

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, February 18, 2003/Magha 29, 1924 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

WELCOME TO PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC PARLIAMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at the outset I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of this House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency, Mr. Apostolos Kaklamanis, President of the Hellenic Parliament who is on a visit to India as our honoured guest.

He arrived in India on Sunday, the 16th February, 2003. He is now seated in the Special Box. We wish him a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through him we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of Greece.

11.03 hrs.

[Translation]

RE: SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR ON AYODHYA ISSUE

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of Adjournment Motion. Ayodhya issue is a very serious. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, please say what you want to say. Only one hon'ble Member should speak, others should sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (DARBHANGA): Question

Hour will be followed by Zero Hour. Hon'ble Member can speak then. Otherwise we should also get an opportunity. I have also given Notice under rule 193. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given Notice of Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we also should be given opportunity to express our views. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: I also would like to speak on the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji had risen before you, that is why I have permitted him to speak. I want to listen to his views.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like the House to function properly, but the ruling side is not ready for that. What can I do? We want the House to function properly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to hear what Mulayam Singh ji has to say. I have allowed him to speak prior to Question Hour because I want to listen to his views regarding the suspension of Question Hour. You can also speak later.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given notice of Adjournment Motion and I request you to accept the adjournment motion and allow discussion on Ayodhya issue by postponing all items on today's list of Business. Country is facing a serious problem today. On the one hand there is internal disturbance and on the other hand our borders are not secure. Our enemy give training to the terrorists and incites them to attack our Parliament, Legislative Assemblies and Akshardham temple. Even Red Fort is not safe. It is a serious challenge before the country. We are also reeling under the economic crisis. Economic development of the entire country is at a stand still. The harvest of farmer is being looted, there is starvation and farmers are compelled to commit suicide. ...*(Interruptions)* What I mean to say is that this Government has proved to be a failure. ...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to speak. I am telling you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received twenty

notices of Adjournment Motion regarding the Ayodhya issue - which Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is trying to raise here - from the following Members:

1. Shri Vilas Muttemwar
2. Shri G.M. Banatwalla
3. Shri Ajoy Chakraborty
4. Shri Ramji Lal Suman
5. Shri Lakshman Seth
6. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh
7. Shri Tufani Saroj
8. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav
9. Shri Ravi Prakash Verma
10. Shrimati Sushila Saroj
11. Shri Ram Murti Singh Verma
12. Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel
13. Shri Rupchand Pal
14. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
15. Shri G.M. Banatwalla
16. Shri E. Ahamed
17. Shri Basu Deb Acharia
18. Shri Bir Singh Mahato
19. Shri Ramdas Athawale and
20. Shri Sunil Khan.

These are the notices which I have received on the Ayodhya issue.

I have also received five notices on the drought situation in the country from the following Members.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (THANE): They are very important.

MR. SPEAKER: For me every notice is important.

The notices are from the following Members:

1. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni

2. Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary
3. Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal
4. Shri Shankersinh Vaghela and
5. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi

In addition to these, I have also received a notice from the hon. Member Shri H.D. Deve Gowda. He has tabled a notice of Adjournment Motion regarding the plight of the sugarcane growers. Shri Ramji Lal Suman has tabled a notice of Adjournment Motion regarding the alleged misuse of POT A.

These are the various notices which I have received. There are so many notices which I have received. More number of notices has been received by me from a number of hon. Members.

I have also received a notice on the suspension of Question Hour. This is always a priority. I have received the suspension of Question Hour notice from Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri Rupchand Pal. I have to listen to both these hon. Members as to why they are asking for the suspension of Question Hour. Before that, since the issue of Ayodhya is an important issue, I have permitted Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice of Adjournment Motion on this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Since the notices of Adjournment Motion on the Ayodhya issue have been received by me and since the number is very large, I have permitted Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to speak. My only request would be that Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav should speak for a very few minutes. I will also allow the ruling party Members to speak on this issue. Let it be decided by the House itself whether they want to suspend the Question Hour and take up the issue. Therefore, first, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav will make his observation for a few minutes. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, this is not a debate that we started.

[Translation]

We have not started discussion on it. I just want to listen to your views as to why are you asking for Adjournment Motion and the suspension of Question Hour?

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (FAIZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have allowed discussion. Therefore, I would not like to comment on your ruling. I only have to say that the issue of Ayodhya has been mentioned in hon'ble President's Address then this issue can be comprehensively discussed during the debate on motion of thanks on President's Address. Therefore it would be more appropriate that the issue be discussed at that time and the Question Hour should not be suspended. I request you to fix another time for discussion on this issue. We can discuss the issue by sitting late. Otherwise such notices and suspension of Question Hour will become a practice and it would be done often. Therefore, my submission is that Question Hour be allowed to continue and another time should be fixed for discussion on Ayodhya issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have listened to your views. I have no objection to it, if the House agrees. I have allowed them to speak only because I wanted to hear their views as to why they are asking for suspension of Question Hour. Please listen to their views.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I was saying that the country is facing danger to its security, economic crisis, drought, Ayodhya issue and the Government have failed to solve even one of the problems. Government have failed on all fronts. It has led to worsening of economy and security of the country. When the Government fails to solve such serious issues, they bring Ayodhya issue.

What will be the consequence of Ayodhya issue. When the issue was pending for decision in Allahabad High Court, Supreme Court gave an order in 1994 and declared entire land as disputed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious issue and I would like to read from that order. As per your instruction, I would be very brief. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Sir, people are dying in Bihar. Kidnappings are taking place. ...*(Interruptions)* Fake encounters are taking place. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, I have to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per your instructions, I will take very small time. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to read out from the written text - the opinion of former Chief Justice J.S. Verma on Ayodhya issue - he said that he is giving clarification of his decision

given in 1994, since it is always misinterpreted and given wrong twist. As reported by news agency 'Vaarta', Justice Verma said. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also to say something in relation to Justice Verma. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Shri Katiyar seems to be very much troubled. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: I don't have any problem. I only said that I may also be allowed to speak on the issue. He is quoting Justice Verma, so I also have to say something. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir we should also be given an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please listen to me seriously. Hon. Justice Vermaji said that I am breaking my silence in national interest as a few persons are wrongly interpreting the facts mentioned in the decision.

Justice Verma said that the Government cannot give any part of land acquired in Ayodhya to anyone. The entire acquired land is in the possession of the Union Government and cannot be handed over to anyone until decision is taken on the concerned litigation. He categorically said that entire land under the control of Union Government is disputed land. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, please speak when discussion is held on this subject.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to say only this much that former Chief Justice Shri J.S. Verma has given a decision. He has said that he is speaking only in the interest of the country. This decision is in the country's interest, but they are interpreting it wrongly. ...*(Interruptions)* what is going to be the result of all this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Please listen to us also after his statement otherwise a wrong message would go to the entire nation.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give an opportunity to your party Member after the speech of Mulayam Singhji.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Katiyar ji is not letting me to speak. Sir, I would like to submit that the submission of hon. Chief Justice is that he is forced to speak in the interest of the country. They are spoiling environment in the country. They have said that the entire land is disputed. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to ask as to why did

the Government make such claim in the Supreme Court that the said land may be given to some institution. You will come to know the facts only after going through this newspaper. It has been clearly mentioned that this is neither related to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, nor to any other organisation. And despite that, they want to create dispute. BJP would try to fully take political advantage with such a move and would try to satisfy the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. I have full faith in the hon. Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)* The Union Government are trying to wage civil war in the country merely to stay in power.

It is a very serious issue. And that is why we wish to say that the Government may immediately withdraw it. The Government should concentrate on other serious problems prevailing in the country. The opposition has always cooperated with the Government in all serious problems. No Government in the past have ever been given such a support by the Opposition in serious problems of the country as the present Government are getting. But despite all this, the present Government are proving to be worthless. Sometimes they incite the feelings of the people and hurt them. The BJP is trying to take political advantage by making a conspiracy to wage civil war in the country by the introduction of such laws. ...*(Interruptions)* This is a matter of serious concern faced by the country. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Chair to suspend the proceedings of the House and take up my Adjournment Motion. I would submit as to how can we keep quiet when the former Chief Justice of the country is speaking in the interest by the nation. The entire House holds responsibility in this. I do not want to say that I have raised any political issue, but an issue which is in the interest of the country and I wish that the entire House may consider it seriously, and that is why, I wish. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: He has wrongly quoted Justice J.S. Verma and that is why I wish to speak in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can understand my problem, I will grant you permission after the speech of Shri Somnath Chatterjee. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to put my point in just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: How can he speak when he has not given any notice? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I said that he has given notice, that is why I have given him permission to speak first.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: On the Ayodhya issue, I would

say that I am myself a notice as I belong to that area. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Vinay Katiyar ji has given notice with regard to many issues, he has given a notice to speak on POTA also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please I have to conduct the House. Kindly cooperate with me.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I could not put my point. I request that discussion should be held on the said issue today itself, by suspending the proceedings of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: I also wish to say something with regard to hon. Justice Verma in half a minute. Hon. Somnath Chatterjee is a senior Member, I do not want to interrupt him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Kindly seek his permission. What have I to do in this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: It is giving a wrong message in the entire country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to grant you permission but for the time being you sit down please. I have given permission to Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: What would you speak if Somnath ji doesn't speak?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have not given this notice of Adjournment Motion without proper thinking and consideration. ...*(Interruptions)* Patriotism is not their monopoly. They are trying to divide this country. We are trying to keep the country united. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know from Shri Yerrannaidu. I would like to know from Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. I would like to know from those who are talking of secularism how they have surrendered to these forces of disruption. ...*(Interruptions)*

Why do they not pull up and tell their colleagues? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: People raising slogans 'Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai' favour China. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paranjpe, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has just now started. Please listen to Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Friends, you are all aware that I have permitted Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I had given permission to Somnath Chatterjee.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Some people have made a conspiracy not to listen to it.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): They want to ruin the country and disintegrate it. They are enemies of humanity and the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The issue was important and, therefore, I thought that a few leaders of respective parties can explain to me why they wanted the Question Hour to be suspended and, therefore, I have permitted them to speak. I would request all the Members to listen to them and I would also allow the ruling Members to speak. It is not that the entire nation should go to listen to only one side of the entire issue. So, Shri Malhotra will be allowed to speak after Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Listen to them, Sir, I have no objection, naturally. Somehow or the other, they are in majority, whatever combination they may be in.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it necessary that we let him interrupt every now and then? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why we are concerned is because suddenly we find that this application has been made by the Government to the Supreme Court. What for? What is the urgency? The Government has not taken anybody into confidence. The Opposition Parties are deliberately ignored on such important issues. When they get things out of control, they try to call the Opposition and have a sort of a discussion, just pretence of discussion. Sir, it is too proximate to the *Dharma Samellan* which is going to be held on the 22nd of February. Is it connected with that? What was the reason that prompted the Government to apply for this? It is because they want to change the *status quo*, for which the Supreme Court has already passed the Order. Have the heavens fallen that today the whole thing has to be disturbed? The case is pending. The 1994 judgement is clear. Justice Verma has clarified what was the clear intention of the Supreme Court when they passed the 1994 Order. Now they are trying to create a situation whereby on the plea of undisputed land, they will make it over to the VHP which has taken the monopoly interests of the Hindus. Who has appointed them, Only they know. Therefore, this is not an ordinary matter. This is not just an application before the Supreme Court. It is a diabolical move to disturb the position there and allow obscurantism and fundamentalism in this country. They want to take the benefit by communising the whole issue. These people are worse than toothless tigers. Somebody has made you toothless tigers. Why do you not use your mind? ... (Interruptions) Therefore, this is not a routine matter. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please let him complete.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Our party will abide by the Court verdict. TDP is a secular party.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (ADILABAD): We, shall abide by the Supreme Court verdict. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the hon. Rashtrapati ji has said yesterday. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let him complete.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, after he has completed, please allow me to speak. This is my request.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the hon. Rashtrapati

ji has been kind enough to observe yesterday that the matter should be decided by the Judiciary. Now, what they say is, well, it is urgent to get a decision by the Judiciary. Obviously, the intention is to have the main matter decided, which is pending before the appropriate Court and in spite of that, without waiting for the decision on the main matter how can the *status quo* be attempted to be disturbed? Sir, we strongly oppose this. This is a diabolical move to divide the country on the basis of religion. ...*(Interruptions)* They think that Gujarat will be repeated everywhere. I think that was a shameful chapter of our history that over the dead bodies of hundreds and hundreds of people a political party tried to take the advantage. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, we say that it is a very important matter. It is not a routine matter. Therefore, we want it to be immediately discussed on an Adjournment Motion. I think that you will accept it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Malhotra before you start, let me make one thing clear.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not take more time than what has been taken by Shri Mulayam Singh and Shri Somnath Chatterjee. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not the question of time.

[English]

I only want to say that an important issue was there and I have permitted the Members even going out of the way to speak. I thought that the ruling party also must express its stand. There is no doubt that you will get the same time as they have been given. My only request is that since almost half an hour of the Question Hour has been taken, I want to go to the Question Hour as early as possible.

...*(Interruptions)*

Therefore, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra will make his stand clear on the issue. After that, one Congress party leader will speak and then we will go to the Question Hour.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the issue of Ayodhya has been raised so the Member from Ayodhya should be permitted to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will also be given chance to speak.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Let me speak first.

MR. SPEAKER: No, Malhotra ji will speak first.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was only a small question before you whether the 'Question Hour' should be suspended or not. He should have given argument in favour of suspension of Question Hour. However contrary to this he raised the question of merit.

[English]

Heavens were not going to fall.

[Translation]

if the discussion is held on this issue after one hour. I would like that the discussion should be held on Ayodhya issue. I would like to apprise him of how wrong is the view point of the Congress Party, Communist Party and Shri Mulayam Singh on Ayodhya issue. Preventing the construction of Ram temple even on non-disputed land on the pretext of Supreme Court's Verdict is a treachery against the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The entire land is disputed. The statement of Malhotraji is absolutely incorrect. ...*(Interruptions)* He is deliberately misguiding the House. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: They want to murder the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader has expressed his views. Now he has every right to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

Akhilesh ji you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year an all party meeting was held at Prime Minister's residence. All political parties had unanimously submitted that the court should give its judgment in this regard as early as possible. There was consensus in this regard. If the court is being requested to give early decision in this regard then why this question is being raised here. Can there be anything more immoral than this?

[English]

Can there be something?

[Translation]

There cannot be anything more immoral than raising objections against our act that has been decided by all. ...*(Interruptions)* I am aware that it is the issue of Ayodhya, however, I would like to know as to how long dynastic rule will prevail in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Please ask him as to what is going on in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat. You may speak from your seat.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: POTA is being misused there. ...*(Interruptions)* Raja Bhaiya was arrested. His old father was arrested. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please speak from your seat, you may not speak from this place.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: He is inciting communalism in Uttar Pradesh. He wants to consign entire Uttar Pradesh to blood shed and riot. ...*(Interruptions)* If the situation in Uttar Pradesh does not improve then there will be direct conflict. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Shri Somnath Chatterjee has discussed about law and Order situation in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: He is not concerned about the country. POTA is being misused in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. You are standing without any purpose.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): What is he saying in relation to the matter raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. ...*(Interruptions)* On what subject is he speaking. ...*(Interruptions)* The question is whether the 'Question Hour' should be suspended or not but what is he speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdas ji nobody has levelled any allegation against you so you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incidents of gang rape are happening in West Bengal and I have given you notice regarding this. Children and women aged five to fifty years are being raped. I would like to request you to allow us to raise such issues in the House to hold discussions on Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is an absolute deviation from the main subject. It has nothing to do with Ayodhya. Shri Malhotra ji has been told to speak on Ayodhya issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Business Advisory Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please let Shri Malhotra speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Shri Somnath Chatterjee's and Shri Mulayam Singh ji's speech was listened to with rapt attention. But why do you not want to listen to other leader's speeches. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is your prerogative to give permission or not for raising the matter. However, Shri Somnath ji should reply as to why the Chief Minister of his State was sitting at the time of singing of national anthem. ...*(Interruptions)* All the people including officers were standing at the time of playing of national anthem, but he was sitting. Can any Chief Minister dishonour the national anthem? ...*(Interruptions)* He should give reply in this regard while raising his issue over here. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to submit that amicable solution of Ayodhya issue is in the interest of both Hindus and Muslims, but they want to create unrest in the country. They want to linger on the Ayodhya issue, so that communal disharmony may continue in the country and their vote bank remain intact even at the cost of lives of people. ...*(Interruptions)* We want that Ayodhya issue should be resolved and harmony is established between both the communities. Therefore, please take a decision in this regard without suspending the Question Hour.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN): He cannot be allowed to criticise. Why should you allow him?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Shivraj Patil. You may please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, the Question Hour can be suspended to discuss the most important issues faced by the country. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Kirti Jha Azad ji, why are you interrupting again and again.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Sir, is he a patriot. You should at least ask him. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I repeat that the Question Hour has been suspended in the past to discuss the most important issues faced by the country. There is no important issue than this issue which divides the country itself. If the Government is going to the court, making an application, seeking the permission to return the land which is acquired by the Government, Government is becoming a party to the dividing tendencies in the country. *...(Interruptions)* This kind of issue should be discussed on the floor of the House even by suspending the Question Hour. We thought that the drought is important, we thought that this issue is important, we thought that Iraq issue is important and other issues are also important. If the Government is not taking steps which can unite the country but taking the steps in a manner which can divide the country, these kind of issues should be discussed even by suspending the Question Hour. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion on Ayodhya is being held. Won't you listen to representative of the people from Ayodhya. Grave injustice is being done. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me make some observation.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You should at least listen to me.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my matter is most important and I am not being allowed to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want me to make any observation, what else do you want?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please let me make some observation. I hope you will co-operate with me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Before you make your observation, please listen to us. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are all aware that I have no desire to stop any Member from speaking. If you want the issue to be discussed right now, I have no objection.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. There should be some discipline followed for conducting the business of the House.

[Translation]

Akhileshji, I am tolerating you for very long. This is not the way. Banatwallaji, please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me first and then you make your observation. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The ruling party has no objection. They have made it quite clear.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You should at least listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too have given a notice. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Ramji Lal Sumanji, this is not the right way. If you won't let the Chair to speak, then how will the House be conducted?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me make the observation. Let me make it clear that in the last Session, we conducted the business very well. That was appreciated not only by the Media but by the people of this country also. This time also, I want every issue to be discussed in this House.

Fortunately, the ruling party has no objection for discussing all the issues, including Ayodhya issue. We are meeting at 1 o'clock in the Business Advisory Committee. In the Business Advisory Committee, all the important issues which include Ayodhya, drought situation, Bihar situation, POTA, and the other issue which Shri Deve Gowda has raised will be taken up. Let me assure the House that I will see that all the issues are discussed in this Session. There is absolutely no doubt that we are here for a discussion. Therefore those Members who may not be getting a chance to speak now, will be getting a chance to speak later. If you want to discuss Ayodhya today itself, at 2 o'clock, we can start the discussion on Ayodhya. The ruling party has no objection, nor the Chair has any objection. I personally feel that it is necessary that sensitive issues like Ayodhya must be discussed as early as possible. Therefore, I am going to permit those issues for discussion. If the hon. Members feel that drought issue is more important, let them discuss drought issue today, and tomorrow we can take up the Ayodhya issue. This will be discussed in the Business Advisory Committee. In the meantime, my request to the entire House is this, Half of the time of the Question Hour has been taken, and I am not in a position to suspend the Question Hour for any discussion. Therefore, I have disallowed the notices of Adjournment which have been given to us. But for discussion, there is absolutely no difficulty. All the issues can be discussed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me complete my statement. Therefore, I would request the hon. Members to cooperate. At 1 o'clock, there is a Business Advisory Committee meeting.

We can take up the issue today itself and discuss it. They can be taken up here.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Those hon. Members who are in the Business Advisory Committee have spoken, and those who are not in the Business Advisory Committee have not been allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not true. It is not mandatory that the Members of the Business Advisory Committee should only be given a chance to speak. Do not make any wrong statement here. It is not a correct statement. Therefore, now, I have no alternative, except to go to the Question Hour. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You can give personal explanation.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not asked for my permission. I have permitted him now. Please sit down. He belongs to your party. When your party leader stands, you have to sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Shri Somnath Chatterjee mentioned my name as well as that of Shri Yerrannaidu.

MR. SPEAKER: I will definitely grant you permission to speak at the time of discussion on this topic.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is not appropriate. My name has been mentioned. Therefore I should also be granted opportunity to give clarification.

MR. SPEAKER: You did not seek permission to speak at the time when your name was referred to. Now, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: During the discussion, I will permit you.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has taken my name, and my party's name. I want to make it clear on the floor the House that my party is a secular party. We are extending support to the NDA Government basing on the Common Minimum Programme.

So, if the Government, the religious leaders, the political parties fail to resolve the issue, then we have to abide by the court ruling. That is why the TDP has faith on the Apex court. We have to follow the court verdict. Every political party should abide by the court verdict. Whatever direction is given by the court, we have to follow it.

We are facing infiltration problem. We have to combat terrorism. We have to discuss all those major issues.

11.39 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Rural Employment Generation Schemes

*1. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have implemented Rural Employment Generation Schemes in the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof together with the details of the persons benefited thereunder, Scheme-wise;
- (c) whether the Government propose to keep the said schemes operational during the Tenth Plan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The two major programmes i.e. the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) are implemented to generate employment in rural areas.

The SGRY is implemented to provide Wage Employment as well as food security to the poor in the rural areas through the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) whereas the SGSY is implemented to provide Self-Employment by providing income generating sustainable assets through credit-cum-subsidy

scheme to enable the poor to cross the poverty line. Under the SGRY 5229.78 lakh mandays were generated during 2001-2002 and 4113.12 lakh mandays were generated during 2002-2003 (upto December 2002). Under the SGSY, 9.38 lakh Swarozgaries have been assisted during 2001-2002 and 3.70 lakh Swarozgaries have been assisted during 2002-2003 (upto December 2002).

There is no proposal to discontinue these Schemes during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is admitted in the reply that mandays generated under SGRY in 2002-2003 was less compared to 2001-2002. Under SGSY, the number of Swarozgaries who had been assisted in 2002-2003 was much less, compared to 2001-2002. These figures are in paper but the ground reality is that it is much less. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has made any ground level assessment for the ongoing employment generated schemes and, if so what are the results? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yadav, you did not ask for permission to speak at that time.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour has begun. I will give you opportunity to speak at the time of discussion.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, hon'ble Somnath ji, has taken my name. So I want to give clarification in that regard.

MR. SPEAKER: You will get opportunity.

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Sir, the Central Government is spending about Rs. 20,000 crore per annum through various centrally-sponsored schemes.

[Translation]

In spite of spending so much money on these schemes, the desired development has not taken place. Planning Commission too has made a mention about it in its report.

[English]

SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Sir, the question that has been asked by the hon. Member relates to the schemes of employment generation. The two major schemes, particularly the SGRY and SGSY are implemented by the Central Government to generate employment in rural areas for the poor. Accordingly, the hon. Member was stating that there is less performance during the year 2002-03.

Now, I will read the figures of 2001-02 for the information of the hon. Member. Even though the cash component from the Central Government was Rs.3,789 crore as a Central share and the foodgrains component was to the extent of 34.52 lakh tonnes, the employment generation was almost 5229 lakh mandays. The figure of 2002-03 that the hon. Member is referring to is up to December 2002 and not up to March 2003. Naturally, the figure for the three months for which we are yet to get the information from all the States is not aggregated in these figures. Therefore, whatever figures that have been given, that is, Rs. 2,937 crore in cash and 31.46 lakh tonnes of foodgrains, are not less as the employment generation during that year up to December end is 4,113 lakh mandays. Therefore, I feel that the information is still to be sought from the States.

The second part of the question relates to the report from the Planning Commission and its observation stating that the performance is not very good. I would like to say that we are spending a lot of money on various programmes of rural employment. So, it is not true that the Performance is not good. If you see the whole picture of various programme of rural development for the employment generation, there are a lot of achievements in both SGRY and SGSY, particularly, as I have told you about SGRY. In SGSY also, you will find that there are more than 12,12,000 self-help groups having almost 9.38 lakh swarozgaries. Therefore, it is quite enough..

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Patil, you can be as brief as possible.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATÔ: My second supplementary relates to the CAG report, which observed some irregularities regarding diversion of funds, delay in release of funds by the State government and misuse of funds by the executing agencies in the employment generation scheme. I would like to know what is the reaction of the Government on the observation of the CAG report.

Secondly, recently, they have reconstituted the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees in the States at the district level under the Chairmanship of a Member of Parliament. I would

like to know what are the powers, functions and role of these Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.

SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Sir, the first question is regarding diversion of funds. There are some examples in some of the States that they have definitely diverted the funds from these programmes and used them somewhere else. With regard to misutilisation of funds, whatever complaints that we receive directly from the States are under scrutiny. Also, they have already been informed to check and see how best they can make use of these and set right these cases.

Regarding the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees, as he has said very rightly, we have given the guidelines to all the members and Chairmen of the Committees. Therefore, I think, as per the guideline, those Committee members have every right to see how best these programmes of rural development are implemented, particularly from the stage of planning to accounting. Therefore, every stage has to be scrutinised and observed by all the members of the Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Prof. Dukha Bhagat.

He is not here.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to put a question to the hon. Minister regarding the Chairman of the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way you can ask the question. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record of what he says.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you to ask a question. You cannot ask a question unless I permit you.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many tonnes of foodgrains were provided free of cost to Tamil Nadu under SGRY scheme since 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrain amounting to Rs.5,000 crore will be provided every year free of cost to the State. Out of Rs.5,000 crore meant to meet the cash component of wages and material costs, how much fund was allocated to Tamil Nadu and how many persons were benefited under this scheme?

My second question is that under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, (SGSY) scheme, they said that there were 9.38 lakh beneficiaries. But how many officials involved in the implementation of the Scheme from Tamil Nadu have been provided training? Even though Tamil Nadu is one of the drought-affected States, why Food-for-Work Programme was not fully operated in Tamil Nadu?

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Regarding the allocation of funds under various programmes for Tamil Nadu, I have a detailed statement programme-wise. Therefore, I cannot release the total allocation programme-wise. If the hon. Member desires, I would certainly pass on the details of each and every funding of each programme because I know that there is a big statement that has to be made and it is a fact that it will take time.

However, regarding the Food-for-Work Programme, Tamil Nadu was given its enough quota of almost one lakh tonnes as per the demand per month. Therefore, according to their demand, whatever they have demanded was supplied to them.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: The State Government has not implemented the guideline regarding the State Vigilance and Monitoring Committee, which was forwarded by the hon. Minister of Rural Development. I want to know whether the State Government is rejecting the Union Ministry's guideline or not. This should be enlightened before the House. It is a very important question to us. Let the Minister come forward to reply. This has not been replied.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, hon'ble Member has raised a basic question. The Union Government has silenced everyone by constituting a committee. The State Government officials are not convening even a single meeting. When this is the situation, the Government should either withdraw the circular or get it implemented. This situation should be remedied. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This is the situation prevailing in all the States. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He will take a note of it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The hon. Members

have raised an important issue. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, before you put your question. I would like the Minister to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am asking the Minister to reply.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, same is happening in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very important question. Now I ask the hon'ble Minister to reply in this regard.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Sir, on the appointment of the Monitoring and Vigilance Committees, there is a mixed reaction in every State.

Actually, this was also discussed during the Conference of the State Ministers on the 27th and 28th January at Delhi. Every Minister, who was present there, representing the State, agreed that this should be followed, but somehow we have got a reaction from eight States that they are not honouring our circulars or guidelines or orders. ...*(Interruptions)* However, it is not only that some of the States have welcomed this idea but we have also received many good reports from these Committees, the appointment of which was desired by hon. Members of Parliament for the last four or five years. ...*(Interruptions)* Actually, this was a debatable question and I was one of the hon. Members to ask for this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the funds allocated for drought relief are not being utilised by the States and same condition is prevailing in Uttar Pradesh too. ...*(Interruptions)* This is the question of dignity of the House. You are our custodian. You should direct the Union Government in this regard.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Mr. Minister, I would like to know which are the States that have not honoured your circular.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can again write to those States which are not honouring the instructions.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Sir, that is what I was saying. I am going to write to all of them again. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, do you not want to ask a question?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: They are not allowing me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They belong to your party only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have instructed the Minister. Now, please keep quiet.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked him to write to those States again.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was the need of the hour to constitute these Committees because, as it has been rightly pointed out by some hon. Members, Central funds have been misused by diversion of those funds by various State Governments.

Ironically, the Central leadership and hon. Members of Parliament have never had a say in deciding where these funds have to be allocated and what are the priority areas. So, on that issue, I am really grateful that the hon. Minister has, in his wisdom, decided to constitute these Committees. However, we now need to know what powers does the Central Government have to ensure that the State Governments would fall in line and see that these are complied with. We do not want to be rudderless and toothless rubber stamps in these Committees. We want to know what are the powers of our recommendations once we bring it to the notice of the Central Government that these are the shortcomings or shortfalls in rural development funding because of which funds are being misused. We want to know what the Central Government would do about it. This has to be spelt out. We know very well what happens with the local bureaucracy. The same thing is happening with the Indira Awas Yojana, where hon. Members of Parliament have no authority due to some antiquated committee report and the State Governments have allocated funds under the Indira Awas Yojana happily to their MLAs. So, I want a specific clarification.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Sir, as far as the powers are concerned, we have circulated the guidelines to every

member of these Committees as well as to the State Governments. In the guidelines it has been mentioned that the members and the Chairmen of these Committees have every power to have a total monitoring and vigilance role in every rural development programme. Therefore, in case certain States are not honouring our instructions, we shall certainly write to them and make these the most efficient Committees for monitoring and vigilance and to look after all these programmes.

Illegal Immigration

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*2. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal immigration and overstay of Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals in the country has been continuing unabated;

(b) if so, the number of foreign nationals particularly Pakistani and Bangladeshi who have overstayed in the country after the expiry of their travel documents at the end of 2002, State-wise and country-wise;

(c) the number of foreigners who are untraceable as on date, country-wise;

(d) whether the Government have recently announced restrictions on the visit of Pakistani nationals in the country;

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

(f) the number of foreign nationals deported to their countries during each of the last three years till date, country-wise; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check the illegal influx from Pakistan and Bangladesh and also to identify and deport them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There are reports of large scale illegal influx of Bangladeshi nationals who manage to infiltrate into the country inspite of checks and controls at the international border due to the long, open and porous nature of the border. A large number of Bangladeshi as well as Pakistani nationals are reported to be overstaying in the country.

(b) The details are given in the Annexure-I enclosed pertaining to the year 2001.

(c) Only Pakistani nationals are reported to be untraced and their number is reported to be 2321 as on 31.10.2002.

(d) and (e) A system of pre-verification of Pak visa applicants has been introduced with effect from January, 2002.

(f) The details are given in the Annexure-II enclosed.

(g) The problem of illegal influx is mainly from Bangladesh. To curb illegal influx into the country, several measures have been taken by the Government which include strengthening of BSF and equipping them with modern and sophisticated equipment/gadgets; raising of additional battalions of BSF; reduction of gaps between border outposts; intensification of patrolling; accelerated programme of construction of border roads and border fencing; provision of surveillance equipment, etc. The powers under Sec 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in India unauthorisedly have been entrusted to the State Governments and UT Administrations. Besides administrative instructions are also issued to them from time to time to launch special drives to detect the Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals staying illegally in the country for their immediate deportation.

Annexure-I*Country-wise details of Foreigners Overstaying in India in 2001*

Afghanistan	10158
Algeria	9
Angola	3
Argentina	9
Armenia	2
Australia	336

Austria	133
Azerbaijan	1
Beharian	8
Bangladesh	24443
Barbados	0
Belarus	33
Belgium	96
Belize	1
Bolibia	0
Bosnia & Herzegovina	1
Botswana	0
Brazil	34
Brunei	1
British Overseas Citizen	1
Bulgalia	7
Cambodia	8
Cameroon	0
Canada	894
Chad	0
Chile	5
China	198
China (Taiwan)	16
Colombia	5
Congo	1
Costrica	0
Croatia	9
Cuba	6
Cyprus	0
Czech	167

Denmark	157	Italy	230
Djibouti	0	Ivory Coast	0
Dominican Rep.	0	Japan	282
Ecuador	0	Jordan	64
Egypt	25	Kazakhstan	20
El-Salvador	0	Kenya	277
Eritrea	6	Korea (North) DPR	0
Estonia	2	Korea (South)	418
Ethopia	114	Kuwait	1
Fiji	25	Kyrghyzstan	16
Finland	120	Laos	3
France	369	Latvia	2
Gambia	0	Lebanon	9
Georgia	3	Lesotho	1
Germany	779	Liberia	0
Ghana	19	Libya	2
Greece	17	Lithuania	1
Gunea	2	Luxemberg	2
Gunea Bissau	0	Malagasy (Madagascar)	0
Guyana	4	Malawi	4
Haiti	3	Malaysia	879
Hong Kong	4	Maldives	89
Hungary	22	Malta	4
Iceland	0	Mauritius	488
Indonesia	142	Mexico	19
Iran	172	Moldova	1
Iraq	30	Mongolia	30
Ireland	53	Morocco	2
Israel	174	Mozambique	2

Myanmar	285	Slovak Rep.	4
Namibia	2	Slovenia	5
Netherlands	387	Somalia	109
New Zealand	84	South Africa	37
Nicaragua	0	Spain	46
Nigeria	148	Sri Lanka	620
Norway	32	Stateless	33
Oman	15	Stateless Malaysia	5
Others	7	Stateless Tibet	266
Pakistan	6748	Stateless Singapore	2
Palestine	4	Sudan	120
Panama	1	Surinam	0
Papua New Guinea	0	Swaziland	3
Paraguay	0	Sweden	80
Peru	5	Switzerland	42
Philippines	64	Syria	33
Poland	30	Tajikistan	9
Portugal	22	Tanzania	76
Qatar	5	Thailand	350
Romania	17	Tongo (Togo)	1
Russia	378	Trinidad & Tobago	11
Rwanda	2	Tunisia	2
Samoa (West) Togolese	0	Turkey	30
Saudi Arabia	12	Turkmenistan	1
Senegal	1	USA	1102
Seychelles	29	Uganda	149
Sierra Leone	1	Ukraine	31
Singapore	347	UAE	7
Singapore Stateless	0	UK	1388

Uruguay	0
Uzbekistan	17
Venezuela	4
Vietnam	160
Yemen	77
Yugoslavia	20
Zaire	8
Zambia	12
Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)	12
Total	55171

*State-wise details of Foreigners Overstaying
in India in 2001*

Andhra Pradesh	33
Assam	18
Bihar	18
Chandigarh	47
Chhattisgarh	15
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
Daman & Diu	0
Delhi	19304
Goa	1
Gujarat	532
Haryana	388
Himachal Pradesh	2
Jammu & Kashmir	0
Karnataka	121
Kerala	193
Madhya Pradesh	381
Maharashtra	572
Meghalaya	0

Orissa	72
Pondicherry	1
Punjab	517
Rajasthan	4231
Tamil Nadu	3628
Tripura	420
Uttar Pradesh	454
Uttaranchal	1
West Bengal	24222
Total	55171

Annexure-II

*Country-wise details of Foreigners deported during
the year 1999 to 2001*

Country	1999	2000	2001
1	2	3	4
Afghanistan	25	15	9
Austria	1	0	0
Beharain	0	0	1
Bangladesh	14079	6040	7854
Belarus	3	3	8
Cameroon	0	0	2
China	1	3	1
Congo	0	0	1
Denmark	0	1	0
Eritrea	0	1	0
Germany	0	3	1
Indonesia	20	1	146
Iran	6	10	6
Jordan	1	0	0
Kenya	9	6	11

1	2	3	4
Liberia	0	0	1
Malaysia	0	0	1
Mali	1	0	0
Myanmar (Burma)	386	240	446
Nambia	1	0	0
Netherlands	2	0	0
Nigeria	4	11	20
Norway	0	1	0
Others	0	1	0
Pakistan	195	108	490
Palestine	0	1	1
Portugal	1	0	1
Russia	0	3	1
Saudi Arabia	0	0	2
Somalia	0	0	2
Sri Lanka	9	40	22
Stateless	0	1	0
Stateless Tibet	10	6	8
Sudan	1	0	3
Switzerland	1	0	0
Tanzania	0	3	2
Turkey	0	1	0
Thailand	50	0	28
Ukraine	1	1	1
Uganda	0	1	0
UK	0	1	1
USA	0	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	6	0
Zaire	0	1	0
Total	14807	6509	9071

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this Question is very important. It is about illegal immigration. You all have been reading about it in the Press. Now, the question has come. Let the Member put a question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, please club it with Question No.4. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was that as to how many Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals are overstaying in our country for the last years together even after the expiry of their visas. As per the details of the various countries given by the Government 55,171 foreign nationals are overstaying in the country. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go into other issues, however, as per the information given by the Government, 24443 Bangladeshis and 6748 Pakistani nationals are overstaying in the country in 2001. It was further informed that 14079 nationals in 1999, 6046 in 2000 and in 2001, 7854 nationals who were overstaying, were deported during 1999-2002.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the figures for the year 2001, out of 24443 Bangladeshi nationals, 7854 have been deported. Still 16,589 Bangladeshi nationals are staying illegally in the country. The Government further informed that 6748 Pakistani nationals are staying illegally in the country out of which 108 persons have been deported. In this way, 5955 Pakistani nationals are staying here illegally even after expiring their visas. These people have been identified then what is the problem in deporting them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bangladeshi nationals are staying in our country illegally as they manage to infiltrate into the country. They are approximately 1.5 crore to 4 crore. Such figures often publish in newspapers. However, they are definite in large number which is approximately 2 crores. What action has been taken by the Government to deport them. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the direct question. Do not ask a lengthy question otherwise you may not get the reply as it is already 12 o'clock.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is that as to what problem the Government are facing to deport them. Recently the External Affairs Minister of Bangladesh had paid a visit to our country. What talks were held with him for deporting these illegal Bangladeshi immigrants?

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, I have given a notice on this issue. It concerns the State of West Bengal. A lot of hue and cry is there. It is a very important question. Please allow half-an-hour discussion on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by hon'ble Member has three aspects. It is a very serious issue.

[English]

Our country is facing this sort of an illegal immigration problem for a long time.

[Translation]

As per the figures available with us regarding the subject, as per the figures in our record, those whose identification become illegal.

[English]

As per the Foreigners' Act, 1946 Section (3) (2) (C), the powers are delegated to the various State Governments and Union Territories to identify, to detect and to deport them, if necessary. If legal procedure is to be adopted, the State Governments and the Union Territories are at liberty to do so. So, there is no question that we are not deporting them. The whole machinery lies with the State Government.

[Translation]

So far as deportation of illegal immigrants is concerned, it is a long process. As hon'ble Member has stated that 24443 Bangladeshi nationals were staying in the country in 2001.

12.00 hrs.

