisory Committee that the Members might be allowed to put up their cases and arguments for making this subject a matter for Adjournment Motion.

Some important issues were raised and in the meantime, as Shrimati Sushma Swaraj said, I had referred the matter for getting factual information from the concerned authority, the Department of Personnel and Training. I have received the reply and I have gone through the reply. It is absolutely necessary to refer to this reply also, while giving the ruling.

The Constitutional matters were also raised here along with references to the rules regarding the

Adjournment Motions. I have to go in detail on all these aspects. Therefore, I would be giving my ruling on the notice of Adjournment Motion in Judeo bribery case after the hon. Prime Minister gives his reply. In the case of allegations made against six Ministers, I will be giving my ruling tomorrow. Therefore, the matter is postponed till tomorrow for my ruling.

A suggestion has been made by one hon. Member that the House may be adjourned because a number of Members want to go home to listen to the election results on TV, which are being declared today.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, I can accept that suggestion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This matter was also decided in the Business Advisory Committee meeting. Hence, I am inclined to adjourn the House provided the time, which will be lost today, would be compensated later during this Session. This matter will also be decided in the Business Advisory Committee meeting.

12.47 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 5, 2003/ Agraayana 14, 1925 (Saka)*

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