Under this process, first these illegal immigrants have to be identified. As they are living all over the country, therefore, every State will take action in this regard after identifying them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the House that considering the seriousness of the issue, our Government have taken two major steps. First step is to create awareness among the States about the seriousness of the issue

[English]

there was a Director-Generals' Conference held this year. Then later, the Conference of Chief Ministers was also

held on 8th of this month where unanimously the State Governments have agreed that the State Governments will take up this issue vigorously and firmly and that they will identify those people who are staying in this country without valid visas, without valid documents, and necessary action will be taken.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has not solved the problem. There should be a detailed discussion on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Half-an-hour discussion should be held on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Hon'ble Home Minister himself has admitted that more than 1 crore Bangladeshi nationals are living in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing Half-an-Hour discussion on it. Therefore, there is no need to ask question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Talks with NSCN (IM)

*3. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details and outcome of peace talks recently held between Naga leaders and the Union Government to resolve the Naga insurgency problem;

(b) the reaction of the Centre on reorganising boundaries in the North-East on the basis of cultural and linguistic demarcations and the demand of greater Nagaland;

(c) the reaction of other neighbouring States in regard to their demand;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to settle the issue with such States; and

(e) the time by which the next round of talks is likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (e) Peace Talks were held during the month of January 2003 between the representatives of the Government of India and the NSCN(IM). During the discussions, NSCN(IM) raised among other issues, their demands relating to the distinct identity of the Nagas and their stand on unification of Naga areas. There was an agreement to continue the formal talks until a lasting settlement is reached. Meanwhile, both sides reaffirmed the need for a peaceful, violence-free environment.

Chief Ministers of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh have expressed their apprehension regarding the demand of unification of Naga areas. Government of India has, from time to time, reiterated its stand that the territorial integrity of other North Eastern States will not be disturbed. No time frame has been fixed for the next round of talks.

Fencing on Indo-Bangladesh Border

*4. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal for fencing of the Indo-Bangladesh border;
- (b) if so, the steps taken so far in that regard and the funds allocated for the purpose, State-wise;
- (c) the progress thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the time by which the fencing work is likely to be completed in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has sanctioned construction of 857.37 Kms. of fencing under Phase-I and 2429.5 Kms. under Phase-II along the Indo-Bangladesh Border, The Phase-wise details of expenditure incurred for execution of fencing work and physical progress made so far, State-wise are indicated below:

Phase-I

Name of the States	Physical		Expenditure incurred upto Dec., 2002
	Fence sanctioned	Progress made	
West Bengal	507.00 Kms	507.00 Kms	8908.93 lacs
Assam	152.31 Kms	149.294 Kms	1928.83 lacs
Meghalaya	198.06 Kms	198.06 Kms	2839.00 lacs
Total	857.37 Kms	854.354 Kms	13676.76 lacs

Phase-II

Name of the States	Physical		Expenditure incurred upto Dec., 2002
	Fence sanctioned	Progress made	
West Bengal	1021.00 Kms	155.42 Kms.	4686.66 lacs (upto Jan. 2003)
Assam	71.50 Kms	-	Nil
Meghalaya	201.00 Kms	7.30 Kms.	254.00 lacs
Tripura	735.00 Kms	9.53 Kms	546.00 lacs
Mizoram	400.00 Kms	Nil	Nil
Total	2429.50 Kms	172.55 Kms.	5486.66 lacs

The entire fencing project is likely to be completed by 2007.

Steps are being taken to further expedite its completion.

[Translation]

ISI Activities

*5. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ISI has chalked out a strategy to speed up terrorist activities in the country and particularly in Kashmir and North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of persons associated with ISI apprehended during the last three years and the action taken against them;

(d) the number of terrorists including the foreign terrorists apprehended/killed in terrorist activities during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(e) the number of civilian/security personnel killed/

injured and the loss of property suffered during the said period, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government are aware that militants and other related organisations are being funded and armed by the foreign countries;

(g) if so, the details of the organisations and countries funding and arming militants/organisations; and

(h) the strategy of the Government to fight and uproot terrorism from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Pak ISI has shown no let up in its anti-India activities in various forms such as cross-border terrorism, sabotage, subversion and espionage in different parts of the country.

(c) and (d) As per information available, details of persons arrested/killed in various parts of the country on account of Pak espionage/terrorist activities are as under:-

Year	Pak Espionage Modules		Pak Backed Terrorist Modules		
	No. of Modules detected	No. of persons arrested	No. of Modules busted	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons killed
2000	19	43	25	141	5
2001	17	29	59	164	13
2002	35	85	26	66	2

(e) The figures of civilians and security forces killed in terrorist violence in case of all States are not maintained by the Central Government. However, as informed by the State Government of J&K, 2851 civilians and 1386 security forces were killed in terrorist violence in the State during the calendar years 2000-2002. Terrorist violence also caused considerable loss to Government buildings, educational institutions, private houses, bridges, shops and hospitals in the State.

(f) and (g) Available inputs indicate flow of funds and supply of arms from Pak ISI and other clandestine channels/organisations for terrorist activities in various parts of the country.

(h) In order to fight and uproot terrorism from the country, the Government has adopted a well coordinated and multi-pronged approach which includes strengthening the border management and coastal security, galvanizing the

intelligence machinery, neutralizing plans of ISI by well coordinated intelligence based operations and modernization and up-gradation of State Police and Central Security Forces. 32 terrorist organizations have so far been notified under POTA, 2002. Besides, a number of Joint Working Groups have been set up with various countries including Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar for information sharing and combating trans-border crime and terrorism.

[English]

Economic Package for J&K

*6. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have taken any decision to grant an economic package to the people of Kashmir by way of generating employment opportunities including jobs for the over-aged youth, and other means for bringing the misguided youth who have taken to guns and militancy into the national mainstream;

(b) if so, the details of the package and the funds to be provided therefor indicating the Central aid to be extended; and

(c) the progress/achievement made after the announcement of the economic package to Kashmir so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister during his visit to Jammu & Kashmir on 23.5.2002 announced a package for over Rs. 6000.00 crore for "employment, rail and road development, relief & Security" for J&K. The main schemes/projects covered in the package comprise railways, roads, development of textiles, Agri-export zones for apples & walnuts, development of horticulture, eco-restoration of degraded catchment areas of Chenab and Jhelum, Border Area Development Programme, security measures like raising of two India Reserve Battalions (IRB), incentives for Special Operations Group, better training of and weaponry to the J&K Volunteer Force, better weaponry to the Volunteer members of Village Defence Committees and relief measures like enhancement in norms pertaining to relief for border migrants and Kashmiri migrants and provision of new tents & common civic amenities for Border migrants in J&K, upgrading police hospitals, Rehabilitation Centre for Widows of Police personnel killed by terrorists and schools for orphans of police personnel killed by terrorists. Some of the items in the PM's Package have a time frame of 5 to 10 years for implementation.

In addition, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion have in June, 2002 notified a "New Industrial Policy and other concessions for the State of J&K" which comprises incentives like capital investment subsidy, interest subsidy, insurance premium, income tax exemption etc.

In addition, various Central Ministries have been sanctioning projects and schemes from time to time which are applicable in J&K.

The State Government of J&K has a surrender policy for terrorists who have a change of heart and decide to surrender which inter-alia provides for training and assistance for availing of self-employment schemes/opportunities.

(c) Action has been initiated to implement all the schemes/projects included in the PM's Package of May, 2002 which are regularly monitored by the concerned Central Ministries as well as Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[Translation]

Implementation of ICDS

*7. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blocks in the country in which Integrated Child Development Scheme is being implemented at present;

(b) the number of children benefited under the said scheme during the last three years;

(c) the main objectives of the said scheme and whether the objective has been achieved; and

(d) the total amount being spent on this scheme every year?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) 5292 Community Development Blocks and 360 urban slums.

(b) Number of children benefited during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (as on 30.9.2002) was 241.15 lakh, 315.04 lakh and 332.20 lakh respectively.

(c) The objectives of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme are:-

- (i) to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age group 0-6 years;
- (ii) to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
- (iii) to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- (iv) to achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and
- (v) to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

Progress against the stated objectives is a continuous process. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-2 conducted in 1998-99 revealed that the prevalence of underweight children (0-3 years) came down to 47%, infant mortality rate came down to 67.60 per 1000 live births and low birth weight came down to 22.70% as compared to 53.40%, 78.50 per 1000 live births and 33%, respectively, at the time of NFHS-1 survey, conducted in 1992-93.

(d) Total amount released by Government of India to States/UTs during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (as on 13.02.03) was Rs.1224.02 crore, Rs.1545.87 crore and 1602.14 crore respectively.

[English]

Allocation/Utilisation of Funds under PMGSY

*8. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not been able to improve the quality of rural roads, even after, allocation of funds under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana as reported in the Economic Times dated January 27,2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the funds released to each State during each of the last three years and till date and achievements made under the scheme so far;

(d) the details of unspent amount, State-wise, year-wise and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the deadline of 2007 can be met in respect of connectivity and improvement of the roads; and

(f) if so, the measures taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) focuses on construction of roads of high quality and the Scheme provides for improvement in the execution machinery and a three-tier Quality Control and Monitoring mechanism in order to improve the quality of rural roads constructed under the Programme.

(c) and (d) A Statement showing the year-wise release of funds, balance funds as on 1.1.2003 and number of road works completed upto December, 2002 is enclosed. Funds for 2001-02 were released to State Governments in the last quarter. While road works of 2000-01 have by and large been completed, commencement of works of 2001-02 took time due to preparation of Detailed Project Reports and tendering.

(e) and (f) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) aims to provide road connectivity to all Unconnected Habitations in the rural areas with population of more than 500 persons by the year 2007. All States have been asked to identify the eligible Habitations and prepare the Core Networks from which an accurate estimate can be made of requirement of funds. The present funding for the Programme, which is from the 50% share of Cess on High Speed Diesel, is required to be augmented and Agencies, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, have expressed interest in funding the Programme.

Statement

Year-wise releases to States/UTs under PMGSY and no. of road works completed upto December, 2002

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	States	Amount released during 2000-01	Amount released during 2001-02	Amount released during 2002-03 Upto Dec., 02	Balance Funds as on 1.1.2003	No. of Road Works completed upto Dec. 02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	195.00	224.65		29.59	1486
2	Arunachal Pradesh	40.95	45.00	35.00	39.82	204
3	Assam	75.00	80.00		34.14	125
4	Bihar	149.90	0.00		117.94	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	Chhattisgarh	92.41	98.62		38.20	13
6	Goa	5.00	5.00		5.00	57
7	Gujarat	59.81	60.00		15.17	318
8	Haryana	25.18	30.00		27.98	18
9	Himachal Pradesh	60.00	72.09		32.42	124
10	Jammu & Kashmir	20.00	0.00	35.00	41.25	0
11	Jharkhand	110.05	120.00		116.90	20
12	Karnataka	100.57	108.37		99.60	332
13	Kerala	19.71	27.65		21.96	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	217.64	248.00		145.96	160
15	Maharashtra	130.21	134.50		97.90	800
16	Manipur	40.00	40.00		48.67	404
17	Meghalaya	34.95	45.72		24.72	208
18	Mizoram	19.93	26.53	20.00	18.23	18
19	Nagaland	19.75	25.53		8.61	116
20	Orissa	179.70	175.00		130.67	259
21	Punjab	24.66	55.00		14.96	79
22	Rajasthan	140.09	150.00		42.66	567
23	Sikkim	13.16	20.00		6.30	30
24	Tamil Nadu	99.25	88.57		22.44	789
25	Tripura	24.75	26.85		26.84	193
26	Uttar Pradesh	321.11	348.11		184.85	5128
27	Uttaranchal	60.63	70.00		91.70	22
28	West Bengal	135.00	149.65		176.48	53
Total States		2414.41	2474.84	90.00	1660.96	11522
Union Territories						
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10.59	0.00	0.00	10.33	0
30	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	5.00	0.00	4.65	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31	Daman & Diu	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0
32	Delhi	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00	0
33	Lakshadweep	0.00	4.89	0.00	4.89	0
34	Pondicherry	5.00	0.00	0.00	2.31	50
	Total (UTs)	20.59	14.89	0.00	32.18	50
	Grand Total	2435.00	2489.73	90.00	1693.14	11572

Foreign Visit by Deputy Prime Minister

*9. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has visited Singapore, France, Qatar, Thailand and other countries and held discussions with his counterparts there recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held with the respective countries alongwith details of the agreements signed;

(c) whether France, Qatar and Thailand have agreed to provide any help to India to fight War against Terrorism;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any extradition treaty has also been signed during the visit; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir. The Deputy Prime Minister recently visited Qatar and France (from 20th January, 2003 to 25th January, 2003) as well as Thailand and Singapore (from 30th January to 5th February, 2003) to hold discussions with the leaders of these countries.

(b) Details of the discussions held with the respective countries, as well as the agreement signed during the visit, are enclosed as statement-I.

(c) and (d) There is a broad agreement, in principle, to have close cooperation with all the three countries in the War against Terrorism. There is already a Joint Working Group with France to combat terrorism/security cooperation. Action

to form a Joint Working Group with Thailand and Qatar has been initiated.

(e) and (f) An Extradition Treaty has been signed with France during the visit to France. Some salient features relating to the Treaty are enclosed as statement-II.

Statement-I

Deputy Prime Minister's visit to Qatar & France

(20th January to 25th January 2003)

Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani accompanied by an official level delegation (OSD to Dy. P.M., PS to Dy. P.M., Special Director, IB, JS (PP), MHA, JS (EWC), MEA and JS (Gulf) MEA) visited Qatar and held discussions with the authorities in Qatar on 21st and 22nd January, 2003.

During his visit, Deputy Prime Minister met HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of State of Qatar, HH Sheikh Mohammad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister, HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al-Thani, Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar and HE Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Minister of Energy & Industry and discussed various issues concerning Indo-Qatar bilateral relations and highlighted India's security concerns.

From Qatar the delegation went to France on 22nd January, 2003. During their stay in Paris from 22nd to 25th January, 2003 the Deputy Prime Minister held discussions with the French authorities relating to Indo-French bilateral cooperation, Indo-French Extradition Treaty was signed by Dy. P.M. on 24.01.2003. During his stay in Paris the Dy. P.M. met the French Prime Minister Mr. Jean Pierre Raffarin, Interior Minister Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy Minister for Justice Mr. Dominique Perben, Transport Minister Mr. Gilles de Robien, and Defence Minister Mme. Michele Alliot Marie.

Deputy Prime Minister's visit to Thailand/Singapore

(30th January, 2003 to 5th February, 2003)

The Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, accompanied by an official delegation (Union Home Secretary, OSD to Dy. P.M., PS to Dy. P.M., JS (SEA), MEA, Director

(PP), MHA) visited Thailand and held discussions with the authorities in Thailand on 31st and 1st February, 2003.

During the visit, the Deputy Prime Minister of India called on H.E. Mr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, and held a plenary meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Wissanu Krea-Ngam, Mr. Wan Muhamad Noor Matha, Minister of Interior and Mr. Purachai Plumsomboon, Minister of Justice, called on the DPM.

A full and detailed review of bilateral relations was conducted including views on security cooperation, especially with respect to terrorist activities that threaten the stability of the region. It was agreed that the meeting of the Thailand-India Joint Working Group on Security would take place expeditiously. Both sides also agreed to conclude a bilateral Extradition Treaty, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters, an Agreement on transfer of convicted prisoners, and M.O.U. on Narcotic control. Measures to diversify and enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of Bio Technology; Space Applications, Civil Aviation, Tourism and Information Technology were also discussed.

From Thailand, the delegation visited Singapore on 2nd February, 2003. During the stay at Singapore from 2nd February 2003 to 5th February, 2003, Dy. P.M. held discussions with the President Mr. S.R. Nathan, the Prime Minister Mr. Gohchokong, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, the Home Affairs Minister Mr. Wongkanseng and the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. George Yong-Boon Yeo.

The Deputy Prime Minister delivered a lecture on "New Approaches to Security and Development" at the Institute of South East Asian Studies, Singapore on 4th February, 2003. In his lecture, The DPM emphasized the inter-dependence between security and development and stressed upon the need for regional and global cooperation to combat terrorism. He also touched upon the problem of the Global Web of Terrorism extending to South East Asia and the problems relating to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Dy. P.M. also held detailed discussions with Singapore on issues relating to Indo-Singapore Bilateral Cooperation, Trade and Industry, Science and Technology besides Security issues.

Statement-II

Some salient features of the Extradition Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of France

The Extradition Agreement between India and France was signed during the visit of Deputy Prime Minister to France on 24th of January 2003. Some of the salient features of the Agreement are as follows:

- (i) Any person who being accused or convicted of an extraditable offence is wanted by the Requesting State, may be extradited.
- (ii) The Agreement provides for no-list method and any offence punishable with imprisonment for a period of at

least two years will be an extraditable offence. In the case of a convicted person, duration of sentence remaining to be served must be at least nine months for an extraditable offence.

- (iii) Offences related to fiscal matters, customs duties or currency exchange will also be extraditable offences.
- (iv) Extradition will not be granted if the offence for which extradition is sought is a political offence or it is connected with such an offence. It shall not affect obligation of Contracting states undertaken under international conventions of multilateral character for not considering the offences dealt there-under as political offences. Extradition will not be available if the extradition request is believed to have been made for the purpose of prosecuting or punishing a person on account of his or her race, religion, nationality or political opinion.
- (v) Extradition will not be granted for such offences, which are offences under military law but are not so under ordinary criminal law. The Agreement also includes the provision for keeping other serious offences out of the purview of the political offence defence plea, such as, offences against life; physical integrity or liberty of a person; and property.
- (vi) The nationals of the requested State will not be extradited provided local prosecution is ensured.
- (vii) Extradition will not be granted if final judgment has already been passed by the requested State in respect of offences for which extradition is sought - or if the person sought has become immune from prosecution or sentence by lapse of time according to State, or pardon has been granted by the requesting or requested State, provided the latter was competent to prosecute in accordance with its domestic law.

Extradition may be refused if the offence committed is punishable by death penalty in the requesting state and the same is not punishable by death in the requested state unless the requesting State gives an assurance that death penalty will not be awarded or, if awarded, will not be carried out.

Guidelines for better Fund Flow to Municipal Bodies

*10. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to formulate guidelines for the State Governments to ensure better fund flow to municipal bodies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide guarantees for bonds raised by the urban local bodies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures to be undertaken by the Union

Government to make funds available to the rural local bodies?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per Entry-5 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, it is for the State Governments to look into such issues.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Ministry of Rural Development has informed that Panchayati Raj, being a State subject, States are responsible for devolving funds to Panchayati Raj institutions. According to Article 243-G of the Constitution, State Governments have been vested with the powers to make laws for endowing the Panchayats with such powers and authorities to enable them to function as institutions of self-government.

[Translation]

Fake Currency

*11. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the routes and methods through which fake currency notes are being smuggled to destabilize and weaken

the economy of the country and the name of countries and agencies found involved in these activities;

(b) the number of cases of smuggling of currency notes reported during each of the last three years and till date alongwith the denomination of notes seized;

(c) the number of cases registered, challaned in court, punishment awarded and the details of such cases pending with investigating agencies and courts as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling and circulation of fake currency notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Available information indicates that Pakistan is behind the production of fake Indian currency notes (FICN) of high/superfine quality and infiltration of such notes is carried out through clandestine inductions across the land borders with Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh, infiltrations across the coastline and illegal importations by air from Dubai, etc. Fake currency notes inducted from Dubai are usually concealed in T.V. sets, plastic jars, toys, water dispersers, and other household goods. Infiltrating terrorists are the main conduit in J&K. The Pak ISI and the underworld elements are involved in these activities.

(b) As per the information compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, the details of counterfeit currency recovered/seized during 1999, 2000 and 2001 are enclosed as statement.

(c) The information compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau is indicated below:

Year	No. of cases of Fake Currency Registered during the year	Cases of counterfeiting for investigation of the police at the beginning of the year including pending cases	Cases of counterfeiting for investigation of the police at the end of the year	Cases of charge sheeted in respect of FICN	Cases of counterfeiting for Trial for Courts including Pending cases at the beginning of the year	Cases of counterfeiting for Trial of Courts at the end of the year	Cases convicted
1999	1349	5127	3655	698	2863	2439	146
2000	1514	5965	4432	876	3252	2719	173
2001	934	-NA-	-NA-	-NA-	-NA-	-NA-	-NA-

(d) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such registration, investigation and prevention of crime including cases of counterfeit currency is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

To curb circulation of fake currency notes in the country, the Government has taken a number of steps which inter-alia include setting up of a special unit in the Central Bureau of Investigation exclusively for investigation of counterfeit currency notes, shoring up of vigilance by the Border Security Force/Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake

currency notes into the country, incorporation of special security features in high denomination notes and dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media for the benefit of public. A High level Committee of experts, with representatives from Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Security Council Secretariat, Reserve Bank of India and the Printing Presses, constituted to examine the whole gamut of problems caused by circulation of fake currency has submitted its Report to the Government based on which additional features have been approved for incorporation in the Indian Bank Notes which make counterfeiting extremely difficult.

Statement

Counterfeit Currency (Recovered and Seized) during 1999

(State/UT-wise and Denomination-wise)

Sl No	State/UT	Denomination																				Total No. of Pieces				Value in Rs	
		500		100		50		20		10		5		2		1		(R)	(S)	(R+S)	(R)	(S)	(R+S)	(R)	(S)	(R+S)	
		(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)										(R)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24				
1	Andhra Pradesh	517	43	808	165	295	199	13	0	179	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1812	407	2219	356100	47950	404050				
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	44	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	93	93	0	26000	26000			
3	Assam	224	261	86	273	0	1	0	0	20	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	330	582	912	120800	158320	279120				
4	Bihar	578	0	2579	0	22	0	29	0	24	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3233	0	3233	548825	0	548825				
5	Goa	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	700	700				
6	Gujarat	961	369	1095	6333	116	106	1	1	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	2184	6840	9024	595930	833230	1429160				
7	Haryana	0	356	0	1718	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	720	0	2844	2844	0	353020	353020				
8	Himachal Pradesh	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	22	0	11000	11000				
9	Jammu & Kashmir	0	47	0	315	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	362	362	0	55000	55000				
10	Karnataka	941	441	1068	5726	102	0	1	0	48	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	2160	6185	8345	582900	793280	1376180				
11	Kerala	372	273	282	3653	9	1	21	0	98	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	782	3932	4714	216050	501900	717950				
12	Madhya Pradesh	17	0	9	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	28	9460	0	9460				
13	Maharashtra	2506	261	3113	514	147	46	2	1	32	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	5800	862	6662	1572010	184620	1756630				
14	Manipur	0	263	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	267	267	0	131900	131900				
15	Meghalaya	0	25	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	44	0	14400	14400				
16	Mizoram	0	2270	0	323	0	0	0	0	0	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2675	2675	0	1168120	1168120				
17	Nagaland	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	1200	1200				

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
18 Orissa		3	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	11	2010	0	2010		
19 Punjab		0	560	0	77	0	6	6	0	28	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	697	697	0	298620	298620		
20 Rajasthan		114	152	3488	771	30	1	3	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3644	924	4568	407450	153150	560600		
21 Sikkim		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
22 Tamil Nadu		2057	356	2627	1119	191	649	10	0	128	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5013	2136	7149	1302230	322470	1624700		
23 Tripura		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	500	500		
24 Uttar Pradesh		39	811	398	34258	99	92	4	0	11	286	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	549	35447	35996	64240	3838760	3903000		
25 West Bengal		1163	38	3903	9209	43	1	26	0	67	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	5202	9262	14464	975140	940010	1915150		
Total (States)		9492	6635	19457	64525	1059	1152	110	30	629	521	1	0	0	10	0	720	30748	73593	104341	6753145	9834150	16587295			
Union Territories																										
26 Andaman & Nicobar Islands		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
27 Chandigarh		253	1	55	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	310	1	311	132100	500	132600		
28 Dadra & Nagar Haveli		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29 Daman & Diu		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
30 Delhi		2226	1	4949	2	67	0	10	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7289	3	7292	1611820	700	1612520		
31 Lakshadweep		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
32 Pondicherry		0	1	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	25	0	2900	2900		
Total (UTs)		2479	3	5004	26	69	0	10	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7599	29	7628	1749920	4100	1748020		
Total (All India)		11971	6638	24461	64551	1128	1152	120	30	666	521	1	0	0	10	0	720	38347	73622	111969	8497065	9836250	16335315			

Note: (R) - Recovered (No of pieces detected at Banks, Treasures etc.)

(S) - Seized (No of pieces seized by Police and other agencies)

**Counterfeit Currency (Recovered and Seized) during 2000
(State/UT-wise and Denomination-wise)**

Sl No.	State/UT	Denomination																								Total No. of Pieces				Value in Rs.			
		500		100		50		20		10		5		2		1		(R)	(S)	(R+S)	(R)	(S)	(R+S)	(R)	(S)	(R+S)							
		(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)	(R)	(S)										(R)	(S)	(R+S)				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24										
1	Andhra Pradesh	2048	40	1968	5414	126	230	7	0	42	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4189	6085	10274	1227460	612910	1840370										
2	Arunchal Pradesh	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	200	270									
3	Assam	540	521	291	207	1	1	0	0	46	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	878	731	1609	299610	281270	590860										
4	Bihar	1946	0	6040	0	58	0	20	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8074	0	8074	1580400	0	1580400										
5	Goa	0	5	0	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	104	0	12400	12400										
6	Gujarat	2094	8512	1792	4483	27	28	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3917	13037	16954	1227590	4706740	5934330										
7	Haryana	0	583	0	851	0	0	0	11	0	18	0	178	0	0	0	0	0	1641	1641	0	377890	377890										
8	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	0	1300	1300										
9	Jammu & Kashmir	0	368	0	160	0	168	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	696	696	0	208400	208400										
10	Karnataka	2074	655	1553	9551	287	830	2	0	53	2989	0	0	0	0	0	0	3969	14025	17994	1207220	1353990	2561210										
11	Kerala	1155	727	380	50	11	2	0	0	65	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	1611	812	2423	616700	368930	985630										
12	Madhya Pradesh	1161	30	107	49	5	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1299	79	1378	591710	19900	611610										
13	Maharashtra	8523	936	6684	5788	395	139	11	1	48	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	15651	6878	22529	4949850	1053910	6003760										
14	Manipur	0	300	0	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	396	396	0	159600	159600										
15	Meghalaya	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	1900	1900										
16	Mizoram	0	775	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	785	785	0	388500	388500										
17	Nagaland	0	3	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	42	0	5400	5400										

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
18. Orissa	190	1	29	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	223	4	227	98060	800	98860		
19. Punjab	153	1311	3	13038	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	156	14361	14517	76800	1959820	2036820		
20. Rajasthan	6237	925	1533	1218	35	8	1	0	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7814	2151	9685	3273650	584700	3868350		
21. Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
22. Tamil Nadu	1520	207	2632	9048	132	14	4	0	71	3421	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4359	12690	17049	1030590	1043210	2073800		
23. Tripura	0	3	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	93	93	0	0	10500	10500		
24. Uttar Pradesh	4205	22333	2741	106692	65	86	10	1	177	1636	0	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	7198	130813	138011	2381820	21856705	24238525		
25. West Bengal	1881	86	3386	810	42	0	22	0	56	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5397	898	6285	1282200	124020	1406220		
Total (States)	33727	36324	29137	158125	1177	1516	77	13	607	8122	0	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	64725	206343	271068	19843660	35132995	54976655		
Union Territories																										
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
27. Chandigarh	2314	17	102	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2417	18	2435	1167250	8600	1175850		
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29. Daman & Diu	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	500	500		
30. Delhi	5391	26	3548	365	464	4	1	0	33	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9437	396	9633	3073650	49710	3123560		
31. Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
32. Pondicherry	6	307	0	140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	447	453	3000	167500	170500		
Total (UTs)	7711	351	3650	506	465	4	1	0	33	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11860	862	12722	4244100	226310	4470410		
Total (All India)	41438	38575	32787	158631	1642	1520	78	13	640	8123	0	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	76585	207205	283790	24087760	35359305	59447065		

Note 1(F) - Recovered (No. of pieces detected at Banks, Treasuries etc.)

(S) - Seized (No. of pieces seized by Police and other agencies)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
19 Punjab			0	1892	0	2921	0	491	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5304	5304	0	1262650	1262650		
20 Rajasthan			2693	6849	3406	1773	67	25	0	0	13	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6169	8650	14819	1685590	3603080	5288650		
21 Sikkim			0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	600	600		
22 Tamil Nadu			1704	503	4645	5436	247	13	2	0	76	219	0	2	0	0	0	1	6674	6224	12898	1329650	802951	2132601		
23 Tripura			0	103	0	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	260	260	0	67200	67200		
24 Uttar Pradesh			4089	11365	3782	9334	94	445	12	0	123	28	1	0	0	0	0	0	8101	21172	29273	2428875	6638430	9087305		
25 West Bengal			2280	7	7017	194	130	3	24	0	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9549	204	9753	1849660	23050	1872710		
Total (States)			36747	35747	43120	68676	2024	9125	58	3	579	356	1	3153	0	0	2	2	82531	117062	199593	22793657	25216737	48010394		
Union Territories																										
26 Andaman & Nicobar Islands			0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	750	750		
27 Chandigarh			2697	2	153	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3055	7	3062	1464050	1500	1466550		
28 Dadra & Nagar Haveli			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
29 Daman & Diu			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
30 Delhi			5141	400	6963	440	357	0	3	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12476	840	13316	3284830	244000	3628830		
31 Lakshadweep			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	66	72	0	0	0		
32 Pondicherry			0	0	0	11	0	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3650	3650		
Total (UTs)			8038	403	7116	457	362	58	3	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15537	862	16399	4748880	250100	29896980		
Total (All India)			44785	36150	50236	69133	2386	9183	61	3	591	356	1	3153	0	0	2	2	98068	117924	215992	27542537	25466837	53009374		

Note: 1(R) - Recovered (No. of pieces detected at Banks, Treasuries etc.)

(S) - Seized (No. of pieces seized by Police and other agencies)

2 Figures are provisional

3 Rs. 1000/- denomination. Recovered 11, Seized 97

4 Total no. of Pieces (R+S) = 215992+106 = 216100

5 Total value in Rupees = 53009374+108000

[English]

Free Higher/Non-professional Education to Female Students

*12. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

SHRI SUBODH ROY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering launching a new scheme to provide free higher education to the female students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to provide funds in full to the State Governments under this scheme;

(d) if so, the details of plan chalked out in this regard;

(e) whether the Government also propose to impart free non-professional education upto the graduation level in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(h) whether the Government propose to seek cooperation of voluntary organisations also for spreading education; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (i) Government is in the process of formulating a Scheme for ensuring greater participation of women in higher education. The components of this scheme have not yet been finalized.

Allotment of General Pool Accommodation

*13. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government servants awaiting allotment of General Pool Accommodation in Delhi and outside since and when, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to construct more houses for General Pool accommodation along with its time frame;

(c) the number of General Pool Accommodation under the unauthorised occupation, city-wise;

(d) the details of unauthorised constructions/cases of subletting/misuse of garages detected in the Government quarters in Delhi during each of the last three years, type-wise and city-wise;

(e) the number of persons given vacation notices by the Directorate of Estates till date, city-wise; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to check unscrupulous activities in these Government colonies?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The number of Govt. servants awaiting allotment in Delhi is given in the statement-I enclosed. Information in respect of cities other than Delhi is being collected and will be laid on the Table the Sabha.

(b) The Government has already taken steps to augment the housing stock and at present 4371 units are at various stages of construction as detailed at statement-II enclosed.

(c) A total of 652 general pool accommodations are under unauthorised occupation (i.e. Occupation after authorized period of stay) in Delhi. Action for vacation of the premises has been initiated in such cases under Public Premises (Eviction of unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. The information in respect of cities other than Delhi is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) 2747 cases of unauthorised construction/misuse of garages and 3054 subletting cases have been detected in Delhi in the past three years as per details given in statement-III enclosed.

(e) A total of 4736 show cause notices have been issued under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 by the Estates Officers of the Directorate of Estates during the past three years in respect of Delhi. Out of these, a total of 329 cases are pending for final orders. The

information in respect of cities other than Delhi is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(f) Allotment of Government accommodation is made to the Government servants for their bonafide use.

Whenever violations of the conditions of allotment and unscrupulous activities are reported, appropriate action is initiated as per allotment rules. Surprise checks of the quarters, suo-moto, as also on the basis of the complaints received, is a continuous process.

Statement-I

Number of Government Servants Awaiting Allotment of General Pool Accommodation in Delhi

Sl.No.	States	Type	Since when waiting (Date of Priority covered/ pay covered)	No. of Persons waiting
I.	Delhi	I	9.11.1992	3662
		II	02.01.1980	20319
		III	30.11.1977	11219
		IV	03.04.1973	4955
		IV Special	1.1.1996/Rs.16700 (GP)	3137
			1.1.1996/Rs.10750 (TP)	
		VA	1.1.1996/Rs.17900 (GP)	2871
			1.1.1996/Rs.15900 (TP)	
		VB	1.1.1996/Rs.18650 (GP)	1327
			1.1.2000/Rs.15900 (TP)	
		VI A	1.1.1996/Rs.22400 (GP)	709
			1.1.1996/Rs.22400 (TP)	
		VI B	26.2.2001/Rs.26000	72
		VII	1.1.1996	143
		VIII	1.1.1996	155
Total				48589

Statement-II

Sanction have been issued for construction of GPRA at various locations across the country which are in various stages of implementation as under:-

Sl. No.	Location	No. of Qtr Already under execution (under earlier sanction)	Qtrs under new sanctions issued during this year	Total No. of Quarters
		A	B	A+B
1	2	3	4	5
1.	New Delhi	766	-	766
2.	Mumbai/ New Mumbai	242 1018	28 -	270 1018

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Kolkatta	120	-	120
4.	Pune	-	215	215
5.	Goa	-	33	33
16.	Srinagar	252	-	252
17.	Shimla	264	-	264
18.	Lucknow	72	-	72
19.	Agra	120	-	120
10.	Jaipur	310	-	310
11.	Gangtok	106	-	106
12.	Patna	24	-	24
13.	Agartala	96	-	96
14.	Fatasil	144	-	144
15.	Nagpur	252	-	252
16.	Portblair	336	-	336
17.	Trivandrum	84	-	84
18.	Bangalore	165	-	165
Total		4371	276	4647

Out of 4371 Qtrs. mentioned above 1454 quarters have already been completed. This year, further 392 Qtrs. have been completed at different locations as below:-

Location	No. of Qtrs.
R.K. Puram, Sector-X, New Delhi	200
Patna	24
Fatasil/Guwahati	136
Agartala	32
Total	392

Statement-III								
<i>Unauthorised Construction/Misuse of Garages</i>								
	Type of accommodation							Total
	I	II	III	IV	IV Spt/D-II	D-I/C-II/C-I/	Bungalows	
Year 2000	35	1616	42	14	-	115	1822	
Year 2001	-	561	51	66	119	01	798	
Year 2002	-	110	16	-	-	01	127	
Total	35	2287	109	80	119	117	2747	

Suspected Sublet

Year	T-I	T-II	T-III	T-IV	T-V	Total
2000	164	154	110	07	-	435
2001	859	638	445	08	01	1951
2002	338	245	81	04	-	668
Total	1361	1037	636	19	01	3054

Swajaldhara Scheme

*14. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swajaldhara Scheme has been launched successfully;

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

(c) the number of villages and schools expected to be covered under the scheme alongwith the amount allocated during Tenth Plan under the scheme, State-wise;

(d) whether some States have raised objections for implementation of the scheme;

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

(f) whether the Government have devised any monitoring machinery to ensure that the schemes launched are being implemented according to the time-frame; and

(g) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL):

(a) and (b) Swajaldhara Scheme was launched on 25-12-2002 by Hon'ble Prime Minister. The key elements of the scheme are (i) demand-driven and community participation approach; (ii) panchayats/communities to plan, implement, operate, maintain and manage all drinking water schemes; (iii) partial capital cost sharing by the communities upfront in cash; (iv) full ownership of drinking water assets with Gram Panchayats; and (v) full Operation and Maintenance (O&M) by the users/ Panchayats. Gram Panchayats and Blocks adopting the reforms principles will be eligible for Swajaldhara projects. The projects approved state-wise till date is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Swajaldhara is to implement throughout the country in all the partially covered and non-covered villages to provide at least 40 litres per capita day of water to the rural people whereas community participation is forth coming. This scheme is also applicable to the rural schools in the country which do not have potable water facility.

(d) and (e) All the States and Union Territories Ministers-in-charge of Rural Water Supply welcomed the Swajaldhara during the National Conference of State Ministers held on 5th December 2002.

(f) and (g) As per the guidelines of Swajaldhara, the projects taken up should be completed within one year from the date of sanction. District Implementing Agency (Zila Parishad/District Water & Sanitation Mission) is responsible for supervision and monitoring.

Statement

S.No.	State/UT	Approved by NSSC
1	Uttar Pradesh	479
2	Andhra Pradesh	566
3	Orissa	309
4	Gujarat	30
5	Himachal Pradesh	89
6	Madhya Pradesh	44
7	Maharashtra	786
8	Haryana	2
9	Tamil Nadu	238
10	West Bengal	5
11	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
12	Daman & Diu	1
Total		2550

* includes proposals for schools

[Translation]

NGOs Helping Terrorists Groups

*15. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Non-Governmental Organisations have been helping the terrorist groups in the North-Eastern region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiries in this regard;

(d) If so, the names of such organisations which are getting financial assistance from the Government and found involved in such activities; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against these organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SAWMI): (a) to (e) As per reports, the following NGOs have clandestine links with terrorists organisations in the North East Region:

- (i) Manab Adhikar Sangram Samiti (MASS)
- (ii) North East Coordination Committee on Human Rights (NECCHR)
- (iii) United Committee, Manipur (UCM)
- (iv) Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR)
- (v) Naga Students Federation (NSF)

These NGOs have not been reported to have engaged themselves openly in supporting or promoting terrorist activities. These NGOs reportedly maintain discreet links with the terrorist organisations. However - 13 terrorist organisations of North Eastern States have been declared as Unlawful Associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

None of the five NGOs mentioned above is getting any financial assistance from the Government of India.

Achievements under Poverty Alleviation Programme

*16. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the mid-term development report of the World Bank, the Government of India is lagging

far behind in the achievement of targets set by it for poverty alleviation in the context of millennium development;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any measures towards poverty alleviation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored urban poverty alleviation programme called Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), which was launched on 1st December, 1997, focuses on the setting up of micro-enterprises by the individuals/groups as also on the upgradation of skills of the targeted urban poor population. The programme is continuing in the 10th Five Year Plan with a total outlay of Rs.541 crore.

Also, Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), a new centrally sponsored scheme was launched in December, 2001 for providing shelter/upgraded shelter to the urban poor slum dwellers living below the poverty line all over the country. A sum of Rs.211.87 crore has so far been released since the inception of the scheme for construction of 106,038 dwelling units and 20,817 toilet seats.

Further, under National Slum Development Programme (NSDP), which was launched in August, 1996, Additional Central Assistance is provided to the States/UTs for upgradation of urban slums by physical amenities like water supply, storm water drain, community bath, widening and paving of existing lanes, sewers, community latrines, street lights etc. Since inception of the programme, as reported by the States/UTs upto 01.01.2003, out of the total funds of Rs.2009.87 crores released by the Central Government, an amount of Rs.1386.55 crores has been spent and about 3.48 crores of slum dwellers have benefited from this programme.

Villages Falling under Cantonment Areas

*17. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the State Governments in regard to declaring the villages falling under the cantonment areas as inhabited areas;

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

(c) whether the basic facilities are not being provided to the people living in villages falling under 62 cantonment boards in the country; and

(d) if so, the action plan formulated by the Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL):

(a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

[Eng#sh]

Setting up of Urban Sanitation Mission

*18. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had directed the Union Government to set up an Urban Sanitation Mission to clean major cities;

(b) if so, the reasons for not setting up such of an Urban Sanitation Mission so far;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has expressed its concern on January 14, 2003 over long delay in setting up of the Sanitation Mission to clean major cities;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has also asked the Union Government about the comprehensive plan for the municipal solid waste management and marketing of urban compost as an alternative for the fertilizers;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(f) the time by which such an Urban Sanitation Mission is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated January, 14, 2003 relating to Writ Petition (Civil) No. 888/96 has directed the Union of India and also State Governments

to give their responses to the specific suggestions made by the Petitioner, Mrs. Almitra H. Patel, for improving solid waste management, including the setting up of an Urban Sanitation Mission and marketing of urban compost as an alternative for the fertilizers.

(e) The Planning Commission has proposed in the Tenth Plan a new mission mode State sector programme named "Urban Sanitation Mission" with focus on assisting Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) with Special Central Assistance for setting up sanitary land-fills, composting plants for urban solid waste management and improvement of drainage with a proposed additional allocation of Rs. 2000 crores. Guidelines for the mission are at consultation stage between the Planning Commission and the concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India.

As regards marketing of urban compost as an alternative for fertilizers, the Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation is of the view that urban compost is bulky material supplying nutrients in the range of only 1-3%. It has favourable effect on the physical properties of soils and is useful as a supplementary nutrient source. However, the main source of nutrient supply to crops is chemical fertilisers, supplying nutrients in the range of 16-60%. There is no meaningful substitute of chemical fertilisers for ensuring high productivity of crops. Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation and Indian Council of Agricultural & Research are in agreement with the need for conjunctive use of organic manures (including city compost) with chemical fertilizers for sustainable agriculture production and improving soil fertility. However, the limit of toxic elements and contaminants has to be maintained within safer limits for large-scale use in agriculture and hence, has to be monitored for its quality.

To encourage the use of compost, Ministry of Agriculture was giving support for creating infrastructure like setting up of compost plants so as to reduce cost and make more and more compost available to the farmers at a reasonable cost. The Scheme has been transferred in October, 2000 to the States which are now expected to take up this activity within the overall limit of funds provided for such schemes.

(f) No commitment or time limit can be given by the Government of India for setting up the Urban Sanitation Mission at this stage.

Global Research Alliance

*19. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has forged a research alliance with nine research institutions of the world

as reported in the Indian Express dated January 22, 2003 under caption "India forges a research alliance";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the research institutions of the countries with whom India has made a Global Research Alliance (GRA);

(d) the benefits likely to be availed by member institutions by forming this alliance;

(e) whether all the institutions are free to share the latest information and technology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), India has joined hands with eight other like-minded leading S&T organizations from around the world to establish a Global Research Alliance (GRA). The participating institutions are CSIR from India, SIRIM Berhad from Malaysia, CSIR from South Africa, CSIRO from Australia, DTI from Denmark, VTT from Finland, FhG from Germany, TNO from The Netherlands and Battelle Memorial Institute from the USA.

The GRA seeks the networking of the global S&T organizations for synergising and pooling their human & infrastructural endowments for providing S&T solutions to global problems and issues beyond the ken of any single member. The idea of GRA was mooted in a meeting in April, 2002, convened by CSIR-SA in Pretoria and formalized in the meeting at Delhi in January, 2003. The 'Nerve Centre' for the GRA, initially for a year, is located at CSIR-SA;

(d) The declared motto of GRA is to create 'Global knowledge Pool for Global Good through Global Funding'. Accordingly, it will undertake large impact projects for the benefit of the society. The priority areas are water, health, energy, transportation, climate change and the digital divide. The institutions will benefit through cooperation and by joint working on global problems beyond the capacity of any single institution and by accessing major global funding.

(e) and (f) In respect of projects to be taken up by the Alliance, the institutions may share the information to the extent that will be considered essential for the successful delivery of the specific projects.

[Translation]

Withdrawal of Subsidy given for Higher Education

*20. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to withdraw subsidy being given for higher education;

(b) if so, the amount of average annual subsidy given for this purpose during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for the withdrawal of subsidy;

(d) whether the Government had committed to allocate 10% of the GDP for education; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Government does not consider the amount spent on Higher Education as a subsidy. It is an investment in human resource development and there is no proposal to reduce it.

(d) and (e) As per the National Policy of Education (NPE) 1986, as amended in 1992, it is the endeavour of Government to increase the government outlay on education to reach the level of 6% of GDP.

[English]

Transfer of Powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions by Union Territory of Chandigarh

1. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Territory of Chandigarh Administration has yet not transferred the constitutionally stipulated functions to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Union Territory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which such functions are likely to be transferred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL):
(a) As per available information, the Union Territory Administration of Chandigarh have not yet transferred functions to Panchayati Raj Institutions in respect of 29 subjects listed in the Schedule-XI of the Constitution.

(b) and (c) Panchayati Raj being a State subject, the Union Territory Administration are required to endow the Panchayats with such powers as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. The Central Government have been persuading the States/Union Territories including the Union Territory Administration of Chandigarh, through high level Meetings, as also through correspondence with the Chief Minister and State Ministers incharge of Panchayati Raj to devolve powers to Panchayats.

Anganwadi Workers

2. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to regularise the services of Anganwadi workers under the ICDS since their work load had increased manifold after they are attached to the panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government in view of the Anganwadi workers discharging host of functions are considering to increase monthly payment from Rs.700/- and Rs.400/- to Rs.2,500 and Rs.1,500/- respectively;

(d) if so, the time by which the monthly payments are likely to be increased; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (e) Recognising the significant services being provided by the Anganwadi Workers, Government has decided in January 2003 to enhance the honoraria of Anganwadi Workers by Rs.500/- per month and that of Anganwadi Helpers by Rs.240/- per month retrospectively with effect from 1st April 2002. Necessary orders in this regard have already been issued to State Governments/UT Administrations.

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme envisages that Anganwadi Workers and Helpers would be honorary workers from the local communities who will come forward to render assistance to needy children

pregnant and lactating mothers. Therefore, it is neither justified nor feasible to treat them as regular government employees.

[Translation]

Promotion of Sanskrit Language

3. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds likely to be spent on promotion of Sanskrit language during Tenth Plan;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce Sanskrit as a compulsory subject in schools; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development has allocated Rs.150,00 crores during the Tenth Plan for the promotion of Sanskrit Language in the country through its following three agencies/schemes:

i. Development of Sanskrit Education

ii. Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi

iii. Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Prathishthan, Ujjain

In addition, funds for the promotion and development of Sanskrit are also provided by the University Grants Commission to two deemed Sanskrit Universities, namely i) Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapith, Tirupati and ii) Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapith, New Delhi and to other Universities that have Sanskrit departments.

Further, various State Governments have their own schemes to promote Sanskrit.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal under consideration.

[English]

Projects Launched by CAPART

4. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects, proposals received/implemented by the CAPART during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 so far State-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) the funds sanctioned/released/utilized under these projects during the said period, NGO-wise and project-wise;

(c) whether the working of the NGOs has been evaluated;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made by them and the number of people especially tribals benefited under the scheme, State-wise;

(e) whether the cases of misuse of funds have come to the notice of the Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and NGOs-wise;

(g) whether some project proposals from the States are lying pending with the CAPART during the said period;

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

(i) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (i) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotion of IT Education

5. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to facilitate augmentation of the quality of information of the quality of information technology education and its expansion among the student community;

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

(c) whether the Government have also undertaken projects to facilitate the promotion of IT enabled services in the State and have received proposals to this effect; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) A revised Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) has been launched in 2001-2002 to promote computer literacy in schools in the country. Under the revised CLASS scheme, financial assistance is being provided to States/Union Territories on the basis of Computer Education Plans (CEPs) submitted by the States/UTs. Besides, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan (KVS) and Navodaya Yidyalaya Samiti (NYS) would convert one school per State/UT into a SMART school. A grant of not more than Rs. 25 lakhs would be given per SMART school.

On the basis of the Computer Education Plan (CEP) received from the Government of Maharashtra financial assistance of Rs.9.00 crores were sanctioned to the Government of Maharashtra for imparting computer education in 180 schools. Out of this, an amount of Rs.4.50 crores has been released to the State Government during 2001-2002 as 1st instalment. Besides Kendriya Yidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Yidyalaya Samiti have identified KV, BEG, Pune and JNV, Amravati for converting it into a SMART school.

State-wise details of number of schools covered is given in the statement-I enclosed.

University Grant Commission has been assisting colleges for procuring computers with the objective to create awareness among students about use of the computers. 3919 colleges have been provided assistance for computer facilities. State-wise details of number of colleges is given in the statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

State-wise number of schools assisted for computer facilities

State/UT	No. of Schools
1	2
Maharashtra	180
Tripura	50
Chhattisgarh	100
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	14
Haryana	100
West Bengal	300
Punjab	200

1	2
Andhra Pradesh	500
Tamil Nadu	200
Manipur	50
Goa	50
Uttar Pradesh	300
Himachal Pradesh	100
Mizoram	40
Sikkim	29
Madhya Pradesh	390
Gujarat	300
Meghalaya	59
Karnataka	150
NVS	
KVS	
Total	3112

Statement-II

*State-wise number of colleges assisted
for computer-facilities*

State/UT	No. of Colleges Assisted first time
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	317
Arunachal Pradesh	3
Assam	121
Bihar/Jharkhand	195
Delhi	62
Goa	9
Gujarat/Daman/Diu	241
Haryana	129

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	37
Jammu & Kashmir	28
Karnataka	325
Kerala	171
Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	321
Maharashtra	503
Manipur	41
Meghalaya/Mizoram/Nagaland	17
Orissa	208
Pondicherry	8
Punjab/Chandigarh	206
Rajasthan	141
Tamil Nadu	211
Tripura	8
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	305
West Bengal	312
All India Total	3919

Police Performance during Riots

6. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken or proposed to be taken to improve police performance in meeting the communal and other riots;

(b) the details of Central guidelines if any, issued to States in this respect;

(c) whether the Centre allocates any fund for proper police training and provision of non-lethal weaponry for riot control;

(d) if so, the funds allocated and utilized by the States during each of the past three years; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to rid the police force of undue political intervention that affects their proper functioning during riot and post riot situations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) 'Police' being a State subject as per the Constitution of India, it is the primary responsibility of State Governments to take necessary measures in this regard. However, the Central Government has been advising the State Governments to ensure that the Police Forces retain their secular and impartial character. The reports of the National Police Commission which also contained recommendations to deal with communal riots were forwarded to all the State Governments for necessary action.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Central Government provide

assistance on 50:50 sharing basis to the State Governments for Modernisation of State Police Forces which includes training and provision of non-lethal weaponry of riot control etc. The funds allocated in last three years and their utilization in various States are placed in enclosed statement.

(e) Recommendation of the National Police Commission and the Padmanabhaiah Committee on Police Reforms including isolation of Police from political intervention during communal riots and post riot situations have been sent to the States for implementation.

Statement

Scheme for Modernisation of State Police forces 2000-01 and 2001-02 funds released/utilization position

(Rs. in crore) (Position as on 16-1-2003)

Name of State	Central funds released during 1999-2000	Utilisation position	Annual allocation since 2000-01	Approved Plan including State share 2000-01	Actual funds released (Central Share) 2000-01	Utilisation position 2000-01 (Central and State share)	Approved Plan including State share 2001-02	Actual funds released (Central Share) 2001-02	Utilisation position 2001-02 (Central and State Share)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	3.5478	3.5478	82.00	144.04	72.02	142.82	154.405	77.2025	43.3945
Arunachal Pradesh	1.771	1.771	05.20	2.30	01.15	02.30	8.82917	04.414585	6.2282
Assam	47.715	47.715	38.70	73.15	36.575	33.39	77.18	38.59	Nil
Bihar	5.0853	5.0853	54.00	115.17	57.585	23.001	108.00	54.00	Nil
Chhattisgarh			19.00	41.15	20.575	39.25	43.94	21.97	18.69
Goa	Nil	Nil	02.00	4.04	02.02	03.54	4.00	02.00	2.50
Gujarat	5.703	5.703	50.00	119.53	59.76	111.55	100.00	50.00	42.31
Haryana	3.1952	3.1952	22.10	56.67	28.325	56.67	48.9211144	24.4605572	48.92
Himachal Pradesh	4.3782	4.3782	06.70	1.34	01.34	01.34	12.7589	06.37945	Nil
Jammu & Kashmir	0.4077	0.4077	28.50	61.65	30.825	61.64	57.00	28.50	50.40
Jharkhand			18.00	80.30	40.15	46.59	57.87	28.935	57.87
Karnataka	6.213	6.213	75.00	165.70	82.85	162.51	153.9597	76.97985	93.34
Kerala	1.8999	1.8999	31.50	58.57	29.28	46.76	62.230374	31.115187	49.64
Madhya Pradesh	8.4636	8.4636	53.00	108.97	54.49	108.97	106.00091	53.000455	79.37
Maharashtra	5.6882	5.6882	92.10	166.20	83.10	135.88	184.20	92.10	112.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Manipur	0.1731	0.1731	10.50	8.20	04.10	01.453	9.90492	04.95246	Nil
Meghalaya	0.1297	0.1297	5.50	3.08	01.54	01.09	10.3829168	05.1914584	Nil
Mizoram	1.7338	1.7338	5.50	9.91	04.95	09.91	11.00	05.50	11.00
Nagaland	1.6437	1.6437	13.50	5.68	02.84	05.68	26.8855	13.44275	26.94075
Orissa	0.5230	0.5230	30.50	61.15	30.575	33.11	61.00	30.50	19.29
Punjab	0.4232	0.4232	32.10	71.51	35.76	64.345	64.1997940	32.0998974	24.40
Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	61.10	91.05	45.525	32.342	122.20	61.10	32.343
Sikkim	Nil	Nil	03.20	3.66	01.83	00.21	5.7447	2.87235	Nil
Tamil Nadu	1.6396	1.6396	68.10	153.00	76.50	131.69	136.20	68.10	136.20
Tripura	1.7779	1.7779	05.60	12.79	06.39	12.79	11.20	05.60	10.31
Uttar Pradesh	9.5106	9.5106	123.52	247.94	123.97	117.45	232.099	116.0495	10.24
Uttaranchal			06.58	11.01	05.50	10.04	16.888	08.444	01.20
West Bengal	7.615	7.615	56.50	120.95	60.475	44.55	113.00	56.00	Nil
Total	72.00	72.00	1000.00	1998.00	1000.00	1434.821	2000.00	1000.000	877.48645

Irregularities in Kendriya Bhandar

7. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 431 dated 17.7.02 and state:

(a) whether the Inquiry Officers have since submitted their reports and if so, the details together with findings thereof;

(b) the action taken on those reports and whether any case is made out of them for recovery of losses to the Kendriya Bhandar;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the recoveries are to be made from them and the amount expected thereby;

(d) whether more cases of financial irregularities and misrepresentation of facts and possession of disproportionate assets have come to light and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check accumulation of illegal wealth by the employees to strengthen vigilance division and to make it more effective

and fully computerize Kendriya Bhandar in all respects so as to plug all the loopholes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) The Inquiry Officers have since submitted the reports in respect of cases mentioned at S.No.4 of Annexure-I relating to Shri D.K. Jain and S.No.3 of Annexure-II relating to Shri M.C. Acharya attached with USQ No. 431 dated 17.7.2002. The competent Authority, after examination of the report of the Inquiry Officer, has withdrawn the charges in respect of Shri D.K. Jain and has imposed a penalty of reversion of the lower post in respect of Shri M.C. Acharya. A case of recovery was made out against Shri M.C. Acharya and the entire amount has already been recovered.

(d) Kendriya Bhandar is examining at present one suspected case of stock discrepancy and one case of possession of disproportionate assets.

(e) Return of Properties have been obtained from officials of the level of Managers and above and investigations are carried out, wherever necessary. The computerization in Kendriya Bhandar is done in phases.

Price of Imported and Indigenous Coal

8. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of imported coal is cheaper and is having high producing heat than that of indigenous one;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission in their Report of the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy published in May, 1996 has not accepted the said contention;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether various duties such as cess, royalty, excise duty, etc. are added to the indigenous coal production cost, whereas only CIF and import duty are taken into account on imported coal, barring the carrying cost by Rail which is considered depending on the distance;

(e) if so the reasons therefore;

(f) whether the Planning Commission in their said report (appendix 2.8) have given comparative prices of imported and indigenous coal which amply highlights that the prices of indigenous coal produced in Eastern, Western, Northern, Southern and Madhya regions of the country are cheaper than that of imported ones; and

(g) if so, the reasons for import of coal?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The average pithead sale value of Indian coal is one of the lowest on per tonne basis in rupee terms when compared to the CIF price in the international market. However, the delivered price of Indian coal upon transportation over long distances to various consumption points including transportation cost is substantially higher. The foreign coals are superior in terms of ash content and unit heat value. Therefore, Indian coal on per therm basis may be costlier in certain coastal locations.

(b) and (c) The Committee on Integrated Coal Policy constituted by the Planning Commission, in their report, have stated that the imported coal is costlier than domestic coal on calorific value basis at all locations and it is more so in the Northern and Central Regions because of their distances from ports. The Committee have, however, stated that the imported coking coal does not appear to be costlier than domestic coal. The Committee have based their view on a statement worked out by Coal India Limited on cost comparison of imported coal and domestic coal and on another statement worked out by Ministry of Steel on coking coal.

(d) The prices of coal notified by the coal companies are pit head prices of coal, to which statutory levies and transportation charges are added when it reaches the end consumers. The add-ons to the sale price of coal are as under:-

- (i) Royalty;
- (ii) Cess (only in respect of coal produced in West Bengal);
- (iii) Stowing Excise Duty (SED);
- (iv) Sales tax;
- (v) Freight; and
- (vi) Local levies.

(e) As per the provisions of various relevant statutes, levies such as royalty, cess, SED, Sale tax and local levies are applicable to indigenous coal only and therefore these are not levied on imported coal.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Coking coal is being imported by the integrated steel plants since early eighties due to non-availability/inadequate availability of the required quality and quantity of coking coal indigenously. With liberalisation of import of coal in early nineties non-coking coal is imported by consumers for blending with indigenous coal, on environmental consideration and on consideration of location specific landed cost.

Salt Pan Land Mumbai

9. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of Ministers led by the Urban Development Minister had paid visit in January, 2003 to the Salt Pan Land in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the observations made;

(c) whether he has made an announcement in Mumbai that in February, 2003 the whole proposal to exploit the Salt Pan Land for the people of Mumbai will be finalized;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the present status thereof;

(f) the time by which the proposal is likely to be

processed by the Government and the Group of Ministers and it is likely to be finalized; and

(g) the site-wise details of Salt Pan Land available along with its reservation, legal ownership, possession, status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. A Group of Ministers visited Salt Pan Lands at different locations in Mumbai and expressed need for expeditious development of the immediately available Salt Pan Lands. The detailed modalities for development of these lands are being worked out for consideration by the Group of Ministers constituted for the purpose.

(g) The village-wise details of Salt Pan Land along with status are given in the statement-I and II enclosed.

Statement-I

Village-wise details of Salt Pan Land in Mumbai

Sl.No.	Village	Total land (Ha)
1	2	3
1.	Dahisar	175.00

1	2	3
2.	Malvani	18.00
3.	Pahadi	40.00
4.	Mulund	456.00
5.	Nahur	86.00
6.	Bhandup	220.00
7.	Kanjur	598.00
8.	Wadala	164.00
9.	Anik	54.00
10.	Turbhe	148.00
11.	Mandale	105.00
12.	Chembur	57.00
13.	Ghatkopar	56.00
	Total	2177.00

Statement-II

Summary of Salt Pan Lands

1.	Area Available for development		346.00 Ha
2.	Additional areas to be made available for development with modification of Development Plan:		
	(i) Areas under NDZ	71.00 Ha	
	(ii) Areas under CRZ-II	74.00 Ha	
	(iii) Area under CRZ-III	176.00 Ha	321.00 Ha
3.	Areas already allotted to:		
	(i) State Govt. Agencies (including 75.00 Ha area given for Bhandup Sewerage Project and is falling under CRZ-I)	194.00 Ha	269.00 Ha
	(ii) Central Govt. Agencies	75.00 Ha	
	Area under ownership disputes		134.00 Ha
	Area under Encroachment:		
	(i) Multi-storied Development	156.00 Ha	
	(ii) Slums	18.00 Ha	174.00 Ha
	Areas not available for development:		
	(i) Areas under CRZ-I	923. Ha	
	(ii) Area lost in court case in Nahur Village	10.00 Ha	933.00 Ha
	Total Salt Pan Land under Transfer of M/o UD & PA		2177.00 Ha

[Translation]

Development of Model Villages in the Country

10. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether HUDCO has started working on special plan for the development of model villages in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, location-wise; and
- (c) the details of the villages selected along with the funds sanctioned to develop these model villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Research Work on Glaciers

11. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of continuous melting and shrinking of size of glaciers the Government had decided to set up a National Institute in Himachal Pradesh to undertake research work on the glaciers;
- (b) if so, whether any such Institute has been set up;
- (c) if so, the date on which it was set up; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) to (d) At present, the Government is working on a plan to set up a National Centre for Field Operations and Research in Himalayan Glaciology (NCFOR-HG) during the 10th Plan. A detailed proposal to set up the proposed centre has already been formulated. As per recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Himalayan Glaciers, constituted by the Planning Commission, the national centre may initially be co-located either with the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun (Uttaranchal) or at the Snow & Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE), Manali, Himachal Pradesh. Once the proposed NCFOR-HG becomes operational, the Government may consider to set up other regional outfits of

the main centre to carry out region-specific glaciological studies.

[English]

Funds to Terrorists

12. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the concrete evidence in the possession of British officials about providing finance to the terrorists operating in India by the ISI Chief Ayub Thokar through European countries;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have held any discussion with the British Government for the arrest of Ayub Thokar; and
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) The issue has been taken up at various political and official levels with the British Government in order to sensitize them about the importance that Government attaches to the matter.

[Translation]

Proposals sent by Jharkhand for Development of Science and Technology

13. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the proposals sent by Jharkhand Government for the development of Science and Technology; and
- (b) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) and (b) The Government of India has already approved the establishment of Regional Science Centre at Ranchi and has released a part of its capital cost share to National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), which is the implementing agency for this project. The capital cost of the project is to be equally shared by the Government of India in Department of Culture and Government of Jharkhand. A plot of land was also identified by NCSM in consultation with the officials of the Government of Jharkhand. Confirmation from

the Government of Jharkhand regarding availability of this land for the project and release of their share of 50% of the project cost to NCSM is awaited.

Jharkhand Government has sent a proposal to set up Software Technology Park at Ranchi to the Government of India in the Department of Commerce, which has been forwarded to Department of Information Technology (DIT). Software Technology Park of India (STPI) in DIT has already requested Jharkhand Government to make available 8 acres of land, 3000 sq. ft. of built up space and Rs 1 crore to partially defray the expenses towards the total project cost. Response from Jharkhand Government is awaited.

[English]

Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalayas

14. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to allot examination centre in Kerala to the applicants for the post of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalayas to be held in 2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As informed by KVS a reference has been received seeking allocation of examination centre for written test and interview for recruitment of teachers for Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) in the state of Kerala. However, for the sake of proper supervision, control and on the basis of past experience, they have been keeping first stage examination centres only at places of its Regional Offices all over the country i.e. seventeen (leaving aside Silchar region). Since there is no Regional Office in the state of Kerala, it has not been possible to keep a centre in Kerala. The number of candidates in second stage examination gets reduced and therefore centres for second stage examination have been kept at eight places only from the point of view of effective supervision and control.

Further for the sake of uniformity, transparency and fairness, the interviews are held in Delhi under the supervision of KVS (Hqrs.).

Setting up of Overseas Campuses

15. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian Universities particularly the University of Mumbai have decided to set up overseas campuses in foreign countries to meet the educational aspirations of the children of Indian immigrants working in these countries;

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

(c) whether the proposal has been put in abeyance for want of amendment in the Mumbai University Act;

(d) if so, whether the University Grants Commission has not given necessary approval for carrying out the amendment in Mumbai University Act; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) The University of Mumbai explored the possibility of setting up overseas campus in collaboration with a partner institute in Kuwait. The proposal was not processed further by the University Grants Commission as the collaborating partner decided to withdraw from the venture.

Workers Deployed by Contractors in Coal Mines

16. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers deployed by contractors in coal mines in each subsidiary of Coal India Ltd.;

(b) whether any agreement is signed between the contractors and management regarding the working conditions and wages of workers;

(c) if so, the total emoluments fixed to be paid to the workers deployed by contractors in different categories;

(d) whether the workers are being paid in accordance with the agreement by the contractors; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the management in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The total number of contractor workers engaged in different jobs in coal mines in each subsidiary of Coal India Limited is given below:

Name of the subsidiary	No. of Contractors Workers
ECL	3952
BCCL	1244
CCL	7000
WCL	3301
SECL	13255
NCL	5774
MCL	6754

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The terms and conditions are mentioned in the letter of award of work/agreement with the contractors. The conditions include that the workers engaged by the contractors shall not be paid less than the minimum rate of wages payable as mentioned in the letter of award/agreement.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (d) above.

Crime in the Country

17. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the crime reported ~~is~~ per one lakh population during 2000, 2001 and 2002 State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to curb the crime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The rate of cognizable crime under I.P.C. per lakh of population as compiled by National Crime Records Bureau for the years 2000 and 2001 state-wise is enclosed as statement. Information for the year 2002 is not available.

(b) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are state subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, registration, investigation and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been advising the state governments, from time to time, to give more focused attention to the improvement of administration of the criminal justice system.

Statement			
Rate of Cognizable Crimes under IPC during 2000 and 2001			
Sl.No.	State/UT	Rate	
		2000	2001
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	159.9	162.3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	197.3	214.7
3.	Assam	133.8	140.5
4.	Bihar	123.4	104.9
5.	Chhattisgarh	NE	174.0
6.	Goa	150.8	174.2
7.	Gujarat	238.9	195.8
8.	Haryana	198.2	183.6
9.	Himachal Pradesh	165.1	189.3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	175.4	193.7
11.	Jharkhand	NE	101.3
12.	Karnataka	209.2	206.9
13.	Kerala	306.1	324.2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	269.8	264.9
15.	Maharashtra	189.7	175.3
16.	Manipur	101.7	103.2
17.	Meghalaya	69.4	71.9
18.	Mizoram	241.5	252.4
19.	Nagaland	80.7	61.0
20.	Orissa	137.4	131.5
21.	Punjab	103.2	114.3
22.	Rajasthan	298.8	274.8
23.	Sikkim	76.9	66.3
24.	Tamil Nadu	244.3	220.3

1	2	3	4
25.	Tripura	88.6	87.7
26.	Uttaranchal	NE	81.7
27.	Uttar Pradesh	102.4	105.0
28.	West Bengal	83.0	76.8
Total States		173.3	163.1
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	193.8	184.8
30.	Chandigarh	328.3	369.1
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	229.2	147.3
32.	Daman & Diu	178.0	151.9
33.	Delhi	399.0	394.6
34.	Lakshadweep	33.3	59.0
35.	Pondicherry	302.1	418.4
Total UTs		378.8	383.2
Total All-India		176.7	166.6

People Injured/Died in Coal Mines

18. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the MINISTER OF COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons injured/died in Coal Mines in various States during the period 1.1.2002 and 31.12.2002 and its comparison with the figures of last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials in such cases;

(c) the compensation paid to each of injured and family of deceased in such cases; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The number of persons seriously injured/died in coal mines in the various states during the years 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are as under:-

State	No. of persons died				No. of persons seriously injured			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Andhra Pradesh	27	34	25	24	112	91	117	109
Assam	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
Bihar	42	-	-	-	169	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh	-	6	9	7	-	84	83	68
Gujarat	0	1	2	1	3	5	6	2
Jharkhand	-	39	52	27	-	176	145	93
Jammu & Kashmir	1	0	-	-	0	1	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	28	21	13	17	90	63	72	44
Maharashtra	7	18	12	8	42	78	79	40
Orissa	7	2	4	3	17	18	11	16
Rajasthan	0	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	2	3	5	1	5	2	7	8
Uttar Pradesh	0	2	1	0	4	4	9	2
West Bengal	23	17	19	11	205	184	191	130
All India	138	144	142	99	650	707	720	512

(b) Action taken by the Government against the guilty officials held responsible for fatal accidents in coal mines during the years 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are as under:

Action Taken	1999	2000	2001	2002*
A. Action taken by DGMS				
1 Suspension/cancellation of certificate	0	0	0	0
2 Warnings issued	18	1	10	0
3 Prosecution launched	101	99	78	46
4 Misadventure - No action	8	5	15	0
5 Other action taken	12	2	7	5
B. Action taken by management				
1 Suspended from duty	60	41	43	15
2 Debarred from promotion	2	3	1	0
3 Demoted	4	6	5	1
4 Transferred	1	0	1	0
5 Increment withheld	24	14	31	7
6 Service terminated	14	11	2	1
7 Warned by management	31	11	17	13
8 Disciplinary action	1	0	1	2
9 Deceased - No action	50	58	32	14

* Data for the year 2002 are provisional.

(c) The compensation is paid to family of the deceased victim of fatal accident as per the Workmen's Compensation Act. Persons who suffer permanent disability as a result of injury in accident are also paid compensation as per Workmen's Compensation Act. Persons who suffer injury in accidents, not resulting in a permanent disability, are given medical treatment at the company's expense and given paid leave for the duration of treatment.

The details of the compensation paid in cases of fatal accidents in the mines of Coal India Limited(CIL), Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) and Neyveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd.(NLC) during the year 2002 are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed there under. The safety laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines on the basis of the available strength of inspecting officers to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as:

(i) Conference on Safety in Mines (ii) Workers' participation in safety management (iii) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels (iv) Training of work persons (v) Observance of Safety Weeks and Safety Campaigns (vi) National Safety Awards and (vii) Standing Committee on safety in Coal mines.

Statement

Details of compensation paid in cases of fatal accidents in the mines of CIL, SCCL and NLC are as under:-

Coal India Limited (CIL)

State	Accident Date	Mine	Victim Name	Compensation (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
Chhattisgarh	24-Feb-02	Gevra Project	Dipak Taunk	199400
Chhattisgarh	16-Mar-02	North Chirimiri	Shri Kabutar	332580
Chhattisgarh	20-Apr-02	Laxman OC	Hari Ram Sahu	362740

1	2	3	4	5
Chhattisgarh	23-May-02	Rajgamar	Lagansai	181370
Chhattisgarh	5-Jun-02	Chattarpur Mine No.II	Jhabu	365240
Chhattisgarh	16-Jul-02	Chirimiri	Nathu	Under Process
Chhattisgarh	26-Nov-02	Manikpur OC	Baiga Ram	Under Process
Chhattisgarh	7-Dec-02	Bisrampur OC	Satish Kumar	199400
Jharkhand	4-Jan-02	Lohapatti	Ramu Mahato	113410
Jharkhand	15-Jan-02	Govindpur VG	Manbodh	201660
Jharkhand	2-Feb-02	Rajrappa OCP	Bishwanath Munda	179060
Jharkhand	10-Mar-02	KDH OC	Sriprasad Singh	319600
Jharkhand	10-Mar-02	Gidi-A	Lalji Kumar	332580
Jharkhand	25-Mar-02	Hariajam	Basir Mia	278260
Jharkhand	25-Mar-02	Rajrappa OCP	Niranjan Mahato	192140
Jharkhand	3-Apr-02	Basdeopur	Bikram Singh	171000
Jharkhand	3-Apr-02	Basdeopur	Arjun Ravidas	148000
Jharkhand	4-Apr-02	Kedla OCP	Nemchand Mahato	278260
Jharkhand	1-May-02	Damoda	Bindeswari Prasad	153130
Jharkhand	4-Jun-02	Bhowrah (S)	Ch Israil Mia	242000
Jharkhand	7-Jun-02	Pindra UG	Harsoo Bhuyan	194640
Jharkhand	13-Jun-02	KB 5/6 PIT	Sukumar Singha	180000
Jharkhand	19-Jun-02	Seldhori Qry. No.3	Kalpatia Kamin	Under Process
Jharkhand	31-Aug-02	AKMW	Dipak Kumar Dubey	50000
Jharkhand	28-Sep-02	Lohapatti	Mohan Mehera	320471
Jharkhand	29-Oct-02	Nudkharkee	R.B. Pandey	Executive not eligible
Jharkhand	22-Nov-02	Rajmahal OCP	Khirao Thakur	Under Process
Jharkhand	10-Dec-02	Ghanoodih	Budhni Bhuian	161940
Jharkhand	11-Dec-02	Kedla U/G	Atwa Munda	508680
Jharkhand	21-Dec-02	Sirka CHP	Chattu Mahto	
Maharashtra	8-Feb-02	New Majri OC	Narasimha Murthy	Sub-Judice

1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra	6-Apr-02	Gondagaon	U Mahomudin	131950
Maharashtra	13-Apr-02	Umrer OC	Apurva Samanta	358349
Maharashtra	13-May-02	Makardhokra OC	N. Janabandhu	249400
Maharashtra	25-Aug-02	Pipla UG	Ramji	55632
Maharashtra	19-Sep-02	Mahakali	Musafir Jamuna	249400
Maharashtra	28-Dec-02	Mahakali	Pradeep Nagina Pal	Under Process
Maharashtra	20-Dec-02	Ballarpur 3&4 Pits	Gajraj Bharosa	Under Process
Madhya Pradesh	3-Jan-02	Rajnagarro	Deonath	128303
Madhya Pradesh	30-Jan-02	Vishnupuri UG No.2	Mahesh	333912
Madhya Pradesh	4-May-02	Malga	Shambhu Prasad	345040
Madhya Pradesh	26-Jun-02	Nowrozabad East	Habeeb	292400
Madhya Pradesh	2-Sep-02	Nigahi OCP	Ram Vridh	401300
Madhya Pradesh	17-Oct-02	Kotma West 7/8	Narendra Kr Pal	423580
Madhya Pradesh	30-Oct-02	Rawanwara Khas	Premial	139130
Madhya Pradesh	15-Nov-02	Bijuri	Budhsen	319600
Madhya Pradesh	15-Nov-02	Bijuri	Bhaiyalal	351080
Madhya Pradesh	17-Nov-02	Mohan	Sudesh Kumar	Under Process
Madhya Pradesh	28-Nov-02	Ganapati	Maiku	285360
Madhya Pradesh	4-Dec-02	Naheria	Dhani Ram	Under Process
Madhya Pradesh	7-Dec-02	Nandan 2	H L Nagle	Under Process
Madhya Pradesh	17-Dec-02	Malga	Kuwar Bahadur	292400
Madhya Pradesh	17-Dec-02	Malga	Johan	319600
Madhya Pradesh	17-Dec-02	Malga	Govind	351080
Orissa	4-Mar-02	Balanda OC	Akshay Pradhan	143890
Orissa	26-Mar-02	Talcher	Rabi Behera	172520
Orissa	27-Apr-02	Kalinga OC	Dilharan Das	433820
Orissa	25-May-02	Lingraj	Golekha Bhutia	219950
West Bengal	9-Jan-02	Sodepur (R) 3A Pit	Tanik Paswan	149670

1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal	25-Jan-02	Bankola	Kamruddin Khan	135560
West Bengal	25-Jan-02	Bankola	Sovani Devi	172530
West Bengal	25-Jan-02	Bankola	Kamala Devi	172530
West Bengal	25-Jan-02	Bankola	Laksmi Devi	205950
West Bengal	30-May-02	Madhaipur	Ram Lakhan Beldar	124000
West Bengal	7-Aug-02	Sonepur Bazari OCP	Chaitra Keotia	15000
West Bengal	19-Aug-02	Shankarpur OCP	K K Saini	312940
West Bengal	20-Sep-02	Narsamunda	R N Prasad	201600
West Bengal	27-Sep-02	Pandaveswar 1 & 2 PIT	Jagdish Paswan	139130
West Bengal	2-Oct-02	Nakrakonda	Mahadeo Bagdi	Under Process

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)

State	Accident Date	Mine	Victim-Name	Compensation (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	9-Jan-02	SRP-2 Inc.	M Rayamallu	3,19,600
Andhra Pradesh	25-Feb-02	KK-2 Inc.	A. Bakkaiah	2,85,360
			F. Ellaiah	3,34,040
			J. Rajaiah	3,73,800
			P. Lingaiah	4,23,580
			M. Venkati	3,19,600
Andhra Pradesh	18-Mar-02	PK-2 Inc.	B. Januardhan Rao	3,01,840
Andhra Pradesh	26-Mar-02	MK-4 Inc.	S.P. Bartholomew	3,19,600
Andhra Pradesh	6-Apr.-02	Shanti Khani	K. Rajam	3,53,580
Andhra Pradesh	15-May-02	KK-1 Inc.	P. Ramchander	3,19,600
			P. Ramesh	3,68,340
Andhra Pradesh	21-June-02	SRP- 3&3 A	P. Mogili	3,45,040
Andhra Pradesh	17-July-02	GDK-2 A Inc.	K. Rajaiah	3,13,940
			S. Prakash Rao	4,04,320
Andhra Pradesh	17-Aug-02	RK-6 Inc.	Gunda Rayalingu	Under Process

1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	27 Aug-02	CHNR I/SRP	G. Samaiah	3,32,580
			K. Bakkaiah	3,79,120
			I. Posham	3,62,740
Andhra Pradesh	30-Sept.-02	GDK-I Inc.	Anumandala	
			Raghavulu	Under Process
Andhra Pradesh	18-Oct.-02	MK-4 Inc.	Nampali Ramesh	Under Process
Andhra Pradesh	10-Nov.-02	GDK-5 Inc.	Anumala Rajalah	Under Process
Andhra Pradesh	12-Nov.-02	KTK- 1&1 A	Kothuri Ramulu	Under Process
			Kondra Jakkaiah	
Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLCL)				
Tamil Nadu	4-May-02	B 6 Conveyer (Mine-II)	A. Kandekumar	3,19,612

Autonomy of Tribals

19. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to evolve a new policy and strategy to deal with the demand for autonomy by the tribals and ethnic groups in Assam and other parts of the North East;

(b) if so, the steps so far taken in that direction; and

(c) the outcome of such steps and the details of the new policy evolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) There have been demands from various tribal groups/ethnic groups in the North East for grant of autonomy. These demands are considered as per existing provisions of the Constitution of India.

Rural Universities

20. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rural Universities at present, State-wise;

(b) the funds given to these Rural Universities during the last three years and till date;

(c) whether the Government propose to use such universities to train Administrators/DRDAs in the field of rural development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL):

(a) There are no Universities categorized as "Rural Universities".

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Life Saving Drugs

21. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of indigenous companies in public and private sectors producing life saving drugs;

(b) the rate of increase in prices of life saving drugs during the last three years, year-wise, brand-wise and drug-wise;

(c) the details of demand and supply of such drugs; and

(d) the steps taken to improve their supply position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL

SINGH): (a) and (b) The Drugs (Prices Control) order, 1995 (D.P.C.O., 1995) does not make any distinction between Life Saving Drugs and other drugs. In accordance with the provisions of the said Order, the Government fixes prices of the drugs listed in its first Schedule and formulations based thereon. Any violation of the approved/notified price of a Scheduled formulation is liable for action under the provisions of the D.P.C.O., 1995.

(c) and (d) Based on the periodical reports received from various State Drugs Controllers, NPPA regularly monitors the availability of medicines in the country and takes prompt steps for ensuring availability. In general, the availability position of medicines in the country is satisfactory. Shortage, wherever reported, are of specified brands and are localized. Equivalent brands of other manufacturers are normally available in such cases.

Funds for Research and Development

22. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to double the funds for research and development by the end of the Tenth Plan period;

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

(c) whether the funds allocated during Ninth Plan period have been fully utilized as per schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that R&D funds are actually spent only on the research and development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. "Science and Technology Policy 2003" envisages to double the level of investment on Science and Technology by the end of 10th Plan with enhanced participation in R&D investment by industry. The 10th Plan S&T outlay for scientific agencies has increased from Rs. 12022.17 Crores in 9th Plan to Rs. 25243.00 Crores.

(c) and (d) A number of projects have been supported by various Central Ministries/Departments through sponsored research schemes such as State Councils for Science & Technology, National Council for Science & Technology Communication, Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board, Science & Society Programmes, Special Component Plan for Development of Scheduled Castes and

Tribal sub-plan, R&D in Biotechnology, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Space, Ocean Development and Atomic Energy utilising the allocation for R&D. According to available official statistics, the number of R&D projects funded during the years 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000 in various states is 1795, 1780, 2050 and 1793 with an approved cost of Rs. 186.48 crores, 218.56 crores, 349.84 and 424.92 crores respectively in institutions and universities located in various states.

(e) The schemes/programmes are periodically monitored and reviewed by the concerned ministries/departments on project to project basis. In addition Planning Commission also reviews the programme/schemes at macro-level to ensure effective utilisation of the funds for R&D.

[Translation]

Watershed Development Project for Rural Poverty

23. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from State Governments regarding watershed development project for poverty alleviation in the rural areas through land related activities;

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

(c) the number of projects sanctioned/cleared and pending with the Union Government as on date and the funds allocated State-wise and district-wise; and

(d) the time by which they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (d) The Department of Land Resources is implementing three Programmes, namely, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) for development/treatment of wastelands/degraded lands in accordance with the Guidelines for Watershed Development. The project proposals under DPAP/DDP are not invited from the State Governments but are sanctioned by the Department of Land Resources in the identified Development Blocks while projects under IWDP are invited from the State Governments.

Under IWDP since 1999-2000, project proposals are prioritized in consultation with the State Governments on year to year basis for sanction during a financial year. The pending project proposals which are not sanctioned in a financial year are also considered for prioritisation during the next financial

year in consultation with the State government. The pending project proposals which do not find a place in the priority list, are then returned to the State Governments. The number of prioritized project proposals received and sanctioned under IWDP during the current financial year i.e. 2002-03 are given in the statement enclosed. Under IWDP funds are not allocated state-wise or district-wise.

New projects are generally sanctioned in a year keeping in view the funds available for the programme, after meeting the liability for the ongoing projects, progress made in ongoing projects, spread of treatable wastelands in the State implementation capacity etc. and conformity of project proposals with the Guidelines for Watershed Development. Since sanction of project proposals depends on many factors such as budget available, conformity of project proposals with the Guidelines, progress in the ongoing projects etc. no firm time limit can be indicated. However, no State-wise allocation is made since the Programme is demand-driven.

Now, sanctioning procedure of IWDP, DPAP and DDP is being rationalized and made uniform under "Hariyali" Guidelines.

Statement

State-wise details of projects received and sanctioned under IWDP during the current financial year i.e. 2002-03 (Upto 14.02.2003)

Sl.No.	Name of the States	Number of Proposals received	Number of Projects sanctioned*
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12	-
3.	Assam	14	5
4.	Bihar	4	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	12	-
6.	Gujarat	9	-
7.	Haryana	2	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7	-
9.	Karnataka	9	1
10.	Madhya Pradesh	20	1
11.	Maharashtra	7	-

1	2	3	4
12.	Manipur	13	-
13.	Nagaland	6	-
14.	Orissa	9	-
15.	Punjab	1	-
16.	Rajasthan	1	-
17.	Tamil Nadu	11	-
18.	Uttar Pradesh	20	-
19.	Uttaranchal	7	4
20.	West Bengal	3	-

A new initiative called Hariyali has been launched by the Prime Minister on 27.1.2003 under which all Watershed projects will be sanctioned in future.

[English]

Hawala Transactions

24. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Delhi Police has arrested two persons who were in possession of Hawala money given to them by the Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan High Commission for funding terrorist activities in J & K and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Hawala money is coming into our country through various channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete action taken by the Central Government to stop the Hawala transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) A woman activist of All Party Hurriyat Conference was recently arrested by Delhi Police and amongst other things a bag containing Rs.3.00 lakhs was recovered from her. In the course of interrogation, she disclosed that she had received the money from the Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan based in Delhi for distributing it to militant outfits. She further disclosed that

an office bearer of Kashmir Awareness Bureau had also received money from the same source for funding terrorist activities. A raid was conducted at the premises of the Bureau located near Malaviya Nagar in New Delhi and several incriminating documents were recovered. The said office bearer was also arrested and on the basis of his disclosure, Rs.2 lakhs in cash were recovered from his residence.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The hawala money is received through various illegal activities like under-invoicing, over invoicing, bogus invoicing, smuggling, drug trafficking and commission from foreign contracts.

(e) The intelligence in regard to hawala operations is collected and developed on a continuing basis and those found indulging in these activities are proceeded against under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

Performance Appraisal System

25. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise the existing performance appraisal system for promotions and placements of the IAS/IPS & other Central Cadre Services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of officers likely to be affected by the revised system category-wise; and

(d) the reaction of the various Officers Associations to the changes proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) For bringing about a more transparent and efficient performance appraisal system which would serve to motivate officers, the need has been felt for a comprehensive review. Accordingly a Group has been constituted to look at the performance appraisal systems being followed elsewhere and come up with suggestions for a performance appraisal system that could be adopted for all officers of the All India Services and subsequently for the Group 'A' Central Services.

(d) No reaction of any Officers Associations has been received in respect of the task assigned to the aforementioned Group.

[Translation]

Subletting of Government Accommodation

26. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of sub-letting of the Government accommodation detected during the last three months, colony-wise, quarter-wise;

(b) whether the hearing of such cases is done by the officers of the Law Ministry;

(c) if so, the number of cases of sub-letting came for hearing during the last two years and the number of cases pending at present;

(d) whether some quarters which were found to be sublet during the checking were restored to the allottees of these quarters after some time;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of such quarters alongwith their quarter numbers and locations;

(f) whether the allottees who were earlier absolved of charges of sub-letting have been found involved in sub-letting as detected during the fresh checking; and

(g) if so, the names of such allottees, their quarter numbers alongwith colony-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Number of cases detected sublet during surprise checks during the last three months is indicated in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Hearing is done by the Officers of the Directorate of Estates as per prescribed procedure under the Allotment Rules. The officers of the Law Ministry, as Estate Officer, are exercising the powers of quasi-judicial authorities under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. Accordingly, during the last two years, 1708 cases came up for hearing and finalised and 911 cases are at different stages of hearing.

(d) to (g) Where prima facie cases of subletting are suspected, the same is established after issuing Show Cause Notice to the allottee concerned. Some times, for want of adequate documents and supportive evidence, it becomes difficult to clearly establish the case as one of subletting. Accordingly, during the past three months after re-appraisal of facts and circumstantial evidence of the case, quarter No. D-499, Mandir Marg has been restored to Shri K.M. Nigam by withdrawing the cancellation Order. However, during fresh checking, the Quarter has again been reported 'sublet'. Therefore, action against the allottee has been initiated again as per Allotment Rules.

Statement

The number of quarters suspected sublet by the Directorate of Estates during the last three months from 1.11.2002 to 31.1.2003

S.No.	Locality	No. of Quarters	Details of Quarters
1.	DIZ Area	3	67/117, Sector-III 71/180, Sector-III 89-H, Sector-IV
2.	Kidwai Nagar	3	D-508 D-509 D-552
3.	Lancer Road	2	137 179
4.	Laxmlbai Nagar	1	1913
5.	Minto Road	3	A-9 A-461 C-167
6.	Mandir Marg	1	D-499
7.	M.B. Road	2	59-A, Sector-IV 670, Sector-VII
8.	Mohd. Pur	1	94
9.	Nauroji Nagar	1	F-154
10.	Netaji Nagar	1	D-734
11.	R.K. Puram	1	1078, Sector-VIII
12.	Sadique Nagar	1	600, Sector-II
13.	Sarojini Nagar	4	L-143 L-149 G-616 B-150
14.	Timarpur	5	309, Sector-IV 662, Sector-IV 694, Sector-IV Z-904 Z-993
		29	

Conservation of Flats from Leasehold into Freehold

27. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the Delhi Development Authority for conversion of flats from lease-hold into free-hold during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of such cases disposed of by the DDA during the said period till date alongwith the reasons for non-disposal of such cases, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government have stipulated a

period of 90 days to convert such flats from lease-hold to freehold;

(d) if so, the number of such cases disposed of during the said period;

(e) the reasons for not disposing of most of the applications during the stipulated period;

(f) the number of applications pending in this regard and the period of their pendency;

(g) whether the Government have received any complaints of taking bribes by DDA officials for this purpose; and

(h) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The number of applications received and disposed of by the Delhi Development Authority for conversion of flats from leasehold into freehold during the last 3 years is as under:

Year	Applications received	Applications disposed of (includes pending cases of previous years also)
2000	19,878	19,073
2001	579	6,042
2002	2,549	2,838
Total	23,006	27,953

Non-disposal of pending applications is on account of incomplete document or non payment of outstanding dues by the applicants.

(c) to (f) DDA has reported that the Scheme of conversion from leasehold to freehold had stipulated a period of 90 days for processing such applications provided the required documents, submitted by the applicants, are complete and the outstanding dues are paid. However, due to overwhelming response during the year 2000, the banks delayed the forwarding of applications to DDA by more than 90 days. As on 31.12.2002, 1217 cases, which also include the cases prior to the year 2000 are pending, due to incomplete documents or non-payment of outstanding dues.

(g) and (h) On receipt of complaints from public, appropriate instructions are issued by the Government to DDA

for Quick redressal of their grievances. However, the DDA has reported that it has received a few anonymous/pseudonymous complaints alleging taking of bribe by DDA officials for conversion cases and action is taken on these complaints by the Vigilance Department of DDA as per CVC instructions.

[English]

Ban of Gelatine Production

28. SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether gelatine is used by naxalites in landmines and claymore mines to attack patrols; and

(b) if so, the action taken to ban production of gelatine immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has initiated steps to phase out production of Nitro-Glycerin based explosives.

Mineral Reserves

29. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether new reserves of minerals have been found in the country;

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

(c) the action being taken by the Government for proper exploration of these minerals; and

(d) the agency by whom this work is likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of mineral reserves estimated during the last three years by

Government agencies State-wise, location-wise and mineral-wise are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The exploration programmes by the Government agencies in the country are coordinated by the Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB). CGPB undertakes evaluation of programme of various departments and organizations engaged in geological activities and reviewing and advising the Government on various steps which would lead to speedier exploration of essential minerals.

The State Geological Programming Boards coordinate and monitor the geological activities in the State and ensure that there is no duplication of exploration activities of Geological Survey of India (GSI), State Directorates of Geology and Mines (DGM) and other Government agencies.

(d) The mineral exploration in the country is undertaken by GSI, Mineral Corporation Limited (MECL) and DGM of various State Governments and private agencies.

Statement

Mineral	Quantity	State	Location
1	2	3	4
Geological Survey of India (GSI)			
1. Coal	5041 (m.t.)	Chhattisgarh Orissa Maharashtra West Bengal Jharkhand	Sohagpur, Singrauli, Mand-Raigarh and Tatapani-Ramkola coalfields Talcher Coalfields Wardha Valley Coalfields Raniganj and Birbhum Coalfields East Bokaro Coalfield
2. Lignite	710 (m.t.)	Tamil Nadu Gujarat	Orattandan-Pattukkottari Lignite Fields West Coast Lignite Field and Kamrej-Vema Lignite Rajpardi-Vastan fields.
3. Limestone	2871 (m.t.) 120 (m.t.)	Meghalaya Gujarat	Litang River Valley and Jaintia Hills district Sheriyakhan, Inaj, Shepa & Rinwada in Porbandar and Junagadh districts.
4. Basemetal	3.65 (m.t.) 0.271 (m.t.)	Rajasthan Madhya Pradesh	Latio-ka-Khera East Block, Sindesar Khurd area of Dariba-Bethumbi Belt. Muariya Block, Betul District.
5. Iron Ore	108 (m.t.)	Orissa	Koira-Pathiriposi - Kendujhar district and Sundargarh district.
6. Manganese Ore	7.18 (m.t.)	Orissa	Bolangir and Sundargarh district
7. Bauxite	5.804 (m.t.)	Maharashtra	Ratnagiri district
8. Clay	223.23 (m.t.)	Kerala	Palai block-Kasargad district
9. Rare Earth	0.109 (m.t.)	West Bengal	Purulia district
10. Gold Ore	4.86 (m.t.) 0.09 (m.t.) 3.27 (m.t.) 0.024 (m.t.) 0.223 (m.t.)	Andhra Pradesh Rajasthan Madhya Pradesh Kerala Rajasthan	Dona East - Kurnool district Bhukia East - Banswara district Gurhar Pahara - Sidhi district Kottathara - Attapadhy Valley Dungocha - Udaipur district

1	2	3	4
Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL)			
1. Copper	2.02 (m.t) 9.25 (m.t)	Rajasthan Jharkhand	Kalapahar Block, Khetri Copper Belt Dhadkadith Block, Singhbhum Copper Belt
State Directorate of Geology and Mines (DGM)			
1. Dimension Stones	3.73 (m.cu/m)	Andhra Pradesh	Cuddapah District
2. Flag Stone	0.854 (m.cu/m)	Chhattisgarh	Matkot, Bastar District
3. Marble	2.6 (m.t) 7.07 (m.t)	Rajasthan Maharashtra	Govardhan Pura Village, Alwar Distt. Degna-Banda, Sindhudurg Distt.

**Implementation of Drinking Water Project
by NALCO in Orissa**

30. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some villages of Orissa are affected due to collapse of Ash Pond;

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

(c) whether a drinking water project is proposed to be launched by the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) in these areas of the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by NALCO to implement the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A portion of dyke of Ash Pond No.2 of Captive Power Plant of NALCO, Angul breached on 31.12.2000 accidentally and flooded some portion of agricultural land belonging to 25 numbers of revenue villages on the bank of Nandira rivulets as detailed below:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| i. Total agricultural land affected | 968 acres |
| ii. Total Govt. land (including Nandira river bed 160 acres and 140 acres on the banks) affected | 300 acres |

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. NALCO has agreed to support a drinking water project for affected areas as detailed below:

- (i) The project covers a population of 30,000 in 13 affected villages.

(ii) The Scheme has been designed by Govt. of Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.72 Crore. The Scheme will be implemented by Govt. of Orissa and the entire cost of construction will be met by NALCO.

(iii) The operation and maintenance of the Scheme will be undertaken by Govt. of Orissa.

(iv) NALCO has advanced Rs. 1.00 crore to the Govt. of Orissa for the Scheme so far.

Talks with BLT

31. DR. (SHRIMATI) CH. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks involving the Central Government, the State Government and Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) are in final stages and an announcement is expected shortly; and

(b) if so, the details of the main terms of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) has been signed between the Central Government, the Government of Assam and Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) on 10.2.2003 for a durable solution to the Bodo issues. The main features of the agreement include interalia:

(i) creation of an Autonomous self-governing body to be known as Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) within the State of Assam and provision of Constitutional protection under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India to the said Autonomous Body.

(ii) entrustment of 40 subjects by the Government

of Assam to the BTC for their administration. The council shall have legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers in respect of subjects entrusted to them.

(iii) additional financial assistance of Rs. 100 crore per annum (over and above normal plan assistance to State of Assam) for 5 years for projects to develop the socio-economic infrastructure in BTC areas.

Adequate safeguards have been built in the Agreement to ensure that the non-tribals in the BTC area are not disadvantaged in relation to any rights and privileges including land rights presently enjoyed by them at the commencement of BTC.

Implementation of ICDS during last decade

32. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 15 States have failed in implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme "ICDS" during the last decade;

(b) if so, the names of such States alongwith the progress of these States in implementation of the said scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether misappropriation of Central funds for the scheme has also been noticed by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

National Science Policy

33. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced the National Science Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main objectives of the policy and the reaction of people who are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently announced a "Science and Technology Policy 2003" recognizing the changing context of the scientific enterprise, and to meet the present national needs in the new era of globalization. The policy reiterates India's commitment to participate as an equal and vigorous global player in generating and harnessing advances in science and technology for the benefit of all humankind.

(c) The policy enunciates various objectives which include advancement of scientific temper; ensuring security of basic needs; alleviation of poverty along with employment generation in rural & urban regions through S&T interventions and networking; strengthening of S&T infrastructure in Universities & academic institutions to attract bright young students to careers in research & development; autonomy along with greater flexibility to academic and R&D Institutions; empowerment of women in science & technology; ensuring national security; S&T interventions to add value to traditional knowledge and its preservation; international science & technology cooperation; strengthen enabling mechanisms for technology development, absorption and up-gradation; establish an conducive and supportive Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime; promoting close and productive interactions between private and public institutions in science and technology including industry sector etc. The policy document has been well received by the scientific community.

Production and Supply of Coal

34. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:

SHRI T.T.V.DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and supply of coal by subsidiaries of Coal India Limited and other companies including Neyveli Lignite Corporation during each of the last three years till date, subsidiary-wise;

(b) the quantity and value of coal produced and sold during the said period in the coal rich States, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the average annual demand of coal (both domestic and industry) in the country;

(d) whether the export and import of coal have been very high during the last three years;

(e) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor alongwith the foreign exchange generated during the said period year-wise;

(f) whether the Coal India Limited is planning to take new projects with foreign countries;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the mines identified for the purpose alongwith the steps taken in this regard;

(i) whether the Government have any plans to improve the production and supply of coal particularly to increase the production of lignite to meet the demand; and

(j) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The details of production and supply (despatch) of coal by all companies including Neyveli Lignite Corporation during each of the last three years and till date (upto January, 2003) are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) The total quantity and value of production during the last three years, state-wise are given in statement-II enclosed.

(c) All India demand of coal for 2002-2003 is 363.30 million tonnes.

(d) and (e) The details of import and export of coal and CIF value of exported coal during the last three years are as under:-

(figures in Million tonnes)

Year	Import		
	Coking	Non-coking	Total
1999-00	10.99	8.71	19.70
2000-01	11.06	9.87	20.93
2001-02	11.11	9.44	20.55

(Quantity in million tonnes and CIF value in million Rupees)

Year	Export					
	Coking		Non-Coking		Total	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1999-00	0.77	677	0.38	506	1.16	1183
2000-01	0.62	806	0.67	873	1.29	1679
2001-02	0.88	1359	1.02	1545	1.90	2904

Coking coal is being imported by integrated steel plants since early eighties due to non-availability/inadequate availability of the required quality and quantity indigenously. With liberalization of Indian economy in early nineties, non-coking coal is imported by consumers (i) for use by blending with indigenous coal and also on environmental considerations and (ii) on considerations of location-specific landed cost. Since coal and coal products have been put under Open General Licence (OGL) there is no restriction on the consumer to import coal.

(f) to (h) During the 9th Indo British coal forum meeting held on 29th January, 2003 at Chennai, two projects each of ECL and BCCL were identified for bilateral co-operation, which are as follows:

- (i) Millennium & Kottadih projects of ECL
- (ii) Dhanser and Kuiya projects of BCCL

Both sides agreed to support the projects on bilateral basis. U.K. side was requested to submit project specific proposals. Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC), through their executing agency Met-Chem has submitted a project report for expansion of Rajmahal Open Cast project of ECL from 10 million tonnes to 17 million tonnes per annum, which is under examination of ECL/CIL.

(i) and (j) Steps taken to increase the production of coal and lignite include starting of new projects/ opening of new mines, modernisation/expansion of existing mines, up-gradation of technology, increase in production/productivity, etc.

Statement-I*Production of Raw Coal & Lignite by Companies during the last three years and till date*

Company	Figures in million tonnes			
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (Prov) (April 02-January, 03)
Coal				
ECL	25.124	28.030	28.552	20.778
BCCL	27.896	25.969	25.252	18.842
CCL	32.402	31.746	33.806	28.941
NCL	38.428	41.400	42.462	36.895
WCL	33.860	35.200	37.009	31.488
SECL	58.750	60.331	64.120	53.877
MCL	43.554	44.803	47.805	42.468
NEC	0.572	0.660	0.640	0.486
CIL	260.586	268.139	279.646	233.775
SCCL	29.556	30.274	30.811	27.492
BSMDCL	0.286	0.400	0.558	0.361
DVC	0.371	0.374	0.335	0.088
IISCO	1.034	1.242	1.140	0.785
JKML	0.028	0.033	0.035	0.026
BECML	2.165	2.411	2.911	2.587
JSPL	0.781	1.416	1.549	1.651
Meghalaya	4.060	4.065	5.149	3.561
TISCO	5.236	5.342	5.653	4.929
INDIA	304.103	313.696	327.787	275.255
Lignite				
NLC	17.552	18.172	18.369	14.410

Supply (Despatch) of Raw Coal & Lignite (NLC) by Companies during last three years and till date

Company	Figures in million tonnes			
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (Prov) (April, 02-January, 03)
1	2	3	4	5
Coal				
ECL	25.894	27.774	27.804	21.659

1	2	3	4	5
BCCL	28.583	25.683	24.696	17.851
CCL	32.539	32.631	33.064	30.098
NCL	39.182	42.058	42.684	36.386
WCL	34.628	35.213	38.027	31.288
SECL	57.576	60.443	64.860	56.044
MCL	42.080	47.302	49.030	42.407
NEC	0.821	0.760	0.620	0.461
CIL	261.303	271.864	280.785	236.194
SCCL	29.745	30.314	31.043	27.713
BSMDCL	0.282	0.398	0.560	0.366
DVC	0.352	0.381	0.325	0.114
IISCO	1.011	1.258	1.133	0.829
JKML	0.022	0.034	0.026	0.021
BECML	2.179	2.405	2.913	2.490
JSPL	0.781	1.416	1.549	1.651
Meghalaya	4.060	4.065	5.149	3.561
TISCO	5.194	5.338	5.658	4.929
India	304.929	317.473	329.141	277.868
Lignite				
NLC	16.931	18.799	18.071	14.839

Statement-II

Year-wise & State-wise production of coal vis-a-vis value during last three years

(Production figures in million tonnes)
(Value in million Rupees)

State	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Production	Value	Production	Value	Production	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	29.556	26356.6	30.274	27841.5	30.811	29425.3
Assam	0.572	599.8	0.660	529.0	0.640	837.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	53.621	28688.0
Jharkhand	76.533	43279.5	75.416	45332.7	76.813	41807.4
Jammu & Kashmir	0.028	19.8	0.033	67.0	0.035	16.0
Madhya Pradesh	87.901	59695.0	92.730	55391.3	44.156	31704.8
Maharashtra	27.698	19443.0	28.754	21019.2	30.830	22854.4
Meghalaya	4.060	4257.3	4.065	2540.6	5.149	3218.1
Orissa	43.554	15225.3	44.803	17367.5	47.805	19091.6
Uttar Pradesh	16.220	10193.0	16.863	12168.3	16.533	14261.3
West Bengal	17.981	18344.0	20.098	21262.6	21.394	24574.9
All India	304.103	197413.3	313.696	203519.7	327.787	216479.6

Note (1) The above mentioned value, is the value of production reported by the companies.

(2) Pit head value of Meghalaya coal were estimated.

[English]

Production of Fertilizers

35. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of fertilizers in India vis-a-vis total demand during last five years, year-wise;

(b) the manner in which the Government are going to meet the demand following recent closures of fertilizer units;

(c) the details of fertilizers producing PSU units with their installed capacity and actual utilisation; and

(d) the step taken to produce more fertilizers through PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) Year-wise production and demand/consumption of fertilizers in nutrient terms in India during last five years is given below:

(Lakh MT)

Year	Fertilizer Production		Demand/Consumption		
	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphate (P)	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphate (P)	Potash (K)
1997-98	100.86	29.76	109.00	39.15	13.73
1998-99	104.80	31.44	113.54	41.12	13.32
1999-2000	108.90	33.99	115.92	47.99	16.78
2000-01	109.61	37.43	109.22	42.15	15.67
2001-02	107.68	38.60	113.11	43.82	16.67

The entire quantity of Potash is met through import in the absence no known commercially exploitable reserve in the county.

(b) There is no shortage of fertilizers, as of now, in the country due to the closure of sick fertilizers units as most of these units had not been in operation for the last few years.

(c) Details of fertilizers producing PSUs units with their installed capacity and actual capacity and actual capacity utilisation is given the statement enclosed.

(d) Step taken to improve the operation of the Public Sector Fertilizer Plants;

Fertilizer Industry specially urea manufactures are facing problems mainly on two accounts for matching the production with installed capacity. First, limitation in availability of natural gas specially for gas based urea plants such as RCF -Thal and KRIBHCO-Hazira and second, frequent shut down/break down of old-vintage plants. Department of Fertilizer is pursuing with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to make available adequate and qualitative gas to urea industry. Besides, PSUs have been advised to take steps for long term tie-up with prospective suppliers of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and/or natural gas to overcome constraints in the domestic availability of gas. Many urea units including those of PSUs have also installed dual fuel facility of naphtha for supplementing alternate feed. Capital additions are being recognized under Retention-Cum-Price Subsidy Scheme (RPS) so as to encourage these units to undertake investment for improving their efficiency by expansion/retrofitting / revamping of existing plants to overcome equipment breakdown etc. Besides, following steps are also being taken by PSUs to improve their operational performance.

(1) The revamp of the Namrup units of Bharnputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited at a revised cost of Rs. 509.40 crore, is under active implementation and likely to be completed in May, 2003.

(2) Government of India have granted the financial reliefs to the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travanacore Ltd. and Madras Fertilizers Ltd. in March, 2002 and July, 2002 respectively to improve their financial position.

(3) Plan assistance is being extended to those PSUs, that are not able to generate internal resources for undertaking capital investment, technology upgradation, renewals and replacement etc.

(4) Various cost cutting measures have been under taken by PSUs to bring about fiscal discipline for generating internal resources for better and efficient operations of their plants.

Statement

Unit-wise annual installed capacity in nutrient terms and %age of capacity utilization of PSUs under the administrative control of Department of Fertilizers during 2001-02:

Name of the PSUs/Unit	Annual Installed Capacity (000 MT) (as on 31.3.02)	%age capacity utilisation 2001-02
1	2	3
Nitrogen		
FCI: Sindri Modn.	151.8	3.1
FCI: Gorakhpur *	0.0	0.0
FCI: Ramagundam*	0.0	0.0
FCI: Talcher *	0.0	0.0
NFL: Nangal-I	80.0	13.0
NFL: Nangal-II	227.7	95.9
NFL: Bhatinda	235.3	100.5
NFL: Panipat	235.3	100.0
NFL: Vijapur	392.6	100.0
NFL: Vijapur Expo.	392.6	100.0
BVFCL: Namrup-I*	0.0	0.0
BVFCL: Namrup-II *	0.0	0.0
BVFCL: Namrup-III	151.8	19.5
BVFCL: Durgapur *	0.0	0.0
BVFCL: Barauni *	0.0	0.0
FACT: Udyogamandal,	77.0	114.1
FACT: Cochin-I	151.8	6.7
FACT: Cochin-II	97.0	127.7
RCF: Trombay	45.0	117.1
RCF: Trombay-IV	75.1	74.4
RCF: Trombay-V	151.8	11.9
RCF: Thal	683.1	97.7
MFL: Chennai	366.7	62.9

1	2	3
PPL: Paradeep #	129.6	31.8
Phosphate		
FACT: Udyogamandal	29.7	139.4
FACT: Cochin-II	97.0	127.7
RCF: Trombay	45.0	117.1
RCF: Trombay-IV	75.1	74.4
MFL: Chennai	142.8	69.5
PPL: Paradeep #	331.2	30.9
PPCL: Amjhore*	42.2	0.0
PPCL: Saladipura*	15.8	0.0

* Unit closed.

Disinvested on 28-02-2002.

Infiltration from Bangladesh Border

36. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:
 SHRI AMBAREESHA:
 SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
 SHRI Y.V. RAO:
 DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:
 SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
 SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
 SHRI C.N. SINGH:
 SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:
 SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the terrorists and infiltrators are, using Indo-Bangladesh Border for carrying out terrorist activities and infiltration;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether tension had mounted recently on the

Indo-Bangladesh border on the issue of Bangladeshi infiltrators;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to defuse tension on the Indo-Bangladesh Border and to ensure deportation of infiltrators and checking infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) As per reports, Bangladeshi nationals have been found using porous Indo-Bangladesh border to enter India illegally. The porous border also provides easy access and safe routes for infiltration/exfiltration to the North eastern militants for their trans-border movements for conducting subversive activities.

(c) and (d) On January 31, 2003, in the area of Satgachi Border Out Put (BOP) in Cooch Behar District of West Bengal, a group of 213 Bangladeshi nationals, including 68 women and 80 children, were intercepted by BSF while attempting to cross the border illegally into India. They were stranded at the zero line as Bangladesh Rifles refused to take them back in terms of agreed procedures in this regard. This led to tension on the border. These persons finally went back to Bangladesh on February 5, 2003 after a series of diplomatic initiatives and pressure mounted on the Bangladesh Government.

(e) The Government has taken up the issue of illegal immigration from Bangladesh with the Bangladesh Government from time to time and sought their cooperation in this regard. Government of Bangladesh has also been requested to follow the agreed modalities for taking back illegal immigrants. Meanwhile, to check infiltration the Government have approved a project for fencing of the Indo-Bangladesh border, work on which is under way. In addition, various steps including reducing inter-BOP gap by way of deployment of additional forces, introduction of night vision equipment and increased patrolling etc. have also been taken to check infiltration from Indo-Bangladesh border.

Balika Samridhi Yojana in Andhra Pradesh

37. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Balika Samridhi Yojana in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether the Government have taken any steps

to publicise this Yojana in that State and in rest of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEEJA): (a) Balika Samridhi Yojana is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh since its inception in 1997. According to information received from State Government, 2,32,234 girl children have so far been covered in the State under the scheme.

(b) and (c) Wide publicity is given to the scheme through electronic and print media through out the country. In Andhra Pradesh the scheme has been widely discussed in all Gram Sabhas conducted during Janma Boomi Programme through Kalajithas (local folk dances) and through print media.

[Translation]

Annual Production of Coal by CIL

38. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

		(in million tonnes)		
Grade		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Total Coking		27.248	25.008	22.119
Superior Non-Coking	Grade-A	3.559	3.548	3.410
	Grade-B	20.348	20.151	21.852
	Grade-C	38.714	41.198	37.225
Total Coking + superior non-coking		89.869	89.905	84.606

(c) The gradation of coal and ash content therein are given below:-

Coking Coal

Grades	Ash Content
1	2
Steel Grade-I	Not Exceeding 15%
Steel Grade-II	Exceeding 15% but not exceeding 18%
Washery Grade-I	Exceeding 18% but not exceeding 21%
Washery Grade-II	Exceeding 21% but not exceeding 24%

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited also produces high quality coal;

(b) if so, the average annual production therefor;

(c) the percentage of ash found in this type of coal; and

(d) the consumer price of such coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) Quality of coal is not categorized as high or low. Coal is graded as per Government notification where parameters for different grades are given. Coking coal and A, B and C grades of non coking coal are considered superior grades/high quality coal. Coal India Limited is producing coal of the above grades and types. The details of annual production over the last three years are as under:

	1	2
Washery Grade-III		Exceeding 24% but not exceeding 28%
Washery Grade-IV		Exceeding 28% but not exceeding 35%
Non-Coking Coal		
Grade	Corresponding Ash% + M% (60% RH & 40 Deg.C)	
A	Not exceeding 19.5	
B	19.6 to 23.8	
C	23.9 to 28.6	

In respect of coal of North Eastern Coalfields there are two grades "A" and "B". Corresponding UHV and ash and moisture % are as below:-

Grade	UHV Range/K.Cal/KG	Ash & Moisture %age
A	6200-6299	18.85-19.57
B	5600-6199	19.58-23.91

(d) The prices of different varieties of coal are as under:

Name of Coal Co.	Grade of Coal—Non Coking Coal		
	A	B	C
Eastern Coalfields	1450	1370	1170
Eastern Coalfields Ltd. Non-Long Flame coal	1177	1059	870
Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SP Mines)	1628	1447	1211
Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (Mugma)	1345	1197	1000
South Eastern Coalfields	1110	1040	890
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. Long Flame Coal	1000	940	810
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. Non-Long Flame	940	880	750
Central Coalfields Ltd.*	1330	1203	1006
Central Coalfields Ltd. **	1248	1129	944
Central Coalfields Ltd. Non-Long Flame Coal	1166	1049	862
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	1135	1030	847
Northern Coalfields Ltd. Long-Flame Coal	1147	1039	867
Northern Coalfields Ltd. Non-Long Flame Coal	1072	964	792
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. Long Flame Coal	979	885	740
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. Non-Long Flame Coal	912	819	674
Western Coalfields Ltd.	1148	1083	1012

Name of Coal Co.	Grade of Coal- Coking Coal					
	SG-I	SG-II	WG-I	WG-II	WG-III	WG-IV
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	1970	1650	1440	1200	900	830
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	-	-	1337	1107	819	762
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	-	-	1575	1305	964	896

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central Coalfields Ltd.	-	-	1351	1120	828	771
Western Coalfields Ltd.	-	-	970	880	-	-

* Price in respect of Collieries namely Bachra, Churl, Bhurkunda (Sengam project), Saunda, Saunda-D-UG and Argada

** Price in respect of Collieries namely Bhurkunda, Central Saunda, Sayal-D, Urimari, North Urimari, Hindegir, Sirka, Gidi-A, Gidi-C, Reigora, Rajhara, Hurlong, Piparwar, Karma and Kuju.

(English)

Satellite/Aerial Survey for Identification of Minerals

39. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Satellite Survey and aerial photography are used for identifying/locating certain minerals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of mineral discovered so far, State-wise and location-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to use this technology for identifying mineral ores in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Satellite imagery, aerial photography and multi-sensor aerial surveys have been successfully used as a supporting tool for locating suitable structures favourable for mineral deposits in the country.

(c) The details of minerals discovered based on the remotely sensed data and airborne surveys followed by field checks, State-wise and location-wise, are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) No, Sir. Presently there is no programme of aerogeophysical survey in Tamil Nadu.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement

State	Mineral	Location
1	2	3
Rajasthan	Lead & Zinc	Dedwas-Devpura area, Bhitwara district. Kayer Zinc & Lead Deposit.
	Copper	Khetri Copper Belt. Akola-Darba Copper Prospect, Chittorgarh District

1	2	3
Jharkhand	Copper	Bahargora.
Andhra Pradesh	Lead & Zinc	Gollapalli.
Maharashtra	Zinc Copper	Kolari Ran Mangli and Thutanbori, Sakoli Basin
Karnataka	Gold	Kolar Gold Field.
Orissa	Gold	Raibonga-Birmitrapur, Sundergarh District.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in IDPL Units

40. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the workers in various units of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) have accepted the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS);

(b) if so, the strength of the employees including officers in each of the IDPL units and the number of them that have accepted VRS offer and the number of those who have not;

(c) the terms of the VRS and time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the fate of the employees who have not accepted the VRS proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Out of the total 6592 employees, 6531 have responded to the recent VRS introduced in IDPL as per extant Government policy. A statement showing the break-up of the employees who have responded to the VRS is enclosed. Separation of these employees under VRS is dependant on

the availability of funds with IDPL. Rs.150 crore has already been released by the Government of India for this purpose.

(d) The VRS has been introduced with, inter-alia, the clarification that for employees who do not opt for VRS within this period, VRS may not be given to them in future and only retrenchment compensation will be applicable. However, the future of the company and of the remaining employees would depend upon the revival by way of change of management being undertaken by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

Statement

No. of employees including officers in each of the units of IDPL are as under:-

Sl.No.		Total Manpower	VRS optees	Not applied for
1.	Rishikesh Plant	2137	2104	33
2.	Hyderabad Plant	2836	2823	13
3.	Gurgaon Plant	538	534	4
4.	Marketing Divn. (RSOs)	541	535	6
5.	Head Office	105	105	-
6.	IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Ltd.	239	237	2
7.	BDOCL Muzaffarpur	196	193	3
Total		6592	6531	61

[Translation]

Maoist Activities in Jharkhand

41. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Maoists are running schools in Jharkhand and there by increasing their number;

(b) If so, the details of places where Maoists and other terrorists outfits are running such schools; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No information regarding schools being run by the Maoist has yet come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government has directed its Police to keep a strict vigil.

[English]

Flight Permission

42. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item under the Caption "Minister Mahajan flew in ban's face-MHA allowed flight despite security quarantine." Appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 29, 2003;

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

(c) the circumstances warranting permission despite security quarantine imposed by the Union Government themselves; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty officials for permitting this unscheduled flight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The flight from Delhi to Hyderabad carrying the then Union Minister of Information Technology & Communications was cleared as per rules and there was no irregularity in permitting such a flight.

Sale of a Banned Drug

43. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Markets continue to be a dumping and selling ground for the manufacture of Nimesulide - a drug which has been banned in almost all countries; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Drug Controller of India to confirm its reliability and reaction in children especially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) Nimesulide has not been banned in almost all countries. The use of Nimesulide is reported to have been suspended only in Spain, Turkey and Finland. Nimesulide, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), is reported to be used in about 50 countries including India and is indicated for acute pain/inflammation and fever. In India, the drug was approved in 1995, and it is a prescription drug.

(b) A detailed examination has been undertaken by an Expert Committee (Sub-Committee) of Drug Technical Advisory Board to deliberate on the issues concerning the safety of Nimesulide, including its use in children. More than 20 expert Paediatricians across the country and the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) were consulted. Majority of experts have confirmed the reliability of Nimesulide and no serious adverse reaction in children have been reported in the country.

Guidelines for Households for BPL People

44. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued guidelines to the State Governments to fix the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households and told the States not to exceed the limit;

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

(c) the number of households fixed under BPL in each State:

(d) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to increase the number of households to include in the BPL;

(e) if so, the details thereof. State-wise: and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K.PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Rural development had advised the States/UTs to identify the BPL households in rural areas for targetting under different programmes of the Ministry in such a way that the total number of persons identified in a State/UT does not exceed the number of persons living Below the Poverty Line in that State/UT, as estimated by the Planning Commission and on the basis of which funds are allocated. This ceiling was given to ensure better targetting of BPL households.

(c) The number of households fixed under BPL in each State is indicated in the statement enclosed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The State Governments of Rajasthan and Kerala have requested the Union Government to withdraw the ceiling fixed for BPL households.

(f) The Ministry of Rural Development has now decided that the number of persons identified through the BPL Census, 2002 may not exceed the number of persons living below the poverty line estimated by the Planning Commission for 1999-2000 for the rural sector or the number of persons as per the Adjusted Share computed by the Planning Commission, whichever is higher. An additional 10% has also been permitted to account for the transient poor.

Statement

State-wise Rural Poverty Ratio during 1999-2000

S.No.	State/Uts	Rural Poverty Ratio (per cent)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	11.05
2	Arunachal Pradesh	40.04
3	Assam	40.04
4	Bihar	44.30
5	Goa	1.35
6	Gujarat	13.17

1	2	3
7	Haryana	8.27
8	Himachal Pradesh	7.94
9	Jammu & Kashmir	3.97
10	Karnataka	17.38
11	Kerala	9.38
12	Madhya Pradesh	37.06
13	Maharashtra	23.72
14	Manipur	40.04
15	Meghalaya	40.04
16	Mizoram	40.04
17	Nagaland	40.04
18	Orissa	48.01
19	Punjab	6.35
20	Rajasthan	13.74
21	Sikkim	40.04
22	Tamil Nadu	20.55
23	Tripura	40.04
24	Uttar Pradesh	31.22
25	West Bengal	31.85
26	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	20.55
27	Chandigarh	5.75
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	17.57
29	Daman & Diu	1.35
30	Delhi	0.40
31	Lakshadweep	9.38
32	Pondicherry	20.55
	Total	27.09

Shelter for Homeless People

45. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who died in cities due to the severe winter conditions in 2003, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have any plan to ensure the minimum requirement of a closed shelter for the homeless in urban areas during the peak winters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) This information is not being reported.

(b) and (c) With a view the ameliorating the hardships being faced by the urban footpath dwellers in metropolitan cities and other towns due to adverse weather conditions viz. rain and winter, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme named "Shelter & Sanitation Facilities for Footpath Dwellers in Urban Areas" is in operation since 1988-89. The scheme was modified in August, 1992 to cover all urban centres wherever there is concentration of footpath dwellers or homeless. The scheme is demand driven scheme and being implemented by the State Governments or local municipal bodies or other State sponsored/recommended agencies including voluntary institutions. The scheme has further been modified in October, 2002 with the following components:

(i) Central Government would provide subsidy for construction of composites night shelters @ 50% of the cost of construction subject to the ceiling of Rs. 20,000/- per bed for night shelter. Balance would be loan from HUDCO (optional) or any other organization/institution or own contribution of the agency. There will be no ceiling on the amount of loan, if sought by the agency.

(ii) The State Governments/implementing agencies to provide land/site/existing buildings for renovation and undertake maintenance of the shelters fully. Land/site would be provided by the State Govts. or the urban local bodies/ other implementing agencies. In case suitable land needs to be acquired, HUDCO would provide loans for land acquisition.

Medical Facilities in Tihar Jail

46. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prisoners died in the Tihar Central

Jail during the last three years due to insufficient medical treatment, year-wise:

- (b) whether all the prisoners are medically examined before being sent to the Tihar Central Jail;
- (c) if so, whether a medical history of such prisoners is prepared;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the prisoners who are found suffering from diseases which require constant medical attention are examined from time to time;
- (g) if so, the details thereof;
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (i) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of prisoners languishing in the jail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) During the last three years, none of the prisoners lodged in the Central Jail, Tihar, died for want of adequate medical treatment.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Every prisoner is medically examined on the day he is lodged in the Jail and his medical history recorded in the prescribed format.

- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) Yes, Sir.
- (g) The Central Jail, Tihar has been provided with round-the-clock medical facilities which include Main Hospital, Casualty, Outdoor Patients Department, De-addiction Centre and Medical Inspection Room where the patients who require round-the-clock observation are admitted. In addition, the patients who require specialized treatment not available within the Jail premises are referred to outside Hospitals for treatment.
- (h) Does not arise.
- (i) The steps taken to improve the condition of the prisoners lodged in the Central Jail, Tihar include decongestion of jails by increasing their capacity and provision of facilities for education and recreation.

Land Reforms

47. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether plight of landless rural people is deplorable;
- (b) whether the Government propose to review the implementation of land reforms for proper redistribution of land among the landless and Dalits; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken by the Government to improve the rural economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) Land and its management falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the respective State Governments as provided under Entry No.18, List-II (State List) of Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The Central Government plays an advisory and coordinating role in the field. However, the implementation of land reforms programmes are being reviewed from time to time at various fora including Chief Ministers/Revenue / Ministers/Revenue Secretaries Conferences. As per information received from the State Governments, an area of 53.94 lakh acres has been distributed to the rural landless poor which includes 50% of the area to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. Besides, Bhoodan land to the extent of 21.75 lakh acres and 147.47 lakh acres of Government Wastelands have also been distributed to eligible rural poor beneficiaries.

Revision in the Guidelines for PMGSY

48. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken any decision to revise the guidelines under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether State Governments have submitted any proposals under this scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and scheme-wise; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Government have revised the Guidelines of the Pradhan

Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in January, 2003. The salient features of the Revised Guidelines relate to:

Preparation of Rural Roads Plan and Core Network - All roads under PMGSY are to be prioritised out of the Core Network keeping in view the priorities as per the Guidelines in respect of population size and giving preference to New Connectivity.

Roads specifications - Roads are to be built as per the specifications given in Rural Roads Manual published by the Indian Roads Congress (IRC: SP20: 2002).

District level Programmes - The State's Allocation will be distributed among the Districts giving 80% on the basis of road length required for providing connectivity to Unconnected Habitations and 20% on the basis of road length requiring Upgradation under the PMGSY.

Scrutiny, Approval and Clearance - The proposals prepared by the District Panchayats are to be approved by the State level Standing Committee. Proposals are to be sent for clearance based on the scrutiny completed by State Technical Agencies (STAs).

Project clearance and Release of funds - Projects will be cleared by the Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Rural Development and 25% of the estimated cost will be released at the time of clearance. Subsequent releases for all road works will be subject to utilisation of 60% of earlier released funds as well as completion of 80% of the approved road works upto (but not including) the year previous to the current year and other standard conditions.

Fund management in State - Each State will identify/create a State level Autonomous Agency to maintain and operate Bank account to receive project funds. This account will be operated by the District Programme Implementation Units (DPIUs).

Execution - No new Agency/ Consultants will be created for execution only.

Tendering - The works will be tendered as per Standard Bidding Document being circulated to the State Governments by NRRDA. Projects will be completed within 9-10 months except in the case of Hill States where upto 18 months is allowed.

Monitoring and Quality Control - Primary responsibility for monitoring will be with the District Programme Implementation Unit (DPIU). Each State will appoint a State Quality Coordinator and activate the Second-tier

Quality control Agency at the State level, independent of the Field Engineers. NRRDA will also arrange for sample checks through independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs). In case of completed roads being below 'good' quality, the contractor must be black-listed. In addition, District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee set up by the Ministry of Rural Development will also monitor the progress under the Scheme.

Computerisation - An Internet based software has been developed by C-DAC, Pune and installed alongwith hardware in all States and Districts. Regular updating of the software (called OMMS) is an essential requirement for continued funding of projects under PMGSY and failure to do so will affect releases.

Maintenance - Roads under PMGSY are required to be maintained by the State Governments. State Governments have to communicate a satisfactory mechanism for the maintenance of rural roads under PMGSY in order to be able to receive Programme assistance.

(c) to (e) The Ministry have so far received project proposals for the year 2003-04 from the State Governments of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Haryana. As per the Guidelines, the proposals are cleared on the basis of examination by the Empowered Committee.

Study on Impact of Earthquake in Gujarat

49. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any studies after the devastating effect of the Gujarat earthquake, to save human lives and property in the urban and rural areas in such situations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds made available to the Geological Survey of India for the purpose;

(d) whether the G.S.I. has taken the aid and assistance of the experts available in the field across the world; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out extensive post damage micro-seismic surveys of the earthquake affected areas. Some

300 localities spread over an area of 1.2 million Sq. Km. were visited with the objectives of preparing the isoseismal maps of the earthquake. A 14 Station Micro Earthquake (MEQ) array was set up in the area to monitor the after shocks over a period of 3 months. The after shock data, fault plane solutions and iso-seismal map indicate that the causative plane along which the initial rupture occurred was a tectonic discontinuity trending N60° E - S60° W, following the Aravalli trend. GSI also carried out geotechnical investigation for selecting sites for relocation of some towns like Anjar, Bhachau, Raper, etc. of Kutch district. GSI has suggested active fault mapping and seismic microzonation of the vulnerable rural and urban areas. All the new structures in the vulnerable area should adhere to aseismic designs as per Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) code. Besides, create awareness about earthquake in the general public.

(c) The expenditure on these studies was incurred by GSI from the provided budget.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. GSI has initiated bilateral dialogue, with expert agencies like Geological Survey of Japan and United States Geological Survey for possible collaboration between GSI and these organizations in the field of earthquake studies.

Criteria for identification of Poverty Level

50. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of poverty level has downsized during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) whether poverty level is being estimated on the basis of monthly per capita consumption and not on the basis of per capita income;

(c) if so, the justification thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the below poverty level in rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL):

(a) Achievements in alleviation of poverty are reflected in the poverty ratios. As per the estimates of poverty obtained by the Planning Commission, the rural poverty declined to 27.09 % in 1999-2000 from 37.27 % in 1993-1994. Poverty estimates corresponding to Five Plan periods are not obtained separately.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission, on the recommendation of a Task Force, estimates poverty levels in

terms of calorie intake which depends on consumption pattern.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a Self Employment Scheme, a Wage Employment Scheme, the Rural Housing Schemes and Watershed Development Programmes which contribute in reducing poverty in rural areas.

Schemes to improve the Granite Quarrying and Mining Activities

51. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any special schemes to improve the granite quarrying and mining activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of granite deposits available in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(d) the export of granite during each of the last three years;

(e) whether the export of granite has been badly affected in the recent years;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Granite is a minor mineral defined under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and all powers to grant mineral concessions for granite are with the State Government concerned. As per the National Mineral Policy, 1993 the Central Government have thrown open the exploration and exploitation of all non-ferrous and non-atomic minerals including granite to private entrepreneurs. Government is making all efforts to increase investment in the mining sector by creating investor friendly climate and removing bottlenecks to attract such investment.

Government have also notified the Granite Conservation and Development Rules 1999 to ensure systematic and scientific mining of granite.

(c) As per National Mineral Inventory prepared by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, the State-wise recoverable reserves of granite are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) to (g) As per the information furnished by IBM, the export of granite and products thereof during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Quantity in tonnes	Value (Rs.in crores)
1999-2000	1489167	1564
2000-2001	1582170	1860
2001-2002 (Provisional)	1673862	1874

The export statistics quoted in the table above indicate that the export of granite has not declined during the last three years.

Statement

State-wise Recoverable Reserves of All Types of Granites in All Categories

(In thousand cubic metre)

All India	1027421
Andhra Pradesh	2300
Assam	205520
Bihar	19105
Gujarat	23560
Haryana	13600
Karnataka	202986
Kerala	544
Maharashtra	326561
Orissa	7588
Rajasthan	201692
Tamil Nadu	20340
West Bengal	3621

Sharing of Information by Security Agencies

52. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers of Interpol of 18 countries based in the capital have agreed on sharing

expertise on policing, investigation and technology among themselves to tackle terrorism, cyber crime and drug trafficking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have mooted a proposal to set up a committee of countries most affected by terrorism to develop expertise among the officers of capital based Interpol of several countries affected by terrorism in tackling the menace; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) A meeting on sharing of information and technology to enhance police cooperation for tackling terrorism, cyber crime and drug trafficking, etc. was organized by the Interpol Wing of CBI, New Delhi in which the representatives from 18 countries participated. It was felt by all the representatives that structured and unstructured consultation for maximizing police cooperation was required in view of the globalization of crime.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Allocation of Funds for Promotion of Urdu Language

53. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allocate more than Rs.10 crore for promotion of Urdu during 2003-04;

(b) if so, the purpose for which this amount would be spent; and

(c) the criteria to be adopted in utilising these funds for the promotion of Urdu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The Plan allocation for the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, an autonomous body under this Ministry, during the year 2003-2004 is Rs. 9.75 crores.

In addition, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Appointment of Language Teachers, a budget outlay of Rs.11.50 crores has been provided for the next year which includes a sub component for providing grants to the State Governments for the appointment of Urdu Teachers in State Government schools.

Besides, the University Grants Commission also provides grants to the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.

(b) and (c) The Government implements various schemes through NCPUL amongst which it may be mentioned (i) the opening of computerized calligraphy training centres, (ii) grants-in-aid for promotional activities, (iii) assistance to Urdu Newspapers, (iv) appointment of part time language teachers, (v) grants to voluntary organizations for publication and purchase of books, (vi) distance education, correspondence courses, etc. On the receipt of proposals through the State Governments, committees of experts constituted for the purpose decide on their merits and viability of each proposal according to specified norms before grants are recommended and released.

Chemical Waste in Union Carbide Factory

54. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a lot of toxic chemical wastes are lying unattended in the pesticides factory of the Union Carbide India Ltd. at Bhopal even after 18 years of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy;

(b) if so, whether any step has been taken for clearance of chemical waste and also to provide expertise for its disposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh is in touch with the Ministry of Defence to help them in the removal of toxic wastes from the site of Union Carbide India Limited.

(d) In view of (b) and (c) above, the question does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims

55. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought the help of the Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to participate in the economic rehabilitation of the Bhopal Gas Victims;

(b) if so, the names of the NGOs participating in their economic rehabilitation; and

(c) the details of the tasks entrusted to those NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Question Paper for CBSE Examinations

56. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the question papers set for the 10th and 12th class for CBSE students are mostly based on the other books rather than the NCERT books;

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith the parameters fixed for the purpose;

(c) whether the parameters are strictly followed while setting examination papers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) CBSE has informed that the question papers of the CBSE are set in accordance with certain predetermined parameters covering the entire syllabus which is prescribed for the studies. CBSE also provides an elaborate design and blue print which forms the basis for preparing question papers by the subject experts. However, it is always advisable to concentrate on NCERT books since these books provide required coverage of the prescribed syllabus.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, the parameters are strictly followed by the CBSE which provides weightage in terms of marks to instructional objectives like knowledge/understanding/application/skill; form of question (short-answer/essay-type); content units & level of difficulty. Beside this, CBSE also provides variety as well as choices in questions to the students.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Urea

57. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that keeping price of domestic gas at par with the price of imported gas will adversely affect production cost of urea; and

(b) if so, the details the steps taken by the Government to prevent adverse affect on production of urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The issue of fixation of natural gas prices is still under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Extension/Re-employment of Government Employees

58. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have framed any guidelines with regard to the grant of extension in service/re-employment of officers after their retirement;

(b) if so, the details of such guidelines;

(c) whether these guidelines are not being followed and the officers are being granted extension re-employment;

(d) if so, the reasons for not following guidelines;

(e) whether any representations have been received from the serving officers about the grant of extension/re-employment which is affecting their carrier prospect during the last one year;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether Government propose to dispense with the practice of giving extension/re-employment after retirement;

(h) if not, reasons therefor.

(i) whether the Government are reviewing the policy of grant of extension or re-employment of the retiring Government employees; and

(j) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for initiating changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (d) The guidelines issued prior to increase in the retirement age from 58 years to 60 years regarding grant of extension/re-employment have been revised in line with the provisions of fundamental rules 56 (d). Under the existing guidelines there is no provision for re-employment. A copy of the revised guidelines issued vide Government of India Office Memorandum No.26012/6/2002-Estt. (A) Dated 9th December, 2002 is given in the statement enclosed. Proposals for grant of extension to specialists in medical and scientific fields and others are considered by the competent authorities.

(e) and (f) The information is not centrally maintained.

(g) to (j) As these guidelines have been issued as per the provisions of FR 56 (d), there is no proposal to review the policy for the present.

Statement

No. 26012/6/2002-Estt. (A)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, P.G. & Pensions
(Department of Personnel & Training)

New Delhi, Dated 9th December, 2002

Office Memorandum

Subject:- Grant of extension/re-employment to Central Government servants beyond the age of superannuation - issue of instructions regarding.

The undersigned is directed to say that the criteria for grant of extension/re-employment to Central Government employees beyond the age of superannuation are laid down in the DOPT O.M. No. 26011/1/77-Estt. (B) dated the 18th May, 1977. After May, 1998 and when the age of retirement of the Central Government employees increased from 58 to 60 years, some of the instructions contained in the O.M. dated 18th May 1977 referred to above have lost their relevance. Accordingly, it has been decided to revise the instructions relating to extension/re-employment to Central Government employees.

2. In the absence of specific orders to the contrary by the competent authority, a Government servant must retire on the due date. The date of superannuation of a Government

servant is known in advance and ordinarily there should not be a question of failure to make arrangements for his release sufficiently in advance. It is the responsibility of the administrative authority concerned to ensure that the Government servants under their control retire on the due date.

3. Extension: F.R. 56 (d) states that no Government servant shall be granted extension of service beyond the age of 60 years. However, provisions exist in the rules to grant extension of service to certain category of Government servants only. Therefore, it must be ensured that no Ministry/Department should propose to grant extension in service unless the case is covered by the Rules.

4. The proposal for grant of extension in service to the categories of personnel referred to in the first, second and third proviso to F.R. 56 (d) shall be referred to the Estt. Division of Department of Personnel and Training two months prior to the date on which the individual concerned is due for superannuation. The procedure for grant of extension to the Scientists is laid down in DoPT d.o. letter No. 28/19/2000-EO(SM-II) dated the 10th July, 2000.

5. Procedure for consideration of cases for extension of specialists in the medical and scientific fields:-

It should be appreciated that even in the case of extension to specialist in the medical or scientific fields, it is not only the next man who misses promotion but often several people miss consequential promotions all along the hierarchy. Thus, too many cases of extension in service or re-employment are likely to cause frustration and affect the morale of the upcoming scientists who have exposure to latest technological developments in connecting fields. Keeping in view these circumstances, the following criteria and procedure has been evolved with a view to ensure that extensions in service to the superannuating scientists are resorted to only in really exceptional circumstances. The overriding consideration for the grant of extension is that it must be in the public interest and in addition satisfy one of the following two conditions:-

- (i) that the retiring specialist is not just one of the outstanding officers but is really head and shoulders above the rest; or
- (ii) that other specialists are not ripe enough to take over the job.

Test (ii) would be satisfied only if there is shortage in particular specialization, or if it is not possible to find a suitable successor or if the specialist is engaged on a work or project

of vital importance, which is likely to produce results in a year or two. If specialists in the next lower post are not eligible for promotion on the ground that they have not put in the minimum service in the lower grade prescribed under the rules, no promotions can be made to the higher grade, unless such specialists put in the requisite length of service. But specialists who are eligible for promotion to the post against which extension is recommended, should not be rejected solely on the ground that they do not have as much experience as the retiring specialist. They should be considered for promotion according to the recruitment rules and if they are found suitable they should be promoted to the posts being vacated by the retiring specialists.

6. Whenever any specialist is considered for grant of extension, his character roll and personal file should be carefully scrutinized and all other relevant information that may be available should be taken into account to judge whether the specialist had good reputation for integrity and honesty. In cases where the specialist is not considered to have good reputation for integrity and honesty, he should not be considered for grant of extension in service. The appropriate authority in the Administrative Ministry should furnish a certificate of integrity along with the Annexure-I as follows where it proposes to grant extension of service.

"Having scrutinised in character roll and personal file of Shri/Smt./Kum. and having taken into account all other relevant available information, I certify that he/she has a good reputation for integrity and honesty."

7. While making proposals for extension of service in higher posts, it is all the more necessary to apply higher standards of efficiency to persons whose appointments to the higher posts are recommended for approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The number of top posts is bound to be very limited and a few persons should not have them for too long. No Government servant who is on extension of service after the prescribed date of retirement should be promoted to another post during the period of extension of service.

8. No extension of service should be considered on the ground that a suitable successor is not available unless it is established that action to select a successor had been taken well in advance but the selection could not be finalized in time for justifiable reasons. A proposal for the grant of extension of service based merely on the consideration that the specialist's predecessor had been given extension should obviously not be accepted.

9. Re-employment: No proposal for employing a

government servant beyond the age of superannuation of 60 years shall be considered. It is also clarified that no person can be appointed/re-appointed to Central Government service after the age of superannuation of 60 years through contract.

10. Re-employment of military pensioners who have not reached the age of superannuation for Central Government employees will not be governed by these instructions.

11. **Appointment of Consultant:-**

Detailed instructions have been issued for appointment of consultant vide DOP&T's Office Memorandum No.16012/7/97-Estt.(Allowance) dated 13th February, 1998.

Hindi version will follow.

(Mrs. Pratibha Mohan)
Director (E-II)

To

All Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

(As per standard list)

Proforma for sending proposals for approval of Department of Personnel & Training for grant of extension to Government servants beyond the age of superannuation.

1. Designation of the post
2. Duration of the post :
3. Scale and terms of the post and perquisite attached, if any:
4. Whether financial sanction for the creation of the post/continuance of post for the duration shown at (2) has been obtained.
5. Method of recruitment :
6. Name and the terminal date of appointment of the outgoing incumbent of the post :
7. Name of the specialist proposed for appointment and the service to which he belongs :
8. Full service particulars of the Officer with date of birth and pay drawn :
9. Names of other Officers considered :

10. If promotion post, whether copies of proceedings of a D.P.C. are being enclosed? If not, why not?

11. Whether character roll of the specialist proposed and those considered are being sent. If not, why not?

12. Please indicate:

- (i) (a) Whether the post is scientific or medical specialist.
- (b) Periods of extension granted earlier to the officer, if any
- (c) Date from which extension is to be granted.
- (d) Period of extension of service.
- (ii) Justification for grant of extension:
- (iii) (a) The date from which it was known that vacancy would occur.
- (b) Action taken to select a successor with chronological details.
- (c) If selection is being made, reasons why this could not be finalised in good time.
- (d) Can some officiating or ad hoc arrangements be made, pending fresh appointment by proper selection? If not, why not?
- (iv) Whether orders of the Minister-in charge have been obtained?

13. Whether the prescribed Integrity Certificate, from the appropriate authority, is enclosed.

Release of Funds Under NSDP

59. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Slum Development Programme fund is released in additional central assistance in which 70% is treated as loan component and 30% as grant;
- (b) if so, whether the various states have requested for treating 70% loan component as total financial grant in view of precarious position; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Under National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) funds are released in the form of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) on the pattern of 70% loan and 30% grant for non-special category States and 10% loan and 90% grant for special category States.

(b) Some states have requested for converting 70% loan component into 100% grant component.

(c) There is no proposal to convert the NSDP into 100% grant component.

[Translation]

Development of Lucknow

60. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned three thousand crore rupees for the development of Lucknow;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for approval from the Government of Bihar in 2002 which was formulated by Bihar State Water Commission pertaining to a project amounting to 1600 crore rupees for the development of sewerage, underground drainage, water supply etc. in Patna;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government for the approval and implementation of the said project sent for the development of Patna; and

(e) the further action proposed to be taken by the Union Government for development of Patna in addition to those being done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) No specific plan has been sanctioned by the Government for the development of Lucknow. However, the following Additional Central Assistance has been provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh by the Planning Commission for use in Lucknow City:-

Sl.No.	Year	Name of the Scheme	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
1.	1997-98	Bridge on Kurshi Mahumdabad Road on Kukrail Nala in Lucknow.	0.59
2.	1999-00	CT Scan at District Hospital Balrampur, Lucknow.	2.23
3.	2000-01	Tree Plantation in Lucknow	0.98
4.	2000-01	R.K. Mission Sewa Ashram Lucknow.	5.00
5.	2001-02	Water Supply Development Scheme, Lucknow.	19.50
6.	2001-02	Completion of Taramandal in Lucknow.	5.00
7.	2001-02	Purchase of Instruments for R.K. Mission Sewa Ashram Lucknow.	1.40
8.	2001-02	For organizing Vigyan Congress Lucknow University.	8.70

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has received a Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) in respect of proposals for augmenting/improving Water Supply - Sewerage - Drainage System and Solid Waste Management services in the city of Patna under the Integrated Development Plan of Patna, Gaya and Bodhgaya towns seeking external funding for the aforesaid Projects. While forwarding the project proposals for Patna, the Bihar Raj Jal Parishad has indicated that the project proposals for Gaya and Bodhgaya towns would be sent separately in due course. However, this Ministry is yet to receive the project reports/ PFRs for Gaya and Bodhgaya.

The PFRs received for Patna township, are outlined as under:-

S.No.	Name of PFR	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crores)
1.	Water Supply System for Patna Town	273.00
2.	Sewerage Project for Patna Urban Area.	348.09
3.	Storm Water Drainage of Patna Town	921.70
4.	Solid Waste Management Project in Patna.	127.10
		1669.89

The Pre-Feasibility Reports forwarded by Bihar Raj Jal Parishad were examined from technical angle and the comments conveyed to them on 16.1.2003 requesting to address to the comments made by this Ministry and forward the modified Feasibility Reports so that the same could be recommended to the Department of Economic Affairs for possible funding by external funding agency. While forwarding comments, the Bihar Jal Parishad has been requested by this Ministry to forward the aforesaid project through the State Government, clearly bringing out the financial plan for the aforesaid proposal and commitment of State Government to provide counter part funding and implement the project. The modified project proposals have not yet been received from the State Government.

[English]

New Urea Pricing Policy

61. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken a decision on the New Urea Pricing Policy in place of unit based Retention Pricing Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the new policy is likely to come into force;
- (d) whether the Government have decided to modify unit based retention price scheme prevailing so far in fertilizer factories and withdraw transport subsidy under New Fertilizer Policy or whether there is any proposal under consideration in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the financial burden being borne by the government for the last five years i.e. since 1.4.1998 on account of all types of subsidies being provided to the fertilizer factories by the Government, year-wise details thereof;
- (g) saving likely to be accrued after implementing new fertilizer policy, item-wise;
- (h) whether small and marginal farmers are likely to be most affected after hike in fertilizers prices after implementation of new fertilizer policy; and
- (i) if so, details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (e) New pricing policy for urea units has been formulated keeping in view the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission for replacing the existing Retention Price Scheme (RPS). The new scheme will aim at greater transparency, uniformity and efficiency in subsidy disbursements to urea units and will induce urea manufacturing units to take cost reduction measures and be competitive. The new scheme will be implemented in stages. Stage-I would be of one year duration, from 1.4.2003 to 31.3.2004. Stage-II would be of two years duration from, 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2006. The modalities of the subsequent stages would be decided after review of the implementation of the Scheme during the Stage-I and Stage-II.

In Stage-I, i.e. from 1.4.2003 to 31.3.2004, the allocation of urea under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 (ECA) will be restricted up to 75% and 50% of installed capacity (as

reassessed) of each unit in Kharif 2003 and Rabi 2003-04, respectively. The remaining urea production will be available to the manufacturers for sale to the farmers at Maximum Retail Price (MRP) anywhere in the country. During Stage-II, urea distribution will be totally decontrolled after having evaluated the Stage-I.

There is no proposal to withdraw freight related costs. During 2003-04, equated freight will be worked out for the urea quantity under ECA allocation on the basis of average normative lead and rail-road mix of each unit for the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03. For the quantity outside ECA allocation, a reduction of Rs. 100 per metric tonne will be made from the equated freight.

(f) The details of subsidy expenditure on urea and concession expenditure on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers for the last five years since 1.4.1998 are given in the table below:

(Rs in crores)

Period	Amount of concession disbursed on decontrolled fertilizers	Amount of subsidy disbursed on urea
1998-99	3789.94	7597.22
1999-2000	4500.00	8744.07
2000-2001	4319.00	9481.00
2001-2002	4504.00	8304.44
2002-2003 (BE)	4224.00	7004.00

(g) The quantum of savings accruing from implementation of new pricing policy for urea units vis-a-vis existing RPS would become known only after the new policy has become operational.

(h) and (i) Farmers, including small and marginal farmers will continue to get the urea at the statutorily notified sale price.

Construction of Roads in Urban Areas

62. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to launch a new scheme for constructing roads in the urban areas of the country on the lines of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise together with the financial allocation likely to be made for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Employment to the Dependents of the Deceased Personnel of Security Forces

63. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of dependents of the deceased personnel of various security forces waiting for jobs as on 31.1.03 and since when they have been on the waiting list;

(b) the reasons for not providing jobs in time to the dependents of the deceased personnel;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for providing jobs to the dependents of the deceased personnel of various forces; and

(d) the time by which jobs are likely to be provided to the dependents of the deceased personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

University Grants Commission

64. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has mooted the concept of Special Education Export Zones in the country;

(b) if so, the main objective behind the said proposal; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Infiltration from N.E. Border

65. SHRI SUBODH ROY:

SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the vulnerable condition of the North Eastern border causing infiltration of extremists and illegal migration into the country;

(b) if so, the number of migrants infiltrated during the last three years in the North-Eastern States;

(c) whether there was demand from NE States for the increase in the strength of para-military forces and also to put barbed fencing alongwith the border; and

(d) if so, details and the steps taken by the Union Government alongwith the details of the distance covered by barbed wire fencing on the North Eastern border, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) There have been reports that nationals of some of the neighbouring countries bordering North Eastern States managed to enter illegally into the territory of India. The porous border also provides easy access, safe routes for infiltration/exfiltration to the North Eastern militants for their trans-border movements for conducting subversive activities. It is difficult to speak in terms of any precise numbers, because such illegal infiltrators enter India surreptitiously and mix with the local population due to their ethnic, linguistic similarities.

(c) and (d) Some North Eastern State Governments have asked for deployment of more security forces in the region.

The deployment of these forces depends upon the security scenario prevailing in different parts of the country and availability of these forces. Keeping in view these constraints, Central Paramilitary Forces, to the extent possible, are deployed in NE States.

With a view to prevent infiltration of Bangladeshi National into India and in pursuance of the Assam Accord, a Project (Phase-I) for construction of roads and fence along the India-Bangladesh border in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and West Bengal has been taken up since 1987. These works have almost been completed.

The Central Government has also approved a sum of Rs. 1334 crore for construction of additional roads and fencing along the remaining portion of India-Bangladesh border under Phase-II. This involves fencing of 2429.5 KMs and road network of 797 KMs. These works are proposed to be completed by December 2007. With the completion of this work the entire area on India-Bangladesh border where fencing is feasible, would be fenced.

State-wise details of the lengths of fencing approved and constructed along the Indo-Bangladesh border is as follows:

(Figures in kms.)

Name of States	Fencing Sanctioned	Progress as on date
West Bengal	1528.00	662.42
Assam	223.81	149.29
Meghalaya	399.06	205.36
Tripura	736.00	9.53
Mizoram	400.00	-
Total	3286.87	1026.60

A series of measures have also been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of

construction of border road, and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels. State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have also been directed to enforce the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946 (The Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 in case of Assam) strictly.

**Assessment of Price of Land Allotted by
DDA to Institutions**

66. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the assessed price of the land allotted by DDA to cultural, social, commercial and educational institutions during the last three years is less than the market price;

(b) If so, the reasons for assessing the land at lower price and the details of the procedures adopted for determining lower price of the land;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was rampant corruption in adopting the said procedure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority has reported that it allots land to various institutions such as schools, colleges, charitable institutions, religious, political organisations for remunerative, semi-remunerative or unremunerative purpose as per the provisions of Rule 5 & 20 of DDA (Disposal of Developed Nazul Land) Rules, 1981 on the premium and ground rent as determined by the Central Government from time to time. As regard the commercial institution, the allotment of land is made on market rates. DDA has further reported that there is no deviation by it from the above rule for the last three years.

(c) and (d) In view of above, the question does not arise.

**Schemes/Programmes under
'National Women Fund'**

67. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes and schemes under National Women Fund proposed and being implemented by his Ministry;

(b) the agencies through which these programmes and schemes have been operated and implemented during the last five years i.e. since 1.4.1998 and the funds provided during this period, year-wise, programme wise and scheme wise;

(c) details of persons benefited thereby; and

(d) the number of proposed programmes and schemes under 'National Women Fund' which are not being implemented in Rajasthan and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) The following schemes are being implemented by the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (National Credit Fund for Women):

1. Loan Promotion Scheme.
2. Main Loan Scheme.
3. Revolving Fund Scheme.
4. Marketing Scheme.
5. Nodal Agency Scheme.
6. Death Relief & Rehabilitation Scheme.

(b) and (c) RMK implements its programmes in the various States through non-Government Organizations, Social Organizations, Women's Development Corporations, Co-operative Societies, Indra Mahila Block Societies, suitable State Government Agencies like District Rural Development Agencies, Dairy Federations, and Municipal Councils etc. The details of the funds provided and women benefited during the last five years i.e. from 1.4.1998 are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) All Schemes under the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (National Credit Fund for Women) are being implemented in Rajasthan.

Statement

*Year-wise details of Sanctions and Disbursement
of loan under various schemes*

(Rs. in lakh)

Schemes	01-04-98 to 31-03-99			01-04-99 to 31-03-2000			01-04-2000 to 31-03-2001			01-04-2001 to 31-03-2002			01-04-2002 to 31-12-2002		
	Sanctioned	Disbursed	No. of Women benefited	Sanctioned	Disbursed	No. of Women benefited	Sanctioned	Disbursed	No. of Women benefited	Sanctioned	Disbursed	No. of Women benefited	Sanctioned	Disbursed	No. of Women benefited
Main Scheme	1,225.20	971.88	36,850	1,392.00	1,109.69	40,230	987.00	960.65	19,676	504.06	252.51	10,153	562.13	387.38	10133
Revolving Fund	141.00	100.00	14,100	232.00	167.00	11,403	1,006.00	515.00	23,895	30.00	297.50	535	205.00	115.00	3502
Loan Promotion	23.00	16.00	1,032	167.95	34.00	6,456	75.10	97.20	2,988	201.85	48.55	5,495	56.95	77.85	1825
SHG Development	73.42	43.62		166.80	68.95		50.40	102.95		7.70	35.20				
Marketing	22.00	17.00			5.00										
Total	1,484.62	1,148.50	51,982	1,958.75	1,384.64	58,089	2,118.50	1,675.80	46,559	743.61	633.76	16,183	824.08	580.23	15,460

[English]

Proposal to open Branch Offices of MECL

68. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Mineral Exploration Corporation offices at present, location-wise;
- (b) whether the Government propose to open the branch offices of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited in some mineral bearing States; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof State-wise especially in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) has its registered office at Nagpur, Maharashtra State. At present it has three Zonal Offices which are monitoring the projects and close liaisoning with the clients for business activities under their jurisdiction, the details of which are given below:

1. Central Zone: MECL Utility Complex, High Land Drive Road, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhavan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur- 440-004.
2. Southern Zone: MECL Thyagaraya Nagar, PO Bandalguda, Hyderabad-500-068.
3. Eastern Zone: MECL, Ancillary Chowk, Tipudana, P.O. Hatia. Ranchi- 834-003.

Besides, two business development centres at New Delhi & Kolkata promote commercial activities of the company, the details of which are given below:

1. MECL, B-52, Madhuban, New Delhi-110 092.
2. MECL, 8/5, Alipore Park Road, Kolkata-720 027.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise

Placing of Indents by Kendriya Bhandar

69. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 4613 and 433 dated 19.12.01 and 17.7.02 and state:

- (a) whether the provisions of OM dated 14.7.1981 have since been reviewed and any decision taken to withdraw the OM;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the abnormal delay in reviewing the OM;

(c) whether the OM run contrary to the Resolution No. 017034/3/sty (Vol.VI) dated 27.2.1991 issued by UDM asking Government Offices to place their indents on the Stationery Office, Calcutta and to resort to local purchases in emergent cases only;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to enquire into the reasons for issuing DOP&AR OM dated 14.7.1981 and not taking steps to review the same upon the matter having been brought to their notice repeatedly by Members of Parliament;

(e) the steps taken to make the Government offices scrupulously follow the UDM Resolution till the OM dated 14.7.1981 is withdrawn/reviewed;

(f) whether the employees are not responsible to ensure the rate quoted by the suppliers are genuine; and

(g) if so, the details of employees/suppliers against whom action has been taken after the investigation carried out by CVO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (e) OM dated 14.7.1981 was issued after interdepartmental consultation including the then Ministry of Works and Housing now Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. The review of O.M. dated 14.7.1981 will take some more time since it requires interdepartmental consultation and other administrative formalities.

(f) Kendriya Bhandar ensures the genuineness of rates including the measures e.g. obtaining appropriate undertaking from the suppliers that the rates quoted by them to Kendriya Bhandar are the lowest.

(g) New Chief Vigilance Officer has joined in October, 2002 and since then no such case regarding genuineness of rates has been finalized by him.

Closure of HFC, Haldia Unit

70. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that closure of HFC's Haldia Unit left most of its workers in the lurch;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the re-imbusement of one time funds extended to the workers through Voluntary Separation Scheme remains uncertain;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the said unit was commissioned in 1982 but stopped in 1986 following an order from the Union Finance Ministry; and

(f) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (d) Consequent to the decision of the Government to close down the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC), including the Haldia Unit, the Company has offered to all its employees the benefits under the Voluntary Separation Scheme to be funded by the Government. All the employees would be paid their dues.

(e) and (f) The Haldia Unit though mechanically completed in 1979 could never be commissioned.

Appeal against Sales Tax Department

71. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 2747 dated 20.03.2002 and state:

(a) whether the appeal filed by Kendriya Bhandar against the demand raised by Delhi Sales Tax Department has been finalized;

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

(c) the details of the records asked to be produced to the Delhi Sales Tax Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The first appeal filed by Kendriya Bhandar has been dismissed by the first Appellate Authority. Kendriya Bhandar has decided to file the second appeal before the Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal.

(c) Relevant documents i.e. Accounts Book, Ledger Accounts, Copies of Balance Sheet etc. were produced before the Sales Tax Department of NCT of Delhi as per their requirement.

Consumption of Fertilizers in Various States

72. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the per hectare consumption of fertilizers in various States;

(b) the details of the Urea and other fertilizers supplied to various States during the last one year, State-wise;

(c) whether the supply of fertilizers to each State was as per the demand of each State;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): (a) The State-wise per hectare consumption of fertilisers is given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) Statement-II indicating the State-wise demand and supply of major fertilisers namely Urea, DAP and MOP for the year 2001-02 is enclosed.

(c) to (e) The supply of these fertilisers was sufficient enough to met the demand of the States. There was no report of shortage of any fertilizers from any State during the year.

Statement-I

Estimated per hectare consumption of fertilizers for cropped area

(Kgs N+P+K)

Sl No.	State	2001-02
1.	Andhra Pradesh	143.46
2.	Karnataka	101.48
3.	Kerala	60.72
4.	Tamil Nadu	141.55
5.	Gujarat	85.52
6.	Madhya Pradesh	39.96*
7.	Maharashtra	76.24
8.	Rajasthan	36.86
9.	Haryana	155.69
10.	Himachal Pradesh	41.40
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	64.55
12.	Punjab	173.38
13.	Uttar Pradesh	130.44**
14.	Bihar	87.39 \$
15.	Orissa	40.91
16.	West Bengal	126.82
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.88
18.	Assam	38.81
19.	Tripura	30.45
20.	Manipur	104.94
21.	Meghalaya	17.16
22.	Nagaland	2.13
23.	Mizoram	13.72
24.	Sikkim	9.72
25.	Goa	34.28
26.	Delhi	59.90
All India		90.12

* Includes Chhattisgarh

** Includes Uttaranchal

\$ Includes Jharkhand

Statement-II
State-wise demand, availability and sales of Urea, DAP & MOP during 2001-02

Sl. No	State	Urea												DAP						MOP						
		Kharif 2001			Rabi 2001-02			Kharif 2001			Rabi 2001-02			Kharif 2001			Rabi 2001-02			Kharif 2001			Rabi 2001-02			
		Assessed Demand	Availability	Sales	Assessed Demand	Availability	Sales	Assessed Demand	Availability	Sales	Assessed Demand	Availability	Sales	Assessed Demand	Availability	Sales	Assessed Demand	Availability	Sales	Assessed Demand	Availability	Sales	Assessed Demand	Availability	Sales	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1050.00	922.83	741.38	1066.00	1217.24	1024.91	450.00	314.51	268.10	325.00	304.15	270.86	125.00	139.40	119.78	120.00	156.81	143.36							
2.	Karnataka	680.00	593.91	558.59	330.00	362.10	364.36	300.00	265.17	208.89	155.00	185.38	171.84	160.00	156.63	135.53	90.00	104.03	96.55							
3.	Kerala	65.00	62.89	49.07	60.00	54.52	46.97	6.00	8.14	4.82	5.00	6.17	5.19	80.00	62.63	53.66	60.00	53.23	45.69							
4.	Tamil Nadu	370.00	374.68	283.80	550.00	601.50	487.80	120.00	116.29	100.77	160.00	139.54	132.14	130.00	159.03	131.09	215.00	193.49	182.31							
5.	Gujarat	510.00	533.61	484.55	625.00	566.89	506.50	225.00	261.17	224.84	225.00	191.08	175.29	40.00	73.91	43.50	60.00	74.56	63.31							
6.	Madhya Pradesh	380.00	457.52	333.62	600.00	461.15	366.56	225.00	324.70	263.82	343.00	246.54	136.33	20.00	32.13	15.34	22.00	20.18	12.16							
7.	Chhattisgarh	250.00	327.16	272.28	75.00	126.99	93.87	68.00	87.94	70.44	18.00	40.97	23.11	25.00	29.51	24.13	10.00	17.78	7.45							
8.	Maharashtra	1180.00	1149.20	994.85	700.00	717.90	615.97	350.00	256.42	231.05	225.00	245.82	188.11	150.00	149.33	114.65	125.00	145.59	117.51							
9.	Rajasthan	450.00	557.05	428.03	600.00	717.66	678.12	250.00	252.45	208.75	250.00	201.14	149.50	2.00	6.56	4.92	6.00	5.48	4.81							
10.	Goa	1.50	2.00	1.94	2.20	1.27	1.22	0.20	0.43	0.34	0.15	0.36	0.29	0.50	0.45	0.43	0.30	0.26	0.25							
11.	Madhya Pradesh	580.00	721.50	529.86	900.00	1004.46	915.49	160.00	275.70	149.33	310.00	330.87	310.72	10.00	12.18	4.34	8.00	14.32	10.18							
	Total	3034.00	3434.54	2589.25	4500.00	4927.16	4196.00	2300.00	2192.70	1896.00	2500.00	2020.00	1300.00	30.00	300.00	200.00	300.00	383.00	313.00							

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
13. Jammu & Kashmir	64.00	47.23	34.47	48.00	48.31	47.36	33.81	12.01	11.67	29.23	27.44	22.81	7.30	1.00	0.51	7.10	2.10	1.94		
14. Punjab	1000.00	1035.25	890.58	1100.00	1161.76	1091.81	225.00	470.40	344.80	430.00	373.80	356.78	25.00	41.99	30.24	15.00	21.34	12.74		
15. Uttar Pradesh	2150.00	2753.00	2283.22	2300.00	2725.13	2490.34	450.00	573.09	430.54	975.00	1039.29	909.23	65.00	83.65	38.38	90.00	67.24	49.45		
16. Uttaranchal	107.00	124.61	92.12	172.00	87.50	70.74	16.00	7.57	4.38	26.09	14.22	14.18	12.50	1.88	1.22	6.13	3.05	1.84		
17. Delhi	5.00	6.91	1.89	20.00	4.32	2.89	2.00	1.06	1.06	5.00	0.87	0.87	0.50	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
18. Bihar	650.00	721.07	598.48	680.00	679.39	616.11	180.00	110.56	91.77	200.00	108.16	96.02	35.00	37.70	21.52	70.00	62.57	54.19		
19. Jharkhand	80.00	114.18	94.46	40.00	62.27	40.83	30.00	68.14	59.29	15.00	47.49	47.65	50.00	1.35	0.95	13.00	1.20	1.19		
20. Orissa	360.00	400.86	314.99	160.00	139.32	83.24	90.00	64.96	56.70	50.00	44.69	26.63	60.00	68.02	54.76	43.00	32.82	28.01		
21. West Bengal	470.00	443.74	369.11	680.00	679.02	591.76	180.00	133.16	111.05	320.00	295.70	259.19	100.00	171.58	109.22	225.00	215.15	193.10		
22. Assam	73.00	84.36	66.10	84.55	77.65	57.92	30.00	22.55	16.87	36.00	11.86	5.67	30.00	41.16	27.01	35.45	39.52	24.43		
23. Manipur	31.00	31.79	31.00	9.30	9.20	7.86	4.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
24. Meghalaya	3.00	2.93	2.93	2.50	3.00	2.78	1.00	1.32	1.32	0.80	0.44	0.44	0.21	0.04	0.04	0.25	0.06	0.06		
25. Nagaland	0.50	0.88	0.06	0.13	0.40	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
26. Sikkim	0.50	0.80	0.80	0.50	0.60	0.20	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
27. Tripura	9.70	11.65	8.39	12.00	10.41	7.11	2.30	0.18	0.18	0.10	0.10	0.10	4.36	0.85	0.85	4.08	0.39	0.39		
28. Arunachal Pradesh	0.60	0.94	0.02	0.43	0.65	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
29. Mizoram	0.30	0.73	0.22	0.40	0.55	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.40	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02		
All India	10561.55	11523.43	9501.12	10744.15	11575.64	10244.42	3383.65	3630.94	2863.08	4110.94	3871.20	3305.87	1538.48	1658.00	1282.23	1535.91	1716.05	1502.67		

**Urban Poverty Reduction Project
in Andhra Pradesh**

73. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank and the Italian Government held discussion with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for a possible urban poverty reduction project in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussion held;

(c) whether the project has been cleared by the World bank and Italian Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The World Bank and the Italian government held discussions with the Government of Andhra Pradesh for an Urban Poverty Alleviation Project. The Project, within the framework of "Cities alliance", launched by the World Bank, is an Italian grant of approximately US \$ 10.7 million, for technical assistance for six Class II towns of Andhra Pradesh. The project aims at sustainable reduction in vulnerability and poverty of the urban poor.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Production of Urea

74. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of urea has dropped during the last one year;

(b) whether the consumption of urea has also decreased;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the step taken by the Government to increase the production and consumption of urea with a view to ensure

that the low consumption of urea does not affect the sowing of the Kharif crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Production and consumption of urea during 2000-01, 2001-02 and estimate for 2002-03 is given below:-

(Lakh MT)		
Year	Production	Consumption/Sale
2001-02	191.73	199.17
2002-03 (estimated)	189.00	186.00

Production of urea in the current year has reduced compared to 2001-02 mainly due to shortage of natural gas in gas based plants and FACT: Cochin-I, FCI: Sindri, NLC: Neyveli and DIL: Kanpur remaining closed since 1.4.2002. The consumption of urea will also be less in 2002-03 due to wide spread drought in the Kharif seasons and not so favourable weather conditions in the current Rabi seasons.

(d) Urea Industry is facing problems mainly on two fronts for matching the production with installed capacity; firstly, limitation in availability of natural gas specially for gas based urea plants such as RCF- Thal and KRIBHCO-Hazira; secondly, on account of frequent shut down/break down of old vintage plants. Department of Fertilizer is pursuing with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to make available adequate and qualitative gas to urea plants. Many fertilizer companies are taking step for long term tie-up with prospective suppliers of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and/ or natural gas to overcome constraints in the domestic availability of gas. Many urea units have also installed dual fuel facility of naphtha for supplementing alternate feed. Capital additions are also recognized under Retention-cum-Price Subsidy Scheme (RPS) so as to encourage urea units to undertake investment for improving their efficiency by expansion/retrofitting/revamping of existing plants to overcome equipment breakdowns etc.

Government will, however, ensure adequate availability of urea to meet the demand of various States for next Kharif seasons.

Corruption in DDA

75. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO.

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officials of Delhi Development Authority punished under corruption cases till date;

(b) the number of officials whose cases are under investigation of Central Bureau of Investigation;

(c) the details of charges levelled and proved against them; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the menace of corruption in DDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that during the last three years from 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, six officials were removed/dismitted from service due to their conviction in criminal cases.

(b) Investigation against nine DDA officials has been taken up by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

(c) The charges levelled against nine officials referred to in part (b) above, relate to illegal restoration of cancelled allotments and subsequent disposal of such flats at a premium. The investigation report is awaited from CBI.

(d) DDA has stated that various steps have been taken to curb corruption in DDA. A three pronged strategy i.e. preventive, detective and punitive has been adopted. Instructions issued by the Deptt. of Personnel & Training and Central Vigilance Commission from time to time are being strictly implemented. Steps have also been taken to train DDA officials, introduce computerization and e-governance as well as exercising strict vigilance at all levels. Counsellors/facilitators have been seated in the main Reception Hall at Vikas Sadan for attending to the visiting public. Senior DDA officers monitor public grievances and are accessible to public to deal with their grievances.

University Grants Commission

76. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives in setting up the University Grants Commission in 1953 and the role expected to be played by the Commission to promote university education in the country;

(b) whether Government have at any time, reviewed the functioning of the UGC to assess achievements and the deficiencies/ shortcomings in its performance;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The University Grants Commission (UGC) was set up in December, 1953 under a resolution (November, 1952) of the Government of India and was reconstituted as a corporate body in November, 1958 under the provisions of the University Grants Commission Act, 1958. The main functions of UGC are to promote and co-ordinate University education and determine and maintain the standard of teaching, examination and research in universities etc. UGC discharges these duties by allocating and disbursing grants to Central Universities/colleges and Deemed Universities for their maintenance and development and by recommending necessary measures towards that end.

(b) to (d) Central Government has not conducted any review of UGC in the recent years. However, as per the information furnished by the UGC, it has got the review of its activities done from time to time.

Activities of PWG and ISI

77. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of People's War Group (PWG) and Pakistani ISI reportedly met in Nepal/Bihar borders in October, 2002;

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

(c) whether extremists violence has been stepped up after that meeting; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check their nexus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The Central Government has no information regarding such meeting.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Central Government has adopted a well

coordinated and multi-pronged approach to counter the plans of Pak ISI to establish links with the militant outfits in the country. Special Service Bureau (SSB) has been deployed along Indo-Nepal Border. The left wing extremism affected States bordering Nepal have been sensitized to intensify patrolling in the areas bordering Nepal for checking undesirable activities by the Pak ISI on the Indian side of the border. Steps have also been taken for improving the collection and coordination of intelligence.

[Translation]

Border Area Development

78. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY.

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated for the Border Area Development in the country during each of the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the details of the works undertaken under the programme, State-wise;

(c) year-wise allocation since 1998-99 for construction of Border Roads along the Indo-Bangladesh border; and

(d) the position of four feeder roads specially Gumrah-Natanpur Road and Baleshwar Bridge at Cachar District of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The details of funds allocated under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) during the last three years, State-wise, are given in the statement-I enclosed. The Schemes undertaken under the Programme are decided by the State Level Screening Committees under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the concerned State Government. The schemes taken up relate to various sectors like education, health, agriculture, social and infrastructure including rural sanitation, electrification, strengthening of existing roads etc.

(c) The year-wise allocation of funds for construction of boundary roads under the Indo-Bangladesh Border fencing and roads project are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(d) The construction of a bund-com-road on the right bank of River Surma and composite fencing on it for a

length of 35 Kms. has been approved as part of the Indo-Bangladesh Border fencing & roads project. Improvement of four feeder roads from the National Highway to the proposed Indo-Bangladesh road for a stretch from BP No. 1341 to BP No. 1348 were proposed to be taken for improvement as a part of Indo-Bangladesh Border fencing and road project. These roads are village/State PWD roads and out of these, the Baleshwar RCC bridge falls on Gumrah-Natanpur road which is a State PWD road. The matter has been considered and the inclusion of these roads/bridges in the Indo-Bangladesh Border works will depend upon the essentiality of these roads/bridges for the BSF.

Statement-I

Funds allocated under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) during the last three years

(Figures in crores of Rupees)

Name of the State	Year		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Arunachal Pradesh	13.00	13.51	13.51
Assam	7.20	7.48	7.48
Bihar	7.00	7.28	7.28
Gujarat	9.87	10.26	10.26
Himachal Pradesh	4.00	4.16	4.16
Jammu & Kashmir	33.52	34.85	34.85
Manipur	4.00	4.16	4.16
Meghalaya	4.52	4.70	4.70
Mizoram	8.00	8.32	8.32
Nagaland	4.00	4.16	4.16
Punjab	9.70	10.08	10.08
Rajasthan	37.17*	30.32	30.32
Sikkim	5.50	5.72	5.72
Tripura	12.41	12.96	12.96
Uttaranchal	Nil	4.16	4.16
Uttar Pradesh	12.00	8.32	8.32
West Bengal	38.05	39.58	39.58
Total	210.00	210.00	210.00

* Includes Rs.8.00 crores for Indra Gandhi Nahar Project (IGNP).

Statement-II

Year-wise allocation since 1998-99 for construction of Border Roads along the Indo-Bangladesh border

(Figures in lacs of Rupees)

Name of the State	Year							
	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Phase-I	Phase-I	Ph. I	Ph. II	Total	Ph. I	Ph. II	Total
Assam	1220.00	1000.00	1100	-	1100	Nil	1286	1286
West Bengal	4855.00	5685.00	4100	-	4100	2465	-	2465
Meghalaya	150.00	135.00	200	9.75	209.75	133	451.08	584.08
Tripura	2125.00	1200.00	2000	-	2000	1175	-	1175
Mizoram	640.00	730.00	520	18.00	538.00	262	1123	1385
Total	8990.00	8750.00	7920	27.75	7947.75	4035	2860.08	6895.08

Note. Work under Phase-II was sanctioned in June, 2000.

[English]

Rural Development

79. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether achievement for the alleviation of poverty in rural areas during the Ninth Plan were less as compared to previous Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details alongwith factors responsible therefore; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the hurdles being faced in the alleviation of poverty during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL):
(a) Achievements in alleviation of poverty are reflected in the poverty ratios. As per the estimates of poverty obtained by the Planning Commission the rural poverty declined to 27.09% in 1999-2000 from 37.27% in 1993-94. Poverty estimates

corresponding to Five Year Plan periods are not estimated separately.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has attempted to address the multi-dimensional nature of poverty with a three-pronged strategy consisting of economic growth, human development and direct intervention through poverty alleviation programmes. Greater role for empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions and involvement of communities in the implementation of anti poverty programmes are also envisaged.

[Translation]

Women Self Help Groups

80. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of woman self help groups working at present for women empowerment in different parts of the country;

(b) the achievements of these groups during the last three years; and

(c) the number of women benefited till date under the Swayam Siddha and Swadhar schemes launched for the all round rehabilitation of women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (c) Under the Swa Shakti and Swayamsidha schemes being implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development, 72640 women self help groups are under formation in the country. Their achievements range from thrift, inter-personal loaning, bank linkages, economic enterprise, convergence with various Government and other scheme and development of Community assets.

It is estimated that 10.69 lac women will be benefited by the Swa Shakti and Swayamsidha schemes by 31.3.2006.

Around 3000 women have benefited under Swadhar Scheme as on date.

[English]

Use of POTA

81. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the incidents of alleged wrongful invoking of POTA, 2002 against certain individuals;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representation/complaints about such alleged misusing of POTA from those concerned/others;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken including amendments in the law, so as to ensure just and proper enforcement of this law by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) The Central Government has received a large number of representations

from Tamil Nadu and one representation each from Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand against the alleged misuse of POTA, 2002 by the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(d) There is no proposal to amend the POTA, 2002 at present. Implementation of POTA, 2002 is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations, law and order being the State subject. However, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to ensure proper and transparent implementation of the said Act.

Misuse of Staff Car by Director (PTG.)

82. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director (Ptg.) in the Directorate of Printing was found misusing his official car since September, 1990;

(b) whether Government have obtained special permission from the Ministry of Finance sometime in July/August, 2001 to regularize the misuse from retrospective effect; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against the erring official?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) A Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha vide his D.O. letter dated 23.4.2001, inter-alia, raised the matter that the Director of Printing has been regularly using the staff car since September, 1990 for journeys between his residence to office and back.

(b) It was observed that although the Director of Printing was not holding a post equivalent to that of Joint Secretary he discharges the duties of the Head of Department with country-wide jurisdiction. It was felt that the facility of using the staff car for journeys between his residence and office and back would certainly facilitate his functioning as Head of Department. Such a proposal was accordingly made to the Department of Expenditure in July, 2001. The said Department vide their U.O. Note dated 6.8.2001 agreed to the proposal, as a special case.

(c) In view of the above, action against the official is not warranted.

ISI Activities on Indo-Nepal Border

83. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 750 km long open border area of Indo-Nepal in Bihar has become an open route for the terrorists;

(b) if so, whether Pakistani terrorists are using this route frequently to destroy the Indian peace and economy;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether the Government have held any talks with the Nepal Government about the increasing ISI activities on the Indo-Nepal border;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether views of both the countries differ on the issue as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 23.11.02.

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

(h) the steps being taken by both the Governments to stop the anti India activities by ISI on the Indo-Nepal border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) The Government of India has been aware and concerned about Pakistan and its intelligence agencies exploiting the open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India's interest with the help of Indian extremist elements. There have been reports of misuse of the border for circulation of fake currency, drug trafficking and smuggling of arms by these elements. Government has noted the several instances of arrests of staffers of Pakistani Embassy in Kathmandu for being in possession of explosives and fake Indian currency. Such officers have subsequently been asked to leave the country by the Government of Nepal.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has taken up issues relating to ISI activities in Nepalese territory and the misuse of the open India-Nepal border with the Government of Nepal. Such issues have been raised through bilateral institutional

mechanism such as the Joint Working Group on border management and Home Secretary Level Talks with Nepal.

(f) to (h) The Governments of India and Nepal have agreed to fight terrorism in all forms and manifestations and reiterated that they would not allow their territory to be used for activity prejudicial to the interest of either country. Measures have been taken to enhance cooperation with Nepal, particularly with regard to implementing effective border management. Special Service Bureau (SSB) is being deployed along the sensitive areas of Indo-Nepal border to strengthen security in the border areas.

[Translation]

Calamity Relief Fund

84. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds sanctioned and released to various States particularly to Uttar Pradesh out of the calamity relief fund for repair of the roads damaged and washed away due to floods during the year 2002-2003;

(b) the length of roads in kilo metres damaged due to floods, district-wise; and

(c) the reasons for delay in repairing the roads which were washed away and damaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) A statement indicating the Central Share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) released to various States for the year 2002-03 is enclosed. An amount of Rs. 178.55 crore was released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh as Centre's share towards CRF during the year 2002-03 including Rs. 57.60 crore arrears of previous year. Expenditure from CRF is incurred as per the norms laid down on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. Accordingly, assistance for restoration of damaged infrastructure is not admissible except for repairs of an immediate nature.

(b) Information regarding length of roads damaged due to floods district-wise is not maintained at the level of Central Government.

(c) Repair and maintenance of roads is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments.

Statement

Calamity Relief Fund 2002-03

(As on 14.07.2003)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Centre's Share	States' Share	Total	Centre's share released during 2002-03	Amount due on 1st instalment 2002-03 #	2nd instalment due #
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	16377	5439	21816	12283.00	0.00	0.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	994	331	1325	994.00	0.00	0.00
3	Assam	8392	2797	11189	8392.00	0.00	0.00
4	Bihar	5537	1845	7382	6173.50	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	2272	757	3029	2272.00	0.00	0.00
6	Goa	103	34	137	106.00	0.00	31.50
7	Gujarat	13346	4449	17795	13346.00	0.00	0.00
8	Haryana	6723	2241	8964	6723.00	0.00	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	3596	1199	4795	3596.00	0.00	0.00
10	Jammu & Kashmir	2886	962	3848	5634.00	0.00	0.00
11	Jharkhand	4688	1563	6251	0.00	2344.00	2344.00
12	Karnataka	6166	2055	8221	6166.00	0.00	0.00
13	Kerala	5560	1853	7413	5560.00	0.00	0.00
14	Madhya Pradesh	5178	1726	6904	5178.00	0.00	0.00
15	Maharashtra	12999	4333	17332	12999.00	0.00	0.00
16	Manipur	237	79	316	403.50	0.00	118.50
17	Meghalaya	326	109	435	0.00	163.00	163.00
18	Mizoram	246	82	328	468.50	0.00	123.00
19	Nagaland	162	54	216	81.00	0.00	81.00
20	Orissa	9052	3017	12069	9052.00	0.00	0.00
21	Punjab	10147	3362	13509	10147.00	0.00	0.00
22	Rajasthan	17116	5705	22821	17116.00	0.00	0.00
23	Sikkim	571	190	761	557.50	0.00	203.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24	Tamil Nadu	8487	2829	11316	8487.00	0.00	0.00
25	Tripura	430	143	573	430.00	0.00	0.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	12095	4032	16127	17854.50 @	0.00	0.00
27	Uttaranchal	2676	892	3568	2612.50	0.00	1338.00
28	West Bengal	8360	2787	11147	12341.00 @	0.00	0.00
Total		164722	54905	219627	171063.00	2507.00	4504.50

\$ 25% of Centre's share of CRF for the year 2002-03 released in advance during 2001-02.

* The balance amount of Centre's share has not been released for want of information from State Governments relating to constitution of CRF, crediting of earlier released funds, contribution of corresponding State share, utilisation certificate and annual report.

@ Including arrears of previous year(s).

[English]

Election Campaign of DSGMC

85. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons died, houses damaged and vehicles burnt during the election campaign of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee in Karol Bagh; and

(b) the action taken by Delhi Police in this regard and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) There was no such incident reported in the Karol Bagh area during the said Election campaign.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Basic Syllabi in Universities

86. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Universities are

ignoring the basic syllabi in the field of higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps being taken by the Government to maintain the standard of higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Universities are expected to modify and update the curricula of various subjects at periodic intervals. To facilitate the universities in this exercise the University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently conducted an exercise to frame the model curricula at under-graduate and post-graduate levels in various disciplines of 32 subjects of Science, Humanities and Social Sciences. The model curricula have since been circulated by the UGC to various universities across the country with an advice either to adopt the same in toto or to adopt it after necessary deletion/addition or to adopt it after making any change whatsoever, which the university may consider right.

Recognition of Residential Areas as Industrial Areas

87. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA has sent a proposal to his Ministry to declare the residential areas having more than seventy percent industrial units into industrial areas;

(b) If so, the colony-wise details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether a proposal has been received for the revision of Delhi's master plan to accord recognition to 24 residential areas as Industrial areas;

(d) if so, the names of these 24 residential areas and the total areas of land on which these residential colonies are inhabited;

(e) the details of the Industrial units in these areas engaged in production at present;

(f) whether the Government have taken any decision to implement the said proposal; and

(g) if so, the details of the decision and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) A proposal has been received from the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for in-situ regularization of non-conforming industries in residential areas where concentration of industry is more than 70%. Names of 24 such residential areas is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Details of extent of land/industrial units in such areas are being collected.

(f) and (g) A Committee has been constituted by the Government to examine the proposal. The Committee is yet to submit its recommendation.

Statement

List of Areas recommended by DDA for insitu regularisation as industrial areas.

1. Shahzada Bagh Extn.
2. Nangli Sakrawati
3. Mundka
4. Vishwas Nagar

5. Khyala
6. Trinagar
7. Shalimar Village
8. Hastal
9. Karawal Nagar
10. Peera Garhi
11. Basai Darapur
12. Dabri
13. Libas Pur
14. Haider Pur
15. G.T. Karnal Road (Pkt.)
16. Jawahar Nagar Loni Road, Shahdara
17. WZ-8A Kirti Nagar
18. Nawada
19. Pehladpur
20. Tikri Village
21. Naresh Park Extn., Nangloi
22. New Mandoli, Shahdara
23. Rithala
24. Village Sultanpur Mazra

Quality Education Programme

88. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Quality Education Programme to be implemented with the help of Asian Development Bank to bring extensive reforms in the Standard of technical education in the country and to make it compatible with the present needs;

(b) if so, the names of educational institutions selected under this programme for providing financial assistance for improving their training standards in various States; and

(c) the matching shares of the Union Government

and the State Government under this programme along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has not approved any "Quality Education Programme" to be implemented with the help of Asian Development Bank, However, it has approved "Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India" for implementing with the assistance of World Bank. This Programme will upscale and support ongoing efforts of Government of India in improving quality of technical education. Further, it will enhance existing capacities of the institutions to become dynamic, demand-driven, quality-conscious, efficient and forward-looking, responsive to rapid economic and technological developments occurring both at national and international levels.

The process to select institutions has been initiated under this Programme. The total cost of the Programme for 10th Plan period is Rs.1550 crore consisting of Central component of Rs.350 crore and State component of Rs.1200 crore.

[English]

Integrated Child Development Service Project

89. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Integrated Child Development Services Project sanctioned by the Union Government during 8th and 9th Plan periods;

(b) funds allocated to each of the State during the 8th and 9th Plan periods for implementing such Schemes;

(c) details of the States that have not implemented these schemes during 8th and 9th Plan period separately;

(d) the Funds utilised by each State on these ICDS projects during the said Plan periods;

(e) whether the progress achieved in Child development by the States has been commensurate with the utilisation of funds; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) A total of 1587 projects were sanctioned during the 8th and 1289 projects during the 9th Plan periods.

(b) to (d) All the States implemented the Scheme during the 8th and 9th Plan periods and the details of funds released and utilized by each State during the period is given in the statement enclosed.

(e) and (f) The country has made significant progress in fulfilling the commitment to children in their survival and development. Thus in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-I., conducted in 1992-93, the prevalence of underweight children (0-4 years) was 53.40%, infant mortality was 78.50 per 1000 live births and low birth weight was 33%. In NFHS-II conducted in 1998-99, the prevalence of underweight children (0-3 years) declined to 47%, infant mortality came down to 67.60 per 1000 live births and low birth weight became 22.70%.

Statement

Statement showing Releases and Expenditure under ICDS (Gen.) scheme during 8th Plan

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT-wise	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-95		1996-97	
		Release	Expd.	Release	Expd.	Release	Expd.	Release	Expd.	Release	Expd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1809.68	1477.35	1819.26	1477.35	1796.63	1998.29	2944.16	2104.57	2950.58	2733.32
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	254.72	175.86	501.83	501.43	364.43	276.73	657.98	370.42	402.79	425.63
3.	Assam	875.90	803.61	1129.93	1287.00	2006.10	1971.79	1859.19	1277.72	1741.46	1689.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4.	Bihar	3171.41	2594.93	2867.11	3131.00	4779.49	2716.17	2955.19	1461.82	2450.28	1262.85
5.	Goa	102.20	129.79	180.26	153.74	144.57	183.32	189.63	190.45	166.45	189.68
6.	Gujarat	1496.87	1695.75	2270.17	2138.65	1986.58	1720.00	2477.95	3203.04	4355.36	3988.78
7.	Haryana	597.30	541.15	829.86	818.38	703.74	825.46	1026.86	931.06	1473.45	1877.29
8.	Himachal Pradesh	471.48	421.96	587.34	471.53	519.9	567.2	852.93	639.84	704.32	700.15
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	572.17	355.88	710.25	499.54	708.32	577.43	902.98	682.13	1531.59	1869.58
10.	Karnataka	2123.30	1919.05	3201.45	2582.24	2874.87	3194.23	4153.54	3647	4132.23	4100.79
11.	Kerala	839.39	827.25	1269.01	1163.44	1262.62	1335.10	1788.95	1679.02	2390.12	1903.45
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3091.00	2207.67	2831.89	3834.50	4088.09		3902.20	3498.74	3888.16	4021.99
13.	Maharashtra	2484.09	2210.95	3484.91		3527.81	4253.80	5409.35		5682.23	5894.70
14.	Manipur	300.24	300.24	409.47	351.06	338.68	401.80	484.31	405.51	472.55	510.82
15.	Meghalaya	334.21	202.34	462.88	288.42	333.72	201.58	549.69	317.59	120.98	348.72
16.	Mizoram	208.53	222.43	315.19	273.73	280.41	291.88	308.16	329.30	382.53	349.98
17.	Nagaland	307.78	195.0	316.38	315.38	467.82	235.65	559.78	643.79	736.30	402.00
18.	Orissa	1652.50	926.71	722.28	1197.66	1096.32	1261.33	1737.01	1249.58	1629.46	1371.59
19.	Punjab	672.50	648.55	1285.40	958.58	762.48	945.68	1093.17	1085.95	1288.62	
20.	Rajasthan	1463.98	2251.34	2258.58	1938.65	1972.84	2028.88	2565.63	2414.23	3238.83	3015.29
21.	Sikkim	49.84	48.73	115.23	62.43	22.03	64.97	126.4	81.82	40.46	93.75
22.	Tamil Nadu	1551.48	945.82	2104.08	1542.05	1418.41	1083.68	2981.45	1139.69	1140.94	1198.68
23.	Tripura	274.12	187.7	245.98	305.34	237.84	248.25	359.9	240.9	382.71	313.27
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4721.78	2605.52	6977.27	3250.05	7287.72	2970.08	11141.94	3784.48	5798.34	
25.	West Bengal	2855.99	2529.88	3588.95	3157.5	3648.90	3605.40	4833.65	4602.32	4704.65	4250.00
26.	Delhi	446.01	408.23	494.41	502.41	603	572.27	616.47	637.74	601.24	627.55
27.	Pondicherry	74.00	82.94	115.33		105.82	95.8	117.78	108.22	50.78	110.93
28.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	51.84	31.33	53.07	45.23	59.54	42.42	66.82	50.54	66.65	58.43
29.	Chandigarh	29.80	28.26	42.84	36.29	36.91	36.83	38.82	37.73	56.92	49.99
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15.62	14.98	17.24	16.99	16.29	17.52	27.81	21.75	18.72	19.60
31.	Daman & Diu	24.80	24.80	32.83	29.76	21.43	21.43	36.32		30.85	22.66
32.	Lakshadweep	14.90	6.93	14.70	7.95	18.19	14.99	15.66	9.66	14.58	10.95
Total		32934.39	27022.93	41045.16	32336.28	43481.10	33739.74	56781.46	38842.61	52655.11	43214.16

Statement showing Releases and Expenditure under I.C.D.S (Gen.) scheme during the 9th Plan

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT-wise	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-02	
		Release	Expd.	Release	Expd.	Release	Expd.	Release	Expd.	Release	Expd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3135.53	2807.35	3185.12	5027.92	5402.87	5396.00	6229.00	6348.00	6580.61	6873.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	406.52	528.13	660.57	630.56	817.00	681.19	681.00	943.2	1895.39	1760.00
3.	Assam	1634.35	1657.72	1911.71	2578.92	2211.00	3296.53	5070.97	3695.63	6188.61	4476.29
4.	Bihar	1469.02	1146.08	3691.13	3568.07	4918.64	3791.99	3756.00	2556.98	2145.11	1863.42
5.	Goa	188.76	253.77	326.48	268.66	284.13	282.21	284.13	269.23	339.35	336.92
6.	Gujarat	5312.40	4002.01	4788.12	4980.97	5370.21	4587.98	3726.01	6483.82	8070.09	4365.53
7.	Haryana	2203.65	2267.26	2633.07	2815.99	2754.12	2823.14	3593.61	3085.77	3660.50	3261.57
8.	Himachal Pradesh	904.24	1086.45	1045.40	1351.44	1640.09	1428.67	1764.28	1607.59	1984.42	1605.23
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	511.86	1802.04	1431.72	1481.25	1963.00	2199.92	2266.00	2253.88	2739.16	2199.85
10.	Karnataka	5158.03	5768.69	5709.83	5935.36	5111.35	6424.15	7466.18	6715.49	7660.68	7329.77
11.	Kerala	2380.62	2045.74	3120.80	2827.88	2641.82	3288.67	3101.90	3629.37	3516.30	3355.94
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4840.29	4205.73	5131.48	5393.84	4368.00	5783.16	5590.00	4594.98	3771.08	3879.80
13.	Maharashtra	6925.69	6335.89	6792.45	7316.95	6584.73	9502.78	6688.62	11384.17	10193.48	8916.65
14.	Manipur	795.10	764.86	846.78	646.78	840.48	958.13	1254.75	572.33	901.07	1099.64
15.	Meghalaya	524.81	409.72	350.60	530.49	535.00	531.80	664.97	630.10	1060.15	694.32
16.	Mizoram	413.11	438.08	542.12	535.79	535.66	535.66	865.85	646.85	572.95	737.98
17.	Nagaland	543.85	806.18	1321.37	1354.00	1245.00	1245.00	1941.60	1941.60	1907.00	1657.00
18.	Orissa	2158.13	2134.72	6641.30	4609.42	4042.97	5010.71	6133.71	6157.74	6881.86	6992.37
19.	Punjab	1525.90	1988.23	2382.58	2242.10	2413.14	2583.91	3759.46	2969.79	3730.77	2985.66
20.	Rajasthan	3373.72	3734.91	3512.19	4603.38	4197.55	4443.53	5954.43	4838.78	5947.07	5267.88
21.	Sikkim	63.29	99.15	241.96	155.87	129.75	130.26	156.01	149.98	192.35	174.40
22.	Tamil Nadu	2513.24	2513.24	7297.05	7171.01	10704.77	8822.42	10286.90	9972.12	9289.80	8084.64
23.	Tirpura	447.67	418.06	463.68	507.42	646.06	603.38	630.98	646.99	1481.36	738.69
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7401.73		7265.52	7689.84	11349.00	8899.15	11519.28	9065.25	12696.42	9870.26
25.	West Bengal	5151.28	5930.00	6456.11	8728.47	6088.00	8728.47	8047.13	9227.65	12650.02	9829.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
26.	Chhattisgarh							625.61	733.89	1800.79	1799.02
27.	Uttaranchal							462.78	Nil	1246.76	832.22
28.	Jharkhand							865.57	Nil	1961.66	3307.85
Union Territories											
29.	Delhi	565.98		1248.18	1046.69	818.42	698.42	808.47	786.68	796.41	781.23
30.	Pondicherry	105.55	148.12	151.82	181.27	181.58	142.31	154.85	173.75	154.85	181.11
31.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	63.27	76.08	112.26	85.65	130.44	83.47	107.88	109.1	154.85	138.11
32.	Chandigarh	95.77	57.68	77.71	77.71	78.29	78.29	88.04	194.23	93.35	93.35
33.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21.88	5.32	28.60	28.60	26.83	29.25	26.83	37.81	31.85	30.60
34.	Daman & Diu	26.79	2679.00	28.17	28.17	42.00	31.6	52.56	88.04	37.45	35.00
35.	Lakshadweep	8.82	39.80	25.20	26.30	25.69	26.48	25.43	26.83	31.62	27.78
Total		60870.85	56250.01	79421.08	84406.77	88097.59	93068.63	104653.79	102537.62	117649.19	105572.61

Case on Gilani

90. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI AMBAREESHA:

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has allowed the Government to withdraw a case under the Official Secrets Act against the 'Kashmir Times' correspondent Syed Iftikar Gilani, as reported in the Indian Express dated January 14, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons for filing the withdrawal application in the Supreme Court;

(c) whether there is any mechanism to ensure that chargesheet are not filed on flimsy grounds;

(d) whether in this case, the matter was sincerely examined before framing charges;

(e) if not, the steps the Government propose to take

to ensure that persons serving the media keep working without any fear of State-harassment;

(f) whether the Government are considering to scrap the Official Secrets Act as the same is no more relevant after independence; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The case was filed before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi and it was withdrawn from the same Court on administrative grounds and in public interest. In this case there was no reference to Supreme Court.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The cases under the Official Secrets Act are invariably examined in consultation with the Ministry of Law before prosecution sanction is accorded. This case was also examined accordingly.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. The Act has withstood the legal scrutiny since 1923.

Setting up of Mineral Based Plants

91. SHRI K.P SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the mineral-based plants in the country at present, location-wise;

(b) whether there is a scope to set up good-number of mineral-based units in the country during the Tenth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details of the mineral-based plants proposed to be set up in various States and particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) India produces 64 minerals (minerals other than minor minerals defined under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 including 4 fuel minerals, 10 metallic minerals and 50 non-metallic minerals spread over various states of India. Minerals are vital raw materials for many basic industries and a major input in industrial development. Further, the same minerals can be used in more than one industry and the Central Government does not have details of such mineral based plants, location-wise. Broad indications regarding some of the existing mineral based industries are periodically published by the Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines in their Publication "Indian Mineral Yearbook", copies of which are placed regularly in the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c) Setting up of mineral-based industries inter alia depends upon availability of the minerals, along with adequate infrastructure support, assessment of market potential of the industrial product, and investor friendly policy and procedures adopted by the Government, both in the Center and in the State concerned. No industrial license is necessary to set up any mineral based industry, and any entrepreneur is free to set up any such industry in any State of India, including in Orissa, and no targets for the same have been prescribed for the Tenth Plan period.

Strength of Delhi Police

92. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Police have sent a proposal to the Union Government to increase the strength of the security unit by an additional three thousand police personnel; and

(b) if so, the details with the action taken by Government on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir. However,

the proposal made by Delhi Police for strengthening its Security Unit involves creation of 8481 posts in various categories.

(b) The Bureau of Police Research & Development in its Study Report on the Manpower and Modernization Requirements of Delhi Police have also recommended, inter-alia, strengthening of the Security Unit of Delhi Police. However, the various recommendations contained in the said Study Report and accepted by the Government in principle entail a huge expenditure and creation of a very large number of posts which makes it imperative that the implementation of these recommendations including the one relating to strengthening of the Security Unit is prioritized. Delhi Police have accordingly been advised to prepare an Action Plan indicating the relative priority for implementation of the various recommendations made in the Study Report as also the expenditure and lead time involved in implementation of each of these recommendations to enable the Government to take a comprehensive view on their implementation in a phased manner.

[Translation]

Royalty paid by Subsidiaries of CIL

93. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of royalty paid by the each subsidiary of Coal India Limited to the different State Governments during each of the last three years alongwith the total balance of royalty payments outstanding against them;

(b) the balance amount of royalty of Jharkhand pending with the Coal India Limited;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited is willing to pay this outstanding amount; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA):

(a) The amount of royalty paid by each subsidiary of Coal India Limited for the last three years from 1999-00 to 2001-02 to the concerned State Governments and the royalty outstandings payable to these State Governments as on 31.12.2002 are shown in enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The royalty outstanding of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) as on 31.12.2002, payable to the Government of Jharkhand, was Rs. 40.62 crores. This has arisen mainly due to acute financial crisis faced by BCCL. The same shall be paid by BCCL in due course.

Statement

State-wise & Coal Company-wise Royalty paid during the years

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Name of Coal Companies	West Bengal	Bihar	Jharkhand	Orissa	Madhya Pradesh	Chhattisgarh	Maharashtra	Uttar Pradesh	Assam	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1999-00											
	ECL	9.59	64.85								74.44
	BCCL	0.30	266.99								267.29
	CCL		259.81								259.61
	WCL					48.23		183.13			231.36
	SECL					423.39					423.39
	MCL				226.58						226.58
	NCL					216.48			108.30		324.78
	NEC									13.27	13.27
	Total	9.89	591.65	0.00	226.58	688.10	0.00	183.13	108.30	13.27	1820.92
2000-01											
	ECL	9.67	42.46	26.94							79.07
	BCCL	0.40	206.67	54.62							261.69
	CCL		143.66	112.68							256.34
	WCL					48.91		220.79			269.70
	SECL					296.25	139.07				435.32
	MCL				253.95						253.95
	NCL					229.79			131.48		361.27
	NEC									7.80	7.80
	Total	10.07	392.79	194.24	253.95	574.95	139.07	220.79	131.48	7.80	1925.14
2001-02											
	ECL	17.16		63.19							73.35
	BCCL	0.29		250.33							250.62

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	CCL			257.67							257.67
	WCL					49.98		229.45			279.43
	SECL					116.90	348.34				465.24
	MCL				267.00						267.00
	NCL					224.00			135.59		359.59
	NEC									7.48	7.48
	Total	10.45		571.19	267.00	390.88	348.34	229.45	135.59	7.48	1960.38
2002-03											
(till December											
02) (Prov.)											
	ECL	7.66		43.55							51.21
	BCCL	0.19		143.73							142.92
	CCL			2286.37							226.37
	WCL					35.89		183.13			219.02
	SECL					89.08	291.76				380.84
	MCL				208.72						208.72
	NCL					152.23			91.77		244.00
	NEC									5.41	5.41
	Total	7.85		213.65	208.72	277.20	291.76	183.13	91.77	5.41	1479.49

State-wise & Coal Company-wise Royalty outstanding

Name of. Coal Companies	West Bengal	Bihar	Jharkhand	Orissa	Madhya Pradesh	Chhattisgarh	Maharashtra	Uttar Pradesh	Assam	Total	(Rupees in crore)
											As on 31.12.2002
ECL	0.00										-0.09
BCCL	0.02										40.64
CCL											
WCL					2.76		-0.74				2.02
Total	0.02		40.53		2.76		-0.74				42.57

*[English]***Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana**

94. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centrally sponsored 'Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana' is being implemented in the States, including Orissa:

(b) if so, the amount of funds allocated to different given in the enclosed statement.

States so far year-wise and state-wise; and

(c) the details of the funds spent, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of the Central Subsidy allocated and released under Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) during 2001-02 and 2002-03, State-wise and year-wise, are

Statement*Valmiki Ambedkar Yojana (Vambay)**Details of State-wise allocations and releases for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Tentative Allocations for 2001-02	Funds released during 2001-02	Tentative Allocations for 2002-03	Funds released during 2002-03 (upto 31.1.03)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	371.48	1200.00	2499.55	2786.080
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.19		15.58	
3.	Assam	65.02		242.04	
4.	Bihar	296.68		1104.37	
5.	Chhattisgarh	84.24	65.00	313.58	166.60
6.	Goa	12.73		47.40	
7.	Gujarat	383.78	384.00	1428.62	3089.00
8.	Haryana	112.35		418.22	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18.01		67.05	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	86.86	87.00	323.34	38.320
11.	Jharkhand	98.89		368.12	
12.	Karnataka	198.12	915.00	737.87	1967.600
13.	Kerala	183.61	182.00	683.48	1417.000
14.	Madhya Pradesh	227.74	246.00	847.75	830.980
15.	Maharashtra	1198.26	1198.00	4460.47	65.600

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Manipur	12.63		47.03	7.875
17.	Meghalaya	12.96		48.23	
18.	Mizoram	12.90		48.03	
19.	Nagaland	6.80		25.30	9.00
20.	Orissa	125.07		465.59	61.200
21.	Punjab	211.33		786.68	
22.	Rajasthan	364.40	300.00	1356.46	200.000
23.	Sikkim	1.37		5.11	
24.	Tamil Nadu	486.43	1172.00	1810.70	2096.500
25.	Tripura	9.97	10.05	37.10	92.328
26.	Uttaranchal	43.02	36.00	160.15	
27.	Uttar Pradesh	817.42	743.45	3042.82	87.550
28.	West Bengal	734.13	734.00	2732.77	915.600
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5.71		21.27	
30.	Chandigarh	23.81		88.61	
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.44		1.62	
32.	Daman & Diu	1.55		5.77	
33.	Delhi	363.45	50.00	1352.93	
34.	Pondicherry	23.75	33.50	88.41	
35.	Lakshadweep	0.80		2.99	
Total		6900.00	7356.00	25685.00	13830.893

Madrassas in the Country

95. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have instructed the State Governments to collect details of 'Madrassas' situated in their States and to maintain their records;

(b) if so, details of the particulars sought to be collected;

(c) the reasons for collection of these details;

(d) whether any Madrassas have been found to be indulging into anti-national activities;

(e) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise; and

(f) the action taken against the Madrassas found involved in anti-national activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) Education falls in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the

Constitution of India. The day-to-day administration, policy formulation, etc., in respect of all educational institutions, including the Madrassas is the concern of the State Government(s). However, in order to develop a data-base on Madrassas, the Union Government have requested the State Governments to send information such as their number, course/curriculum contents, authorities/boards regulating their functioning, grants received by them, steps taken by the State Governments for their modernization, Acts and Regulations governing them, etc.

(d) to (f) Some Madrassas have come to adverse light from the point of view of national security and action has been taken under the relevant laws.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of SC/STs

96. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any posts of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in different categories in various Departments and undertakings of his Ministry are laying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees working in the said departments and undertakings have been promoted and fresh appointments have been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of appointments made under the various categories during the said period and during the current years, till date;

(e) whether prescribed rules have been followed regarding the recruitment and promotion of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Strengthening of FCRA

97. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating for strengthening the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act to monitor and control Hawala Channels;

(b) if so, the present position in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have identified the organizations which receive funds from abroad;

(d) if so, the names of such organizations and the sources through which they are receiving funds and the amount received by them from abroad in each of the last three years;

(e) whether the ISI of Pakistan has been using Hawala Channels for funding some organizations in India;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government are planning to make existing laws on funding of NGOs more stringent, making it mandatory for the organizations to get prior official approval for funding; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a), (b), (g) and (h) Government is considering certain changes in the law governing the receipt and utilization of foreign contribution by voluntary organizations to remove shortcomings noticed in the present law.

(c) and (d) Such details are available in the Annual Report on the receipt of foreign contribution by voluntary associations published by the Ministry of Home Affairs (Foreigners Division). The Annual Reports upto the year 2000-2001 are available in the Parliamentary Library. The report for the year 2001-2002 is under compilation.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. According to available information, Pakistan's ISI is, by all accounts, the main source of clandestine funding, inter-alia, through hawala channels, of subversive and terrorist organizations operating in India.

Construction of LIG Flats

98. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has awarded turnkey projects to big construction firms to build thousands of LIG flats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the DDA Builders Association has come out with a booklet alleging that Rs.300 crore of public money is being siphoned off by DDA officials and the big construction companies;

(d) if so, whether a vigilance inquiry has been ordered into the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the report of the vigilance inquiry is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Delhi Development Authority have awarded the Lower Income Group (LIG) Housing Projects to the following pre-qualified big construction firms on turnkey basis:

Name of the Scheme	Agency
Construction of 1320 LIG Houses at Bakkarwala	M/s Ahluwalia Contract (India) Ltd.
Construction of 900 LIG Houses at Bakkarwala	M/s Gammon India Ltd.
Construction of 900 LIG Houses at Bakkarwala	M/s Unity Infra Project Ltd.
Construction of 1380 LIG Houses at Bakkarwala	M/s Larson & Tubro Ltd.
Construction of 1000 LIG Houses at Bakkarwala	M/s Unity Infra Project Ltd.
Construction of 756 LIG Houses at Sector 14, Dwarka	M/s V.R.M. (India)
Construction of 630 LIG Houses at Sector 18, Rohini	M/s Unitech Ltd.
Construction of 2420 LIG Houses at Narela	M/s Unity Infra Project Ltd.
Construction of 795 Houses at Vasant Kunj	M/s Ahluwalia contract (India) Ltd.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Vigilance Department of DDA has taken up investigation on the allegations made by contractors' Association regarding turnkey projects. The vigilance inquiry is likely to be completed in three months time.

Financial Crisis in FACT

99. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the financial crisis faced by 'FACT' Cochin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the FACT facing any shortage of 'NAPHTHA'; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The year-wise details of the, losses suffered by FACT are as under:

Year	Rs. crore
1998-99	48.26
1999-2000	39.80
2000-01	151.50
2001-02	(+) 0.63*
2002-03 (upto January, 2003)	208.00 (Estimated)

* The company had suffered an operating loss of Rs.226.25 crore during the year. However, due to grant of financial relief by the Government of India by way of writing off the interest on GOI loan amounting to Rs.226.88 crore, the company had made a marginal profit before tax of Rs.0.63 crore during the year.

(c) and (d) FACT is receiving its requirement of Petroleum products like Naphtha, etc. from Kochi Refineries Ltd. (KRL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL). At present the supplier is granting one month free credit and one month credit on interest. The outstanding payment to the suppliers as on 31.1.2003 is about Rs.90 crore. As the company is facing a severe liquidity problem due to huge cumulative losses and high inventory of fertilizers, FACT is finding it difficult to make payment to the raw material suppliers including KRL and BPCL from December, 2002 onwards. As a result of this, KRL and BPCL have resorted to stoppage of supplies frequently and presently FACT is procuring Petroleum products on cash and carry basis.

Tunnel Near Border Outpost

100. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news regarding "BSF discovers a tunnel near border outpost appearing in the Times of India dated January 13, 2003;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted to find out the agencies responsible for this act; and

(d) if so, the results of the inquiry conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 11 January, 2003, the Border Security Force troops of border outpost Kassoke of Ferozepur sector of Punjab detected an unfinished tunnel in an area which had a thick growth of 'Sarkanda' (elephant grass). The length of the dug tunnel was approximately 15 meters, diameter about two and a half feet and its opening at a depth of approximately 2 to 3 feet below the surface. The tunnel has since been filled up with earth.

(c) and (d) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by the Border Security Force. This is in progress.

Ayodhya Issue

101. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently made fresh efforts to mediate between the leaders of Hindu and Muslim communities to arrive at some mutually acceptable formula for ending the Ayodhya temple impasse;

(b) whether efforts in that direction are still continuing;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any meeting has been held recently

between Prime Minister and Shankaracharya of Kanchi on the issue;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the outcome of the discussion held in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is firmly of the view that the Ayodhya dispute can be resolved, either through mutual agreement among all the parties concerned or through the verdict of the Judiciary. Therefore pending judicial verdict, the Government will continue to facilitate all attempts to find an amicable and speedy resolution of the dispute.

(d) to (f) Shankaracharya of Kanchi met the Prime Minister on Tuesday, the 4th February, 2003 and discussed issues relating to civic amenities for the pilgrims visiting Ayodhya and urban development of Ayodhya town.

Enhancement of Funds for Drinking Water in Rural Areas

102. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to allocate more funds to facilitate the States reeling under the drought and drinking water crisis and for rejuvenate the water supply schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether requests have been received from the State Governments in this regard;

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

(e) the funds allocated during 2001 -2002, 2002-2003 for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government of India has decided that with effect from the current financial year (2002-2003), 5 % of the allocated funds in a financial year, under the Accelerated Rural

Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) will be kept to meet contingencies arising out of natural calamities and emergent situations. During 2002-2003, an amount of Rs. 105.50 crore has been earmarked for the purpose.

(c) to (e) Many State Governments including Haryana, U.P. Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, J&K, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttaranchal have requested for additional financial assistance for tackling water scarcity caused due to drought situation. Details of funds released to State Government for drought relief under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, out of the 5% earmarked fund during the current financial year (2002-2003) are given below:

1. Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 890.00 lakh
2. Karnataka	Rs. 157.68 lakh
3. Madhya Pradesh	Rs 367.08 lakh
4. Orissa	Rs. 311.25 lakh

Sky Bus Proposals

103. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sky bus proposals from the various State Governments including the Governments of Goa, Kerala and Maharashtra have been received by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these proposals are being accommodated/adjusted under the urban infrastructure fund or any such other fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Sky Bus proposals have been received from the Governments of Goa, Kerala and Maharashtra.

(b) The Govt. of Maharashtra has got a Techno-economic feasibility Report prepared for introduction of Sky Bus in Andheri-Ghatkopar alignment in Mumbai. The estimated

project cost is approx. Rs.550 crores. However, the Govt. of Maharashtra has not so far taken any decision as to whether a Light Rail Transit system or Sky Bus system should be adopted for Andheri-Ghatkopar alignment. Government of Kerala has got a Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared for introduction of Sky Bus in Kochi. The estimated cost of the project is approx. Rs.798 crores. The Government of Goa has proposed introduction of Sky Bus Metro in a stretch of about 10 kms, at an approximate cost of Rs.550 crores.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The proposals received from the State Governments, are being examined by this Ministry in consultation with the technical experts in the field. As such a system has not been implemented so far anywhere in the world, detailed technical appraisal of this concept is necessary before any investment decision by Government can be taken.

The Rights of the Child

104. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's first periodic report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child observed that India lacked separate legislation to deal with such cases;

(b) if so, whether the report prepared by the Department of Women and Child Development is to be submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

(c) if so, the other recommendations of the report;

(d) whether the Government are considering any legislation to deal with child abuse cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child are required to furnish periodic reports on its implementation. The first such Report in 2001 was prepared by this Ministry following a consultative process and was submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Report spells out constitutional provisions, laws, policies and programmes being implemented in India with reference to various provisions of CRC.

(d) and (e) The Law Commission of India in their 172nd Report have recommended comprehensive changes in law to safeguard children from sexual abuse and exploitation. This Report is receiving the attention of the Justice Maimmath Commission on criminal justice reforms.

Constitution of CAGE

105. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the functions of Central Advisory Board of Education;

(b) whether the Central Advisory Board of Education (CAGE) has not been constituted for the last many years;

(c) if so, the year since CAGE has not been in position and the reasons for not constituting one till this date;

(d) the matter and decisions arrived at without consulting CAGE during this period;

(e) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a committee to examine restructuring of Central Advisory Board of Education;

(f) if so, the terms of reference; and

(g) the time when the committee is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (g) The proposal for re-constitution of Central Advisory Board of Education (CAGE), including its composition was considered by the then and successive governments after the expiry of the extended tenure of the last CAGE on 31.3.1994, but no final decision could be taken. However, the Government has recently constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri J.C. Pant for evolving an effective mechanism for consultation and coordination with all stakeholders including State Governments, for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects in pursuance of the National Education Policy. The Committee is required to submit its report within a period of 6 months from the date of its first meeting.

[Translation]

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the Development of Science and Technology

106. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the centrally Sponsored schemes being implemented by the Ministry;

(b) the scheme-wise, year-wise and State-wise details of expenditure incurred thereon during the 9th Five Year Plan period;

(c) the year-wise and State-wise details of expenditure expected to be incurred on various schemes during the 10th Five Year Plan period;

(d) the details of the other schemes and programmes implemented by the Union Government for the development of science and technology in the States;

(e) whether these schemes and programmes have been reviewed; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) The Ministry of S&T is not operating any Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The Union Government invites projects from Institutions/Universities located in various States through Sponsored Research Schemes such as Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), State Science and Technology Council (SS&TC), Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programmes (DPRP), Intensification of Research in high priority areas, Funds for Infrastructure in Science and Technology (FIST), Instrument Development Programme (IDP), Research Scheme of Power (RSOP), Research Sponsored (RESPOND), etc. As a result, projects in the fields of Remote Sensing, Power Generation, Energy Conservation, Environment and Ecology, Bio-technology, Science and Technology based developments, etc. have been supported in various States.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. As a result of review the schemes have been redesigned and sharpened wherever required.

Housing Schemes

107. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from State Governments regarding construction of houses for the economically weaker sections of the society and have also made a demand for more funds for this purpose during 2002-2003;

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

- (c) the number of proposals cleared so far, State-wise;
- (d) whether the funds for these schemes have been released;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; state-wise and
- (f) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (f) The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is an allocation based, continuing Scheme under which funds, on year to year basis, are allocated to the States/Districts on the basis of well defined criteria for construction/upgradation of houses for rural families living Below the Poverty Line. The Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme (CCSS) is another allocation based, continuing Scheme under which funds are provided for construction of houses to rural families having an annual income upto Rs. 32,000/-. The State-wise details of funds released so far under IAY/ CCSS for the year 2002-2003 is given in the statement enclosed.

During the year 2002-2003, this Ministry has received requests for Additional Central Assistance from the States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh so far. These requests could not be agreed to due to non-availability of additional funds.

Statement

State-wise Central Allocation and Central Releases under the Indira Awaas Yojana /Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme during 2002-2003

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Central Allocation	Central Releases
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	12070.22	12070.22
2	Arunachal Pradesh	569.92	435.60
3	Assam	12823.65	6409.97
4	Bihar	32787.84	15185.93
5	Chhattisgarh	2064.05	1765.17
6	Goa	77.98	39.00

1	2	3	4
7	Gujarat	3468.85	3489.92
8	Haryana	1172.95	1163.51
9	Himachal Pradesh	518.91	826.62
10	Jammu & Kashmir	620.72	356.50
11	Jharkhand	9633.38	4737.83
12	Karnataka	6243.52	4761.12
13	Kerala	3868.97	2305.69
14	Madhya Pradesh	7202.92	6429.51
15	Maharashtra	11077.83	6852.01
16	Manipur	679.51	222.14
17	Meghalaya	902.85	505.33
18	Mizoram	216.73	134.81
19	Nagaland	582.84	291.42
20	Orissa	9716.97	25799.61
21	Punjab	777.00	535.12
22	Rajasthan	3273.06	2863.38
23	Sikkim	156.25	78.13
24	Tamil Nadu	6061.33	6061.33
25	Tripura	1318.25	1056.05
26	Uttar Pradesh	22100.00	18605.07
27	Uttaranchal	2295.43	1672.89
28	West Bengal	13026.91	9104.64
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	146.82	40.32
30	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	77.05	0.00
31	Daman & Diu	31.89	0.00
32	Lakshadweep	2.50	2.50
33	Pondicherry	72.90	72.90
Total		165640.00	133874.22

[English]

Disaster Management

108. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have convened a meeting of the National Committee on Disaster Management so far;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda discussed therein; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The first meeting of the National Committee on Disaster Management under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister was held on 18th February, 2001. In this meeting it was inter alia decided that so far as the long-term strategy for dealing with disaster management in future is concerned, a Working Group would go into these issues. The Working Group was accordingly set-up under the Vice-Chairman of the National Committee to draw up the proposals/agenda for consideration by the National Committee. After holding several meetings, the Working Group has now finalized the proposals/agenda. The second meeting of the National Committee is likely to be held shortly.

Issuance of Challans for Keeping Cattle and Horses in Bungalows

109. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Delhi Municipal Council has issued challans to ministers and other influential politicians for keeping cattle and horses in their bungalows;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government against those Ministers and politicians including cancellation of the allotment of bungalows;

(d) whether the cattle and horses have been impounded by the civic authorities; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

(SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The NDMC has informed that notices and challans are issued by it to inmates of all such premises and bungalows which are found to be keeping cattle unauthorisedly without any distinction. After a recent survey of the NDMC area it has served 66 challans and 67 notices for keeping cattle unauthorisedly.

(c) No case of keeping cattle unauthorisedly has been reported to the Directorate of Estates and hence the question of cancellation of the allotment for any such bungalows does not arise.

(d) and (e) 178 cattles were impounded by NDMC during the month of January, 2003.

Import of Coal

110. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 1997-98, 11.75 million ton coking coal and 4.70 million ton non-coking coal were imported where as during 2000-01, 10.46 million ton coking and 13.55 million ton non-coking coal were imported; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) During 1997-98, 11.74 million tonnes of coking coal and 4.70 million tonnes of non-coking coal and during 2000-2001, 11.06 million tonnes of coking coal and 9.87 million tonnes of non-coking coal were imported. Coking coal is being imported by integrated steel plants since early eighties due to non-availability/inadequate availability of the required quality and quantity indigenously. With liberalization of Indian economy in early nineties, non-coking coal is imported by consumers (i) for use by blending with indigenous coal and also on environmental considerations and (ii) on considerations of location-specific landed cost. Since coal and coal products have been put under Open General Licence (OGL) there is no restriction on the consumer to import coal.

Watershed Development Programme under Single Roof

111. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Watershed Development Programmes are currently scattered among the Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment and Forests;

(b) if so, whether there is duplicacy of works in regard to these programmes;

(c) whether the Government propose to put all the Watershed Development Programmes under single roof;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the strategy chalked out in this regard and proper utilization of funds for these programmes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. At present, programmes relating to soil conservation and watershed development are scattered in different Ministries and Departments in the Central Government with different Guidelines and varying financial patterns. In order to consolidate the funding arrangements at Central Level and to provide effective Coordination of scientific inputs and administrative machinery backed by a common approach to avoid overlapping/duplication in implementation of programmes at the State and field level, a proposal is under consideration to set up a National Mission for Land and Watershed Development in the Department of Land Resources and to transfer watershed and soil conservation related activities from different Ministries to the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development.

Indo-Iran Joint Venture Project

112. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a joint venture project in Iran for the production of urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has been finalised between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the cost involved in the establishment of such a joint venture project in Iran?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (e) At present, the Government does not have any proposal to set up a joint venture urea project in Iran. However, Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO) and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO), forming an

Indian consortium, had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Qashm Free Area Authority (QFAA) of Iran for setting up a gas based ammonia-urea plant in Iran. The proposal was reviewed by the sponsors in November 2001 in the light of prevailing market conditions relating to demand-supply scenario and international urea prices and was then not found financially viable. The sponsors have decided to review the techno-economic and environmental feasibility of the alternative option of setting up an ammonia plant on stand-alone basis.

VVIP Security

113. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

DR. ASHOK PATEL:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMYGOWDA:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH PAL:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the frequent breach of VIP/VVIPs security recently as reported in various newspapers dated January 29, and 31 and February 1, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the poor planning on the part of

the Delhi Police had led to the security breach and if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the outcome of the inquiry made by the Government into the slackness in the security arrangements;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed on the officials of the Delhi Police;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check lapses in future and to make fool proof VIP/VVIP security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) After the above reported incidents, the security arrangements during road journey of the VVIP's have been reviewed and the concerned security agencies have been directed to ensure fool proof security arrangements.

Purchase of New Machines/Equipments

114. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Perfect Rota Binding Machines which had been installed in March, 1995 in Faridabad Press are found to be idling;

(b) whether the Directorate of Printing failed to justify Rs.20.71 lakhs incurred on the purchase of these two machines; and

(c) the kind of checks that are in place to see that the Directorate of Printing do not mislead the Government while obtaining sanction/approval for the purchase of new machines/equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The two Perfect Rota Binding machines installed in Faridabad Press in 1995 are not idling.

(b) The said machines are used for binding of books and these are essential auxiliary machines for any Printing Press. Therefore, the question of any failure to justify the amount spent on purchase of these machines does not arise.

(c) Proposals from Directorate of Printing for purchase of new machines/equipments are duly examined in

the Ministry and final approval/sanction is given only after taking the concurrence of the Finance Division.

Set Up of Data Banks

115. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up data banks in every block in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) No Sir. The Government does not have any proposal to set up data banks in every block in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Assistance provided by UGC

116. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the norms laid down for selection of colleges and educational institutions for inclusion in the assistance programme of the University Grants Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission provides financial assistance to those Colleges/educational institutions, which are recognised by the UGC under Sections 2 (f) and 12-B of the UGC Act, 1956.

The Regulations/norms framed by the UGC for recognition of colleges and educational institutions under Section 2 (f) of the UGC Act, *inter alia*, provide that the Commission may, in consultation with the University concerned recognize an institution under clause (f) of Section 2 of the UGC Act, 1956, if:-

- (i) it is affiliated to, or forms a constituent member of, or is run directly as a University college by or is an institution recognized by a University establishment or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act and the statutes and regulations made thereunder or run by Government or local authority.

- (ii) it provides instructions upto a Bachelor's degree or upto a Post-graduate degree or for a post-graduate degree only or provides instructions for a Diploma Course of a duration of not less than one academic year and for which the minimum qualification for admission is a Bachelor's degree; and
- (iii) it is registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (21 of 1860) or is a body corporate, established or incorporated under a Central or State Act, for time being in force or is a Trust with Trustees being appointed and vested with legal powers and duties, provided that the requirements of this clause shall be not only in the case of an institution run by the Government or a local authority or any University.
- (iv) In relation to such institutions, where it does not fall within clause (iii), a bond is executed by the registered society or trust by which it is managed or run guaranteeing the proper utilization of the grants that might be paid by the Commission to the institutions and agreeing to refund such part of the grant as may not have been properly utilized for the purpose of the institution and also agreeing to furnish to the Commission the Balance Sheet of the registered society or trust, as the case may be along with the annual accounts of each of the institutions managed or run by the registered society or trust.

The Central Government also, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 25 read with Section 12-B of the UGC Act, 1956, has framed rules called "The University Grants Commission (Fitness of Institutions for Grant) Rules, 1975". These Rules shall apply to every institution recognized by the UGC under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 on or after 17.6.1972, the date on which the UGC (Amendment) Act, 1972 (3 of 1972) came into force. These Rules provide that no institution to which these rules apply shall be declared to be fit to receive grants from the Central Government, the Commission or any other organization receiving any fund from the Central Government unless the Commission is satisfied that the institution:

- (i) Provides instruction upto a bachelor's degree or upto a Post-graduate degree or for a Post-graduate degree only or provides instruction for a diploma course of a duration of not less than one academic year and for which the minimum qualification for admission is a Bachelor's degree.

- (ii) Is registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (21 of 1860) or is a body corporate established or incorporated under the Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act for the time being in force or is a trust with Trustees being appointed and vested with legal powers and duties; and
- (iii) Is permanently affiliated to University which has been declared fit under Section 12-B of the UGC Act, 1956 (3 of 1956) for receiving grants.

National Slum Policy

117. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI SUBODH ROY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have decided to chalk out a national policy in regard to the slums;
- (b) if so, the details and the objectives thereof;
- (c) the amount allocated by the Union Government for the purpose in the Tenth Five year Plan;
- (d) whether the State lists have been prepared to provide benefits of this scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The National Slum Policy is under finalization.

(c) The Planning Commission allocates funds under National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) on year to year basis. The Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 365 crores under NSDP for the year 2002-03.

(d) and (e) The Programme is implemented in all the States/UTs of the country with the objective of providing basic amenities like provision of drinking water, electricity, sewerage, construction of path ways, etc. to the slum dwellers.

[English]

New Projects Sanctioned during Ninth Five Year Plan

118. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new projects sanctioned in the Ninth Five Year Plan and the number of projects started in the same plan period;

(b) whether the Government have decided to open new mines during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and details of money to be invested in the Coal Sector during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Details of new projects of Coal India Limited, Singareni Collieries Company Limited and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited sanctioned in the Ninth Five Year Plan and number of projects started in the same plan period are given below:-

Coal India Limited

S. No.	Name of Company	No. of projects sanctioned		Capital cost (Rs. in crores)		Capacity (In mty)	
		Open cast	Under ground	Open cast	Under ground	Open cast	Under ground
1.	BCCL	2	2	59.08	9.77	1.06	0.21
2.	CCL	2	-	176.14	-	2.2	-
3.	NCL	3	-	1943.56	-	10.5	-
4.	WCL	7	7	434.02	243.36	3.27	2.23
5.	SECL	1	9	23.92	368.48	0.32	3.83
6.	MCL	2	2	68.32	172.66	2.35	1.31
Total of CIL		17	20	2705.04	794.47	19.7	7.58

Implementation of all the projects started during the same plan period.

Singareni Collieries Company Limited

12 projects with total capacity of 5.998 mtpa and capital cost of Rs. 321.879 crores have been sanctioned during the IX Five Year Plan, which were started in the same Plan Period.

Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited

One project namely Mine IA of capacity 3.00 mtpa with capital cost of Rs.1032.81 crores has been sanctioned during the IX Five Year Plan which was started in the same Plan Period.

(b) and (c) Details of new mining projects of CIL, SCCL and NLC decided to be opened during X Five Year Plan are given below:-

Name of Company	No. of projects		Capacity (in mty)		Estimated capital (Rs. in Crores)
	Open cast	Under ground	Open cast	Under ground	
ECL	5	8	24.00	1.90	2595.44
BCCL	7	-	6.67	-	399.47
CCL	8	-	42.20	-	3824.62
NCL	7	-	16.50	-	2506.66
WCL	19	4	11.10	2.04	1274.14
SECL	8	7	65.55	2.69	4948.69
MCL	16	3	106.90	1.91	7523.07
CIL	70	22	272.92	8.54	23072.09

CIL has planned an outlay of Rs.6343.92 crores for the projects to be taken up in X Plan period.

SCCL has identified 8 projects with total capacity 4.606 mty for X Plan Period for which they have planned an outlay of Rs.2113 crores.

NLC has identified 3 projects with total capacity of 14.60 mtpa with estimated capital of Rs. 6406.87 crores for the X Plan period for which they have planned an outlay of Rs.5431.72 crores.

Allocation/Utilisation of Funds under Rural Development Schemes

119. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for rural development schemes during 2002-2003 State/Union Territory-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) the details of the funds allocated/released/ utilised and that remained unspent so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the misutilisation of funds meant for these schemes;

(d) if so, the details of the States indicating the funds misutilised and remained unspent scheme-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure for proper utilization of funds under the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL):
(a) and (b) The details of funds allocated, released, utilised, and remained unspent so far during the year 2002-03, State-wise and Scheme-wise are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Some complaints regarding misutilisation of funds in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have been received. The Scheme-wise unspent balances during the year 2002-03 are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) With a view to ensure that the benefits of the rural development schemes reach the targeted persons, the Ministry has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation of the programmes, including utilization of funds, through mechanisms such as regular visits to the field by officers of the Ministry of Rural Development, meetings of the Performance Review Committee, Periodic Progress Reports from State Government, Concurrent and Quick Evaluation of Programmes etc., Vigilance and Monitoring Committees, with greater role for Members of Parliament, have also been set up at State/District levels. Ministers of Rural Development have also been reviewing the implementation of the programmes and impressing upon the States about the need for effective and faster implementation of the Schemes. Involvement of people in the implementation of the Programmes is also encouraged. The State Governments and UT Administrations have been advised to implement the Four Pronged Strategy comprising creation of awareness about the Schemes, transparency, People's participation and accountability-social audit through the Gram Sabhas to ensure achieving full targets with qualitative improvement in the implementation of Rural Development Programmes.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Name of Scheme							
		SGSY				SGRY-I			
		Allocation	Release	Utilisation \$	Unspent \$	Allocation	Release	Utilisation \$	Unspent \$
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	3068.31	3706.33	3324.72	1241.53	9451.49	9451.49	6319.93	7874.71
2	Arunachal Pradesh	127.10	45.39	39.86	188.22	493.74	246.88	321.03	426.91
3	Assam	3302.59	1698.43	1265.41	1984.65	12810.39	6405.20	5621.46	5360.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	Bihar	7300.00	3219.93	3094.93	10389.72	18926.54	9642.61	11271.33	10919.45
5	Chhattisgarh	1620.58	1403.91	1431.14	445.18	5334.11	5300.87	6924.69	1578.87
6	Goa	50.00	0.00	21.69	65.56	21.79	10.83	N/R	24.91
7	Gujarat	1154.96	1064.76	960.65	415.17	3557.64	1768.97	3955.14	-365.14
8	Haryana	679.48	827.79	708.59	324.00	2093.06	2093.08	3216.59	-392.71
9	Himachal Pradesh	286.16	303.54	299.85	126.13	881.48	847.52	390.32	1589.76
10	Jammu & Kashmir	354.16	288.36	325.21	117.13	1090.94	722.48	677.18	914.06
11	Jharkhand	2751.41	1295.08	572.73	2579.70	12035.89	7627.14	4078.66	10565.07
12	Karnataka	2317.00	2090.32	2260.47	2102.31	7137.20	7762.18	7850.50	5258.91
13	Kerala	1039.63	1156.39	919.08	616.61	3202.49	1744.06	2162.87	748.43
14	Madhya Pradesh	3474.22	3430.62	3583.23	1375.01	10359.77	10966.11	10655.51	4925.45
15	Maharashtra	4580.15	4216.68	2856.33	3610.03	14108.68	7012.95	6826.02	6818.40
16	Manipur	221.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	860.17	383.38	N/R	907.10
17	Meghalaya	248.05	19.38	15.85	216.00	963.63	481.82	266.59	554.12
18	Mizoram	57.40	57.38	23.00	54.41	222.99	111.50	179.27	69.96
19	Nagaland	170.16	81.78	79.40	111.93	660.99	330.48	600.26	-180.44
20	Orissa	3509.50	2946.24	2003.46	1200.46	10810.67	11860.74	7454.24	9364.48
21	Punjab	330.22	284.81	243.02	138.90	1017.22	751.98	596.78	639.40
22	Rajasthan	1759.38	1457.47	1371.30	1143.28	5419.60	6539.58	7385.13	3429.47
23	Sikkim	63.55	63.55	60.55	49.45	246.88	123.44	138.10	70.88
24	Tamil Nadu	2713.06	3290.35	2095.89	2027.52	8357.26	9690.92	7232.32	5491.53
25	Tripura	399.75	394.79	481.17	45.80	1553.21	776.61	798.28	286.64
26	Uttar Pradesh	10509.37	4588.55	5583.77	11132.34	31940.92	21355.19	19910.17	28167.40
27	Uttaranchal	552.30	491.59	641.96	451.98	2133.31	1623.93	720.65	1841.22
28	West Bengal	3900.11	793.35	3346.41	5353.63	12013.90	5732.78	10223.86	8552.14
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	50.00	0.00	4.49	23.49	50.27	0.00	22.19	17.77
30	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.27	26.47	N/R	49.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
32	Daman & Diu	50.00	0.00	N/R	63.17	1.68	0.00	N/R	1.58
33	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	50.00	0.00	0.50	44.07	3.35	0.00	N/R	20.84
35	Pondicherry	50.00	35.91	39.40	37.42	63.68	31.66	70.19	101.06
Total		56790.00	39252.68	37634.06	47672.80	177875.01	131422.85	125579.26	115611.49

SGSY: Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana.

SGRY-I: Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yajana-I.

\$: Provisional

(Rs. in Lakh)

SI.No.	State/UT	Name of Scheme							
		SGRY-II				IAY			
		Allocation	Release	Utilisation \$	Unspent \$	Allocation	Release \$	Utilisation \$	Unspent \$
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	9525.83	10295.83	6154.13	9026.23	12070.22	12327.09	13098.11	4831.87
2	Arunachal Pradesh	493.24	228.45	40.34	428.93	569.93	346.07	291.06	407.53
3	Assam	12816.04	6407.02	4114.75	6312.30	12823.65	6409.97	4942.19	5466.77
4	Bihar	17400.97	8174.66	8483.52	7385.07	32787.84	14306.85	14220.49	19551.50
5	Chhattisgarh	3951.95	4511.95	4701.85	1445.25	2064.05	1543.51	1417.96	850.23
6	Goa	136.57	75.04	103.48	7.84	77.98	39.00	22.83	45.74
7	Gujarat	4175.66	1642.72	3328.73	-637.77	3468.85	3450.04	301.41	4374.23
8	Haryana	2197.16	2849.34	3303.07	282.18	1172.95	1163.51	1126.15	304.21
9	Himachal Pradesh	925.31	582.51	536.22	599.26	518.91	358.11	N/R	882.92
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1063.89	550.98	560.71	434.31	620.72	302.35	481.22	-47.41
11	Jharkhand	12793.29	6057.30	2260.42	8768.80	9633.38	4579.15	2446.40	6959.22
12	Karnataka	6960.88	7786.06	6756.43	4983.20	6243.52	4761.12	4400.96	3579.51
13	Kerala	3123.04	1634.04	1606.13	1181.17	3868.97	2238.57	2666.96	783.15
14	Madhya Pradesh	11481.31	10657.15	8246.66	5605.94	7202.92	6009.94	4989.50	2747.69
15	Maharashtra	13894.00	6514.38	6852.98	4901.33	11077.83	6639.73	7067.24	3346.95
16	Manipur	859.19	238.51	N/R	238.51	679.51	222.14	178.14	238.49
17	Meghalaya	962.59	445.85	264.16	438.18	902.85	505.33	122.88	609.35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18	Mizoram	222.74	103.16	183.40	64.37	216.73	108.37	89.34	79.84
19	Nagaland	660.30	246.01	286.80	1.20	582.84	291.42	653.83	-128.36
20	Orissa	10542.48	11592.48	7438.12	9381.61	9716.97	24363.53	57012.67	16413.38
21	Punjab	2443.84	469.68	643.57	242.21	777.00	412.06	562.69	55.28
22	Rajasthan	5291.01	6411.01	7350.18	2651.01	3273.06	2642.21	2943.04	1152.17
23	Sikkim	246.62	123.31	230.70	32.46	156.25	78.13	111.05	12.73
24	Tamil Nadu	8207.15	9285.31	7774.86	4661.58	6061.33	6061.33	5268.15	2558.09
25	Tripura	1551.28	718.51	1035.44	534.82	1318.25	659.13	1216.22	82.51
26	Uttar Pradesh	31302.41	30667.74	19970.09	32253.88	22100.04	13100.65	13072.78	5964.63
27	Uttaranchal	2125.56	1127.42	724.13	1284.28	2295.43	1623.49	1044.15	1458.88
28	West Bengal	11715.86	7511.80	10375.28	7204.23	13026.92	9104.64	9910.86	7468.36
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	89.61	42.32	N/R	102.48	146.82	25.82	23.23	86.79
30	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	59.00	34.93	N/R	34.93	77.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Daman & Diu	28.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.89	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	44.81	0.00	5.79	11.54	2.50	2.50	2.75	0.02
35	Pondicherry	90.82	43.00	70.19	112.40	72.90	72.90	35.26	46.35
Total		177383.00	137028.47	113402.13	109973.71	165640.06	123748.66	149719.52	90185.22

SGRY-II: Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yajana -II

IAY: Indira Awaas Yajana.

\$: Provisional

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Name of Scheme							
		ARWSP				TSC*	DDP*	DPAP*	IWDP*
		Allocation	Release	Utilisation	Unspent \$	Release	Release	Release	Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	14865.00	14173.92	10631.00	4353.72	0.00	641.25	4095.49	3808.59
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4977.00	2488.50	1323.31	1274.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7.00	0.00	N/R	48.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Delhi	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		184518.00	128530.18	84432.53	82509.47	1705.80	13148.40	21437.10	22610.41

* Funds are not allocated to States/UTs under these Schemes.

Utilisation/unspent balance not reported.

\$: Provisional

ARWSP: Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

TSC: Total Sanitation Campaign.

DDP: Desert Development Programme.

DPAP: Drought Prone Areas Programme.

IWDP: Integrated Wastelands Development Programme.

Corruption in Kendriya Bhandar

120. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether DOP&AR issued an O.M. on 14.7.1981 making it incumbent on all the Government offices and Corporation to purchase stationery and other items from the Kendriya Bhandar only on the plea that prices of them are lower there than the market;

(b) whether the said O.M. avoided competition in prices;

(c) whether Kendriya Bhandar has been selling LG air-conditioners, steel furniture and almirahas, Modi Xerox photocopier papers at higher than the market rates, selling under-sized and under-weight handloom towels, dusters, floor dusters, brooms etc. thereby belying the plea taken in the issue of DOP&AR O.M.;

(d) whether the then Chief Vigilance Officer had conducted an investigation into the sale of Modi Xerox paper at higher than the market rates and established the fact of vested interest of the then purchase and sales executive;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the reasons for not taking any action against that P&SE and brushing the issue aside saying that it did not constitute 'malafides' on the part of the P&SE; and

(g) the action proposed to be taken against that P&SE now?

HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Department of Personnel & Training issued the O.M. dated 14.7.1981, in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments to make purchase of stationery and other items from Consumer Cooperative societies viz. Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and NCCF with a view to give boost to the cooperative movement as these organizations were receiving substantial assistance from the Government and were subject to statutory supervision and control by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies. It was also felt that these cooperative societies were the most suitable agencies for supply of consumer goods at fair and reasonable prices. The Government Departments can purchase their requirement of stationery and other items from any one of these consumer societies in relaxation of the procedure laid down in GFR relating to purchases.

(c) to (e) Keeping in view the spirit of DOP&AR O.M. dated 14.7.1981, Kendriya Bhandar has been obtaining a written undertaking from the suppliers that the rates quoted by them are lowest and constantly endeavours to develop suitable in-house arrangement for dealing with such complaints. Presently, Kendriya Bhandar has a full time Chief Vigilance Officer. Action is taken after carrying out investigation wherever necessary. Dealings with the supplier of LG Air conditioners have been suspended for violating the undertaking. Action has also been taken against M/s Xerox Modi Corporation for violating the undertaking. However, on examination Kendriya Bhandar did not find any malafide on the part of Kendriya Bhandar's officials. As regards selling steel furniture and almirahas at higher rates and under-sized and under-weight handloom towels, dusters, floor dusters and brooms etc., no such allegation has been established so far.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

(f) and (g) Does not arise in view of reply to (c), (d) and (e) above.

[Translation]

Setting up of Monitoring and Vigilance Committees

121. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the monitoring and Vigilance committees have been set up in all the districts of the country especially in newly created districts of the States;

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

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to set up these committees in the remaining districts of the States; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up in all the districts of the country where programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development are implemented. However, in some districts, Chairman, Vice chairman, and some members have not yet been nominated.

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

Imposing Gurudakshina Tax on Graduates

122. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission has sent any proposal to impose 'Gurudakshina' tax on the graduates getting jobs in the first instance in the private or public sector after completing their education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present position in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vacant Posts of SCs/STs

123. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any posts of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in different categories in various Department and undertakings of the Ministry are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees working in the said departments and undertakings have been promoted and fresh appointments have been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of appointments made under the various categories during the said period and during the current year till date;

(e) whether prescribed rules have been followed regarding the recruitment and promotion of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supply of Coal by Coal India Ltd.

124. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited sell its coal to National Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) if so, the average supply of coal during each of the last three years grade-wise;

(c) the percentage of ash in each grade of coal supplied;

(d) whether the quality of coal is as per the demand of National Thermal Power Corporation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The average supply of coal by Coal India Limited to National Thermal Power Corporation during each of the last three years is given below:

Year	Coal Supplied (million tonnes)
1999-2000	59.328
2000-2001	65.980
2001-2002	69.560

Normally supplies to NTPC power houses have been from grades C, D, E, F & G of non-coking coal and grades of washery-II & Washery-IV of NLW coking coal. The ash percentage in each of these grades are given in statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) The coal linkage for power utilities for supplies are decided in the Standing Linkage Committee (Short-Term) with the participation of representatives of power utilities, supplying coal companies, railways and concerned Ministries. Such linkages are decided with due consideration of quantitative/qualitative requirement/demand of power utilities.

availability of coal and logistics of railway transport. The quality of coal in terms of requirement of heat content in boilers of NTPC power houses for power generation expressed as Useful Heat Value (UHV) in K.Cal/Kg more or less matches their requirements. The UHV as well as corresponding Gross Calorific Value (GCV) of different grades of coal are given in the statement enclosed.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Grades of Coking Coal

Grades	Ash Content
Steel Grade-I	Not Exceeding 15%
Steel Grade-II	Exceeding 15% but Not Exceeding 18%
Washery Grade-I	Exceeding 18% but Not Exceeding 21%
Washery Grade-II	Exceeding 21% but Not Exceeding 24%
Washery Grade-III	Exceeding 24% but Not Exceeding 28%
Washery Grade-IV	Exceeding 28% but Not Exceeding 35%

Non-Coking Coal

Grade	UHV (K. Cal/Kg)	Corresponding Ash% + M% (at 5% moisture level) (60% RH & 40°C)	GCV (K.Cal/Kg) (at 5% moisture level)
A	Exceeding 6200	Not Exc. 19.5	Exc.6454
B	Exc.5600 but not Exc.6200	19.6 To 23.8	Exc.6049 but not Exc.6454
C	Exc.4940 but not Exc.5600	23.9 To 28.6	Exc.5597 but not Exc.6049
D	Exc.4200 but not Exc.4940	28.7 To 34.0	Exc.5089 but not Exc.5597
E	Exc.3360 but not Exc.4200	34.1 To 40.0	Exc.4324 but not Exc.5089
F	Exc.2400 but not Exc.3360	40.1 To 47.0	Exc.3865 but not Exc.4324
G	Exc.1300 but not Exc.2400	47.1 To 55.0	Exc.3443 but not Exc.3865

Semi Coking Coal

Grade	Ash + Moisture Content
Sem Coking Grade-I	Not Exceeding 19%
Semi Coking Grade-II	Exceeding 19% But not Exceeding 24%

NEC Coal

Grade	UHV RANGE /K.Cal/KG	Ash & Moisture % AGE
A	6200-6299	18.85-19.57
B	5600-6199	19.58-23.91

[English]

Closure of Chrome Ore Mines in Orissa

125. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of workers have been thrown out of employment due to the closure of some chrome ore mines in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government propose to revive those mines; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) As per information received from Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under Ministry of Mines, there are 21 chromite mines in Orissa and the estimated number of workforce in these mines is 5932. Four mines have been reported to be non-working due to orders of Forest Authorities and / or labour problems. However, no notice of abandonment of any of these mines have been received by the Indian Bureau of Mines. As such the question of workers being thrown out of employment due to closure of mines may not arise.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

126. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have to pay an amount of over Rs.500 crore to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for supplying foodgrains for the mid-day meal scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the FCI has threatened to stop supplies of foodgrains unless the Government pays up its arrears amounting to Rs.500 crore after March, 2003;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that the mid-day meal scheme for primary schools does not run into trouble?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As per available information, Rs.443 crore is required to be paid to Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on 31.12.2002 for supplying foodgrains under Mid-day Meal Scheme.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (CAR&PD) had informed this Ministry that no foodgrains will be available on credit basis in future. This Ministry has already requested them not to interrupt supplies under the Mid-day Meal Scheme and supplies continue to be made. Ministry of Finance has also been requested to provide sufficient funds for the programme so that arrears can be paid.

Bharat Shiksha Kosh

127. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to constitute Bharat Shiksha Kosh as a registered society;

(b) if so, the objectives and key features thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The Bharat Shiksha Kosh has since been registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 and launched on the 9th January, 2003.

The objectives of the Kosh are:-

- maintaining/promoting quality in education and to establish centers of excellence/world class institutions;
- providing assistance to educational institutions including general, technical and professional institutions and providing/upgrading the infrastructure in both existing and new institutions;
- promoting / undertaking scientific activities and research projects, in all areas, specially emerging areas; and
- undertaking such educational activities as the Society may decide from time to time in furtherance of the above objectives

Key Features of the Bharat Shiksha Kosh are:-

- the Kosh permits sponsorships, under which any

organization or individual can become the sponsor(s) of the educational development of a particular village, town, city or of a school, college or even a single child through the payment of a specified amount;

- a school or college or any other institution or even a building or block thereof may be named after the sponsor on payment of a prescribed amount;
- chairs, prizes, scholarships and research projects in educational institutions could also be instituted in the names of the sponsors;
- funds from the Bharat Shiksha Kosh will be used to bridge the existing gaps and further educational development.

[Translation]

Setting up of Technology Institutes in Bihar

128. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after the division of Bihar not a single RIT or BIT Institution is located in Bihar;
- (b) whether there is not a single branch of IIT in Bihar;
- (c) whether some seats in IIT, Jamshedpur and BIT which are located in Jharkhand are reserved for students of Bihar;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the action taken by the Government to provide facilities for engineering education to students of Bihar as per the national average by setting up RIT and IIT institutions in Bihar; and
- (f) the schemes of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) After division of Bihar there are three State Government Engineering Colleges located in Bihar, which are as under:

- (i) Bhagalpur College of Engineering, Bhagalpur.
- (ii) Muzaffarpur Institute of Technology, Muzaffarpur.

(iii) Bihar College of Engineering, Patna.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) No IIT is located at Jamshedpur. However, National Institute of Technology (earlier known as RIT) is located at Jamshedpur. BIT, Sindri comes under the purview of the State Government.

In so far as providing facilities for Engineering Education to students of Bihar are concerned, 183 seats from all India quota have been allocated for students of Bihar during the academic year 2002-2003. At present, there is no policy to open NIT/REC in any State. However, the Ministry received request from the State Government of Bihar for upgradation of 'Bihar College of Engineering', Patna to the level of NIT/REC. The College authority has been asked to submit the complete proposal for examination.

[English]

Requirement of Urea

129. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have assessed the requirement of urea for the next two years in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the extent to which the demand of urea is to be met by indigenous production and through imports;
- (d) whether the prices of urea in the international market have shown increasing trend during the past few months;
- (e) if so, the additional amount the Government have to spend on import of urea during the current financial year and during the next year; and
- (f) the steps being taken to increase the indigenous production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The requirement of urea is assessed for each State/UTs for each crop season of Kharif and Rabi before the commencement of the season. The requirement of urea for the ensuing Kharif 2003 season (1st April to 30th September) has been assessed at 106.30 lakh MTs. The State-wise requirement of urea is given in the statement enclosed. Assessment of urea is not made two years in advance. However, the Working Group on fertilisers for the tenth plan

has worked out the demand forecast for urea from 2002-03 to 2006-2007. The demand forecast of urea for the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 has been made at 221.18 and 228.10 lakh MTs respectively but this forecast seems to be on higher side in view of the current trend of sales of urea.

(c) The production of urea during Kharif 2003 is estimated at about 96 lakh MTs. The opening stock of urea as on 1.4.2003 is estimated at about 14 lakh MTs. Thus, the total availability of 110 LMTs indigenous urea would be sufficient to meet the entire requirement during Kharif 2003 season.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The country has not imported any urea during the current year 2002-03 till date. It is too early to project import requirement of urea for 2003-2004 as it depends mainly on the weather conditions, the actual production and sale trend of urea during the year.

(f) Urea manufacturing units are facing problems mainly on two accounts for matching the production with their installed capacity. First, limitation in availability of natural gas specially for gas based urea plants such as Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd.-Thal and KRIBHCO-Hazira and second, frequent shut down/break down of old-vintage plants. The Department of Fertilizer is pursuing with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to make available adequate and qualitative gas to fertilizer plants. Besides, fertilisers companies are taking steps for long term tie-up with prospective suppliers of LNG and/or natural gas to overcome constraints in the domestic availability of gas. Many urea units including those of PSUs have also installed dual fuel facility of naphtha for supplementing alternate feed. Capital additions are being recognized under Retention-Cum-Price Subsidy Scheme (RPS) so as to encourage these units to undertake investment for improving their efficiency by expansion/retrofitting / revamping of existing plants to overcome equipment breakdown etc.

Statement

State/Union Territory-wise assessed Requirement of Urea for Kharif 2003 season

(000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	State	Assessed Requirement
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	1050.00
2	Karnataka	640.00
3	Kerala	65.00

1	2	3
4	Tamil Nadu	325.00
5	Pondicherry	11.00
6	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.50
7	Gujarat	500.00
8	Madhya Pradesh	350.00
9	Chhattisgarh	300.00
10	Maharashtra	1050.00
11	Rajasthan	375.00
12	Goa	1.50
13	Daman & Diu	0.50
14	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.90
15	Haryana	570.00
16	Punjab	1100.00
17	Uttar Pradesh	2400.00
18	Uttaranchal	102.00
19	Himachal Pradesh	32.00
20	Jammu & Kashmir	60.00
21	Delhi	2.00
22	Chandigarh	0.02
23	Bihar	660.00
24	Jharkhand	100.00
25	Orissa	320.00
26	West Bengal	470.00
27	Assam	90.00
28	Tripura	13.00
29	Manipur	37.00
30	Meghalaya	3.00
31	Nagaland	0.20

1	2	3
32	Arunachal Pradesh	0.45
33	Sikkim	0.85
34	Mizoran.	0.50
All India		10630.42

Rise in Urban Population

130. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated rise in the Urban population at the end of 2002 as compared to the population in 2001;

(b) the estimated rise in the urban people living below the poverty line at the end of 2002 as compared to people living below the poverty line at the end of 2001;

(c) the details of States in the country which have shown progressive rise in the number of people living below the poverty line stating the per capita income as compared to the national level; and

(d) the manner in which the Union Government propose to raise the living standard of the urban people living below the poverty line during the Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Office of the Registrar General of India carries out the census of the population of India at an interval of every ten years. The last census was conducted by them for the year 2001. The urban population has shown an increase of 31.14% from 217.60 million (in the year 1991) to 285.35 million (in the year 2001).

(b) Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at the national and state levels from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. As per the latest estimates provided by them, the percentage of urban poor has come down by 8.74% from 32.36% in the year 1993-94 to 23.62% in the year 1999-2000.

(c) Planning Commission adopts the criteria for below poverty line, which is based on surveys conducted by

NSSO on consumer expenditure. Based on such criteria only one state, viz. Orissa has shown an upward rise in the estimated BPL population from 41.64% in 1993-94 to 42.83% in 1999-2000.

(d) To raise the living standards of the urban poor, inter-alia, Government is implementing a centrally sponsored urban poverty alleviation programme called "Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)" and another centrally sponsored scheme called "Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY)" for providing shelter/upgraded shelter to the Urban poor slum dwellers living below the poverty line as also the community sanitation under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan component of the programme and also an Additional Central Assistance (ACA) programme called National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) for upgradation of urban slums by providing basic minimum amenities like water supply, storm water drain, community bath, widening and paving of existing lanes, sewers, community latrines, street lights etc.

Alterations and Regularisation of Illegal Alterations/ Additions in DDA and GHCS Flats

131. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed alterations and regularisation of illegal alterations/additions in DDA and Group Housing Co-operative Society Flats:

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

(c) whether the civil construction experts have expressed unhappiness on such a move as extensions and alterations may endanger human lives in case of an earthquake and stressed the need to re-examine the issue since it can cause structure of building unsafe;

(d) if so, the facts thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the DDA are preparing any formula for collecting fees for allowing such alterations/additions;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any guidelines have been issued to MCD so as to follow the decision taken by the Government; and

(h) if so, the response of the MCD in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Government has permitted the following additions/alterations in DDA flats, in additions to the approved list of 19 condonable items:

(i) Fixing doors in back or front courtyards.

(ii) Converting window into almirah, subject to availability of light and ventilation.

(iii) Shifting of water storage tank/raising of the parapet wall up to 5' high and putting additional water storage tank at the location specified, subject to capacity of storage of water limited to 550 litres.

(iv) Shifting of the front glazing doors/windows up to maximum outside up to existing chajja.

(v) Construction of bathroom and WC in the rear courtyard, subject to the condition that the existing services are not affected.

(vi) Covering of the open terrace with sloping roofs upto 9 ft. high with lightweight material such as fibre glass/AC sheets/GI sheets/pipes and standard angle iron sections etc. and enclosing with glazing.

(vii) Inter-change the position of Kitchen, bathroom and WC with proper power connection, subject to structural safety.

The items at serial number (v) to (vii) would be permitted

with the prior approval of DDA/MCD on due submission of detailed drawings by the allottee, duly certified by a qualified structural engineer, as per detailed procedure to be laid down by DDA.

(c) and (d) Reports to this effect have appeared in some newspapers. However, the Committee, constituted by the Government to examine the recommendations of the Technical Experts committee, while giving their recommendations, has considered the structural safety considerations and viewed that the structural stability of the building shall not be compromised while giving permission by the concerned Civic Agency.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. DDA has been advised to work out modalities for levying fee for allowing additional floor area.

(g) and (h) A copy of the instructions issued has also been sent to the Commissioner, MCD.

Special Package for the Development of Poor People

132. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the State Governments for a special package for the development of poor people in the country particularly from the Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government in principle have agreed to approve the special package for the development of poor people; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) In so far as the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation is concerned, no such proposals have been received.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Closure of Mines by CIL

133. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to close down 30 mines of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have examined the viability proposal of these mines or tried to revive those units before taking the closure decision; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA):

(a) to (d) Closing mining activities in coal mines and opening of new coal mines is an ongoing process. Depending on parameters like exhaustion of coal reserves, economic viability of the coal mines, safety consideration, technical feasibility, ability of the coal company to redeploy the workers in a more viable mine etc., operational decisions are taken by the coal companies to close mining activities in some mines and also to open some new mines. 53 coal mines have been identified by the subsidiary coal companies of Coal India Limited for suspension of operation in a phased manner. The location of these mines, company wise and State wise, and reasons for suspension are as under:-

Company	West Bengal	Jharkhand	Reasons for the proposed suspension of operation
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	23	3	Economically unviable
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	-	15	Economically unviable
Central Coalfields Ltd.	-	12	Economically unviable
Total	23	30	

However Government have stated on several occasions that workmen will not be retrenched on account of closure of mines or suspension of mining operations but will be suitably redeployed.

National Conference on Rural Development

134. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day National Conference of Ministers and Secretaries of the Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Public Works Department was held in New Delhi, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consensus have been reached therein regarding implementation of development schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the views of the State Government in the matter;

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

(g) the other achievement of the said conference;

(h) whether the Government have launched a scheme Hariyali involving the Panchayats in Watershed Management;

(i) if so, the details of the schemes and the extent to which it will help rural communities to conserve water for drinking, irrigation, afforestation and fisheries; and

(j) the funds likely to be sanctioned for this purpose;

(k) whether the guidelines have been issued for utilization of funds under the water management plans as mentioned in Times of India dated 28 January, 2003; and

(l) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL):

(a) Yes Sir, a two day Conference of the State Ministers of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Public Works Department was held on 27-28 January, 2003, in New Delhi, to review the progress under various development programmes being implemented by the Ministry.

(b) The Conference was attended by Ministers and Secretaries of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Public Works Departments from States. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, who also launched the new Scheme 'Hariyali' on the occasion. Discussions were held on the status of

implementation of the different Centrally Sponsored Schemes being funded by the Ministry of Rural Development in the conference.

(c) to (g) The Summary of the discussions which include discussions on issues related to implementation of various schemes, are given in the statement enclosed.

(h) Yes Sir, the scheme 'Haryali' for involving the Panchayats in Watershed Programme was launched by the Prime Minister at the beginning of the Conference.

(i) and (j) 'Haryali' is a country wide programme with the dual objective of tackling the problem of water scarcity and augmenting the resources of the Panchayats in an attempt to strengthen them. Under the Scheme, Panchayats will undertake rainwater conservation measures with technical assistance from state administration and use the impounded water for irrigation, fisheries and tree plantation, including horticulture. The income from water-user charges and the sale proceeds of fisheries will add to the panchayat's resources.

(k) and (l) The Guidelines for 'Haryali' are under preparation.

Statement

Summary of the discussions of the conference of State Ministers of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Public Works was held on 27-28 January, 2003, in New Delhi.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and was also addressed by the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Major Centrally Sponsored Programmes being funded by the Ministry of Rural Development and the issues related to the implementation of the 73 Constitution Amendment Act were discussed in the technical sessions of the Conference. The summary of the issues discussed is as follows:

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY): The State Ministers/representatives briefly touched upon the progress made in the implementation of PMGSY. Other issues raised during the Conference included inter alia, those relating to increase in the Allocation, Restoration of contingency funds to Programme Implementing Units (PIUs), and extending the execution period.

Panchayati Raj: Status of Election, Devolution of Powers to PR/s and constitution of DPCs was discussed. States are at different level of achievement in this regard. The need to empower and strengthen PR/s to make them effective institutions of local self-governance was reiterated in the Conference. States generally expressed their commitment to achieve these.

Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY): While the States were satisfied with the release of the instalments and reported various levels of utilization of the cash component, it was felt that timely release of quality foodgrains from FCI godowns, and lifting and utilization of foodgrains for employment generation needed improvement.

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozar Yojana (SGSY): Some state Ministers had highlighted the pendency of applications for sanction of loan, the time-lag between sanction of loan and disbursement and high rate of rejection of applications, under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana.

Watershed Development Programmes: Hon'ble Prime Minister launched a new initiative of the Department of Land Resources namely 'Haryali' which aims at empowering the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Planning, execution and managing the watershed activities.

Rural Housing: The States highlighted the necessity of increasing per unit assistance under IAY. The problem of delay in release of 2nd instalment of funds was discussed. States were informed about deficiencies in proposals and clarifications that were needed for processing them so that second instalment could be released.

Monitoring and Vigilance: Regarding the reconstitution of Vigilance & Monitoring Committees at district level (with MP, LS, as Chairperson), some of the state representatives felt that this contradicts the spirit of decentralization process and Panchayati Raj Institutions would be denied their due rights. A request was, therefore made for reviewing the reconstitution of V & M Committees. Some States also desired that they may be allowed to nominate some members of these Committees.

Cracks in Punjabi Bagh Flyover

135. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item Captioned "Punjabi Bagh flyover has cracks" appearing in the Times of India dated January 23, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted to ascertain the reasons for developing cracks in such a short span of time;

- (d) if so, the findings thereof;
- (e) the corrective steps being taken to remedy the situation; and
- (f) the action taken against the persons responsible for such construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Public Works Department (PWD) of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has recorded that cracks developed in non-structural brick masonry facia walls.

(c) to (f) The PWD has informed that an inspection was carried out on 25.1.2003 by Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. to determine the reasons of cracks in the flyover. However the report from DMRC is awaited. The PWD has further reported that at the location of cracks in brick facia wall, chase has been cut and expansion joints introduced.

Science and Technology Policy

136. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister unveiled 28 pages Science and Technology Policy paper promoting sweeping changes in the scientific establishments;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken for setting up of National Science and Engineering Research Board and efforts made to raise the standards of university education as also empowerment of women in science and technology related areas in the policy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently announced a "Science and Technology Policy 2003"

recognizing the changing context of the scientific enterprise, and to meet the present national needs in the new era of globalization. The policy reiterates India's commitment to participate as an equal and vigorous global player in generating and harnessing advances in science and technology for the benefit of all humankind.

(c) and (d) The policy has indicated the need to examine the setting up of more efficient funding mechanisms, either by creating new structure or by strengthening or restructuring the existing ones for promotion of basic research. Government has already initiated a programme aimed at creating teaching and research infrastructure in Universities and other educational institutions. A scheme for "Scholarships for Women Scientists & Technologists" has also been recently announced.

Modernisation of Govt. of India Presses

137. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to modernise the Government of India Presses during the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the amount earmarked therefor; and
- (c) the details of presses identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Government has taken a decision to close/merge/transfer/modernise various Government of India Presses. For modernisation, an expenditure of about Rs. 21.94 crore will be incurred out of the Depreciation Reserve Fund already available with the Ministry.

(c) Out of 23 Presses/Units 4 are to be closed, 5 Presses to be merged with the other 5 and 3 Text Book Presses are to be transferred to the respective State Governments, which if not accepted would also be closed. Finally, the following 11 Presses will be retained and modernised:-

1. Govt. of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi
2. Govt. of India Press, Faridabad
3. Govt. of India Press, Santragachi
4. Govt. of India Press, Nashik
5. Govt. of India Press, Coimbatore.

6. Govt. of India Press, Ring Road, New Delhi.
7. Govt. of India Press, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. Govt. of India Press, Nilokheri.
9. Govt. of India Press, Aligarh.
10. Govt. of India Press, Koratty.
11. Govt. of India Press, Temple Street, Kolkata.

[Translation]

Closure of IDPL

138. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the location-wise details of the IDPL branches all-over the country;
- (b) the location-wise details of the branches closed down;
- (c) the number of persons who have become unemployed on account of its closure;
- (d) the details of loss suffered as a result thereof;
- (e) whether Muzaffarpur branch of IDPL is lying closed for the last many years;
- (f) if so, the action being taken by the Government to reopen all the branches of IDPL alongwith Muzaffarpur branch; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) IDPL has three manufacturing units at Gurgaon, Rishikesh and Hyderabad and two wholly owned subsidiaries, namely, IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Ltd. and Bihar Drugs & Organic Chemicals Ltd. Muzaffarpur.

(b) to (g) None of these has been closed.

[English]

Rise in Rural/BPL Population

139. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated rise in the rural population/ below poverty line people at the end of 2002 as compared to the population in 2001;
- (b) the details of States that have shown progressive rise in the number of people living below poverty line stating their per capita income as compared to the national level; and
- (c) the manner in which the Union Government propose to raise the living standard of the rural people living below poverty line during the Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development has not estimated the rural population/below poverty line people at the end of 2002.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Government has attempted to address the multi-dimensional nature of poverty with a three-pronged strategy consisting of economic growth, human development and direct intervention through poverty alleviation programmes. Greater role for empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions and involvement of communities in the implementation of anti poverty programmes are also envisaged.

Floating Border Outposts

140. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government have taken decision to have 'floating' border outposts to check infiltration, illegal immigration and smuggling;
- (b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;
- (c) whether the existing system to check infiltration etc. by the various security agencies has been found to be ineffective and outdated; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which the new system is likely to be effective in dealing with infiltration, smuggling etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A decision has been taken by the Central Government to procure 14 numbers floating border outposts for deployment in the creek areas of Gujarat and riverine areas of Indo-Bangladesh border. The first set of three floating border outposts has since been commissioned.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken several steps including augmentation of troops at border outposts, use of night vision devices, undertaking mobile patrolling etc. to check infiltration, etc. on the border. The floating border outposts are being deployed to facilitate better domination of the riverine and creek areas which are otherwise difficult to monitor. This would improve the effectiveness of the Border Guarding Force in dealing with infiltration, smuggling etc. from across such areas.

Santhali Language

141. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to include Santhali Language in the eighth schedule of the constitution;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring a Legislation in the current session, to amend the constitution to this effect;

(c) whether the Government have received memorandum in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have not taken a positive step towards constitution of a separate "Santhali Language Committee" so far for protection and promotion of Santhali Language; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (f) Requests have been received to include Santhali Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

As no parameters have been laid down for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, a decision has been taken to constitute a High Powered Body for laying down such a criteria for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule. Action to constitute the proposed Body

has already been initiated and the matter about inclusion of Santhali language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution would be considered in accordance with the criteria so evolved. Bringing out legislation in this behalf and other issues would depend on the decision so arrived.

Communal Violence

142. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convene a meeting of the National Integration Council to discuss the issue of incidents of communal violence and hatred in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the date on which the meeting is proposed to be convened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) A proposal to reconstitute the National Integration Council (N.I.C.) is under consideration of the Government. After a decision is taken thereon, the meeting of the NIC will be convened to discuss the issues in question.

Unsafe Drinking Water

143. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quantity of chemicals, heavy metals and bacteria have increased in the potable drinking water in the country particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Water Check: E. Delhi tops AIIMS comes last" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated September 1, 2002;

(d) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether it is a fact that most of the Delhites are getting unsafe drinking water supplied by Delhi Jal Board through ageing and rusted pipes;

(f) if so, whether it is also a fact that a number of school children have fallen ill due to contaminated drinking water recently;

(g) the reasons for not replacing drinking water pipes in the Government buildings including residential colonies; and

(h) the steps the Government propose to take for providing safe drinking water to Delhites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Water supply projects in various States in India are planned, designed and executed by the State Public Health Engineering Departments/ Water Supply Boards/Urban Local Bodies. The water is to be supplied in accordance with recommended guideline values indicated in the Manual on Water Supply & Treatment, published by Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation in May, 1999 and BIS (IS- 10500-1993).

As far as potable water supply in Delhi is concerned, the Delhi Jal Board has informed that it does not contain chemicals, heavy metals and bacteria.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) have informed that drinking water being supplied by them in Delhi conforms to the laid down standards and Bureau of Indian standards IS 10500- 1993. The Quality of underground water extracted by any institution like AIIMS is not checked by DJB.

(e) No, Sir. The DJB has reported that it is supplying safe drinking water to the residents of Delhi. Old pipes are replaced in an accelerated manner. 920 Kms. length of pipeline has already been replaced since 1999.

(f) The DJB has indicated that a case of illness of some students of Maharaja Agarsen Public School of Pitampura, Delhi was reported in the Press. However, it found that the water being supplied by DJB was potable and the problem was in one of the water coolers in the school.

(g) As stated in reply to part (e) above, DJB is replacing the old pipes with new ones in a phased manner.

(h) The DJB is taking following steps to provide safe drinking water to Delhites:-

(i) Regular surveillance of quality of water is done by lifting and testing the water samples right from raw water intake upto consumer's end. About 300 water samples are lifted daily and tested by well-equipped 06 nos. laboratories, 1000 samples are lifted every day for testing residual chlorine.

(ii) 140 MGD Water treatment plant is being set up

at Sonia Vihar Trans Yamuna area and targeted to be completed by December, 2003.

(iii) A regular survey is being done to replace corroded/leaking water mains.

(iv) About 1000 tankers/trucks have been deployed to provide drinking water to deficient areas.

Theft of Cars

144. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether officials of Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir police are involved in car-lifting gang as reported in Indian Express of 19.1.03 under captioned "Stolen Cars: Delhi, JK cops are co-drivers";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against each one of them;

(d) whether the Government have completed its investigation into the matter and if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the total number of vehicles stolen and smuggled into J&K by the said gang operating in Delhi and J&K;

(f) whether the said gang is still operating in some other States; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the modus operandi adopted by this gang?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Uniformity in Allocation of Funds

145. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is uniformity in the allocation of funds to rural development agencies/district councils;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated to each development agency in the National Capital Region of Delhi during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Union Government have any

control over income/expenditure of Rural Development agencies; and

(d) If so, the details of process for monitoring the proper utilisation of funds by the Rural Development Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL):

(a) Funds of the Ministry of Rural Development are allocated to District Rural Development Agencies/Zilla Panchayats in accordance with predetermined allocation criteria which, inter alia, gives weightage to population of rural poor.

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Audit Reports and Utilisation Certificates are insisted upon while processing the proposals for release of funds. In addition, the utilization of funds at the field level is also monitored through field visits of Ministers/ Officers, Area Officers' Scheme and District Level Monitoring through external professional agencies.

Urban Reforms

146. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have differences with Ministry of Finance over the amount to be released to States for taking up the urban reforms;

(b) if so, whether the differences also exist between the Centre and the States on the pace of reforms;

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

(d) whether the Ministry on its part is keen to see that Funds starting flowing out of the Rs.500 crore kitty before the financial year ends and has stressed that full share of agreeable States be released; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the Ministry have been able to get the funds released for urban development reforms in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (e) Yes Sir, a provision of Rs.500 crores has been made in the current year's Budget for the implementation of the Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF), which is to be released as Additional Central Assistance to Annual Plans of the States. Planning

Commission has worked out State-wise allocations on the basis of share of each State in urban population and included the same among States resources at the time of fixing the size of Annual Plan. The process of release would however be initiated by States individually entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Central Government. The above position has been brought to the notice of all State Governments and the draft Memorandum of Agreement to be signed with them has been circulated to them. This issue was also deliberated upon in the Housing Minister's Conference held on 12.9.2002. General consensus is that urban reforms is a lengthy process and reforms cannot be thrust upon the States. Some States are willing to sign MoA in a modified form i.e. while they are willing to make certain reforms, they are not interested in some other Reforms.

So far, no release has been made because the scheme is under finalization in consultation with concerned Ministries and thus no State has yet been able to sign the Memorandum of Agreement.

Maintenance of Ornamental Parks in Delhi

147. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has failed to maintain even the 16 ornamental parks in Delhi particularly the park in Greater Kailash;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith annual expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the steps being taken for immediate maintenance of Electricity, raising of boundary walls provision for electric mower to maintain grass, day-to-day cleaning, check street dogs menace in the park, drinking water facilities, toilets for men and women and conversion of uneven stone based walking tracks into concrete or any other type of level tracks;

(d) whether the Government plan to hand over maintenance of these ornamental parks to private agencies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that it does not have any designated park in its green development area. The DDA parks in Greater Kailash area are, however, being

maintained properly. The annual expenditure incurred by DDA during 2001-2002 on the maintenance of its parks in Greater Kailash was Rs. 39.84 lakhs.

(c) The maintenance of DDA parks is being done properly including maintenance of electricity. The boundary walls are provided as per the approved landscape plan. Necessary tools and plants, including diesel/electric mowers are also provided. Street dogs are not allowed in the park.

(d) and (e) The DDA has reported that only parks upto an area of 1.25 ha. are given for maintenance to non-governmental organisations. The parks in Greater Kailash are larger in size.

Allocation of Funds to IITs

148. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for the allocation of funds to IITs functioning in the country;

(b) the funds allocated to IITs during the last three years respectively;

(c) whether it is a fact that IITs are supposed to spend this funding only on research;

(d) if so, whether the Government have any supervisory mechanism to ensure that IITs are following such guidelines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that high standards of IITs are maintained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) A new funding mechanism-performance based funding pattern - for Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) has been laid down from the current financial year to bring in greater clarity and transparency in funding and making institutes more performance oriented.

(b) Grants-in-aid of Rs.499.18 crore in 1999-2000, Rs.505.00 crore in 2000-01 and Rs.519.20 crore in 2001-02 were provided to IITs by the Government of India.

(c) to (f) The funding is meant both for Academic and Research purposes. Under the new funding mechanism, Grants are determined based on the number of students,

research output, performance, infrastructure and other considerations ensuring that high standards of IITs are maintained. The funding mechanism has an in-built system for regular monitoring of the performance and efficiency of IITs. The performance of IITs are reviewed while fixing grants for IITs.

[Translation]

Freedom Fighter Pension

149. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:

SHRI A.NARENDRA:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of freedom fighters who have been granted pension during last three years and as on date, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of cases which came to the notice of the Government in regard to drawing of pension by providing fake freedom fighters certificates during the said period;

(c) whether the verdict of the High Court against the provision of Pension to the freedom fighter is likely to be challenged in the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) A State-wise Statement indicating the number of freedom fighters in whose cases pension has been sanctioned by the Central Government during the last three years and as on date is enclosed.

(b) During the aforesaid period, pension was cancelled in 252 cases after verification of complaints received regarding drawal of pension on the basis of fake certificates/documents, false information, etc.

(c) and (d) Whenever the verdict of the High Court against the provision of Pension to the freedom fighter is received, it is examined with reference to the facts and circumstances of the case, and Special Leave Petition challenging the order of the High Court is filed in the Supreme Court if considered appropriate in consultation with the Government Counsel and Ministry of Law.

Statement

State-wise details of cases in which Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension has been sanctioned during 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 1.4.2002 to 31.1.2003.

Sl.No	State/UT	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	01.4.2002 to 31.01.2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28	02	01	03
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	00	00	00	00
3.	Assam	00	00	00	00
4.	Bihar	01	04	12	07
5.	Goa	00	00	00	00
6.	Gujarat	04	05	01	02
7.	Haryana	00	01	03	00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	00	01	01	02
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	00	00	00	00
10.	Karnataka	03	06	04	04
11.	Kerala	23	19	09	77
12.	Madhya Pradesh	01	02	02	03
13.	Maharashtra	03	02	03	06
14.	Manipur	00	00	00	00
15.	Meghalaya	00	00	00	00
16.	Mizoram	00	00	00	00
17.	Nagaland	00	00	00	00
18.	Orissa	01	00	02	01
19.	Punjab	04	01	00	11
20.	Rajasthan	00	00	00	00
21.	Sikkim	00	00	00	00
22.	Tamil Nadu	01	06	01	00
23.	Tripura	00	00	01	00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	01	00	02	04
25.	West Bengal	05	06	03	00

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	00	00	00	00
27.	Chandigarh	00	00	00	00
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	00	83	00	00
29.	NCT of Delhi	00	00	00	01
30.	INA	10	00	03	00
31.	Pondicherry	00	01	00	00
Total		85	139	48	121

Vocational Education

150. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing structure and organisation of vocational education in the country has failed miserably in achieving its objectives;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that today after passing the 10th standard only 4.5 per cent students take admission into vocational education and the remaining 95.5 per cent students think it proper to get the formal education of universities; and

(c) if so, the details of preparations made by the Government in order to change the existing structure of vocational education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Based on the recommendations of various committees the scheme is being revised. The proposed revision will have modular, credit and competency based courses with provisions for vertical and lateral mobility.

[English]

Dolomite Reserve

151. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total dolomite reserved areas in the country at present State-wise especially in the State of Karnataka; and

(b) the steps taken for proper exploitation of dolomite in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) As per the National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines, the total State-wise recoverable reserves of Dolomite are given at Annexure.

(b) As per the National Mineral Policy 1993, the exploration and exploitation of all non-ferrous and non-atomic minerals including dolomite have been thrown open to private entrepreneurs. Government is making all efforts to increase investment in the mining sector by creating investor friendly climate and removing bottlenecks to attract such investment.

[Translation]

Indira Gandhi National Open University

152. SHRI RAM MURTI SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only those candidates having two years experience from some institution are given admission for the relevant degree courses conducted by the Indira Gandhi National Open University;

(b) if so, the number of cases in which the experience certificates submitted by the students were found to be fake after verification during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce system of taking tests for giving admission into degree Courses rather than seeking experience certificates from the candidates;

(d) if so, the time by which this system is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), two years experience is an essential eligibility criteria for students seeking admission only to B.Ed. and B.Sc.(Nursing) Programmes of IGNOU. No case of fake experience certificate has been detected by the University during the last three years in these programmes.

(c) to (e) In addition to two years experience as essential criteria, IGNOU is conducting entrance test for admission to B.Ed. programme as per the norms laid down by the National Council of Teacher Education. No entrance test, however, is conducted for admission to B.Sc. (Nursing) programme as the number of students seeking admission is very small.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, papers to be laid, Shri Kariya Munda.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify something, please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kariya Munda Ji, please sit down for a minute. Yadavji, you please speak.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you and Shri Yerrannaidu ji. I respect honourable Somnath Chatterjee dada a lot. What Dada has quoted, it has put a mark on my belief in secular principles. Therefore, I would like to clarify my stand. I am a staunch supporter of secular principles. I am against the fundamentalist forces. Who do not honour secular spirit of the constitution, the courts, Parliament and the Prime Minister of India and I will never support them. Further I would like to clarify my stand on so called "Dharam Sansad" and petition filed by the Union Government in Supreme Court of India. The Union Government should have taken the entire country, its allies and the opposition in confidence before filing petition otherwise the so called "Dharam Sansad" is meaningless. If we too declare a secular parliament then will the Government take cognizance of it. The Government should ponder over this issue quite seriously as this issue is very important and sensitive.

12.03 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 687 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2002 under section 7A of the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 800 (E) dated 4th December, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6961/2003]

12.03½ hrs.

[English]

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following 14 Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Eleventh Session of Thirteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on 20 December, 2002:

1. The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2002
2. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2002
3. The Countess of Dufferin's Fund (Repeal) Bill, 2002
4. The Prevention of Food Adulteration (Extension to Kohima and Mokochung Districts) Repeal Bill, 2002
5. The Appropriation (Railways) No.5 Bill, 2002
6. The North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002
7. The Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Bill, 2002
8. The Appropriation (No.6) Bill, 2002
9. The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002
10. The High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2002

11. The Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2002
12. The Pre-National Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Bill, 2002
13. The Prevention of Money-Laundering Bill, 2002
14. The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2002

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, of the following 24 Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:-

1. The Imperial Library (Indentures Validation) Repeal Bill, 2002
2. The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill, 2002
3. The Negotiable Instrument (Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2002
4. The Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament and Leaders of Opposition in Parliament (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002
5. The Mysore State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Repeal Bill, 2002
6. The Unit Trust of India (Transfer of Undertakings and Repeal) Bill, 2002
7. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Bill, 2002
8. The Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Bill, 2002
9. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002
10. The Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002
11. The Refugee Relief Taxes (Abolition) Repeal Bill, 2002
12. The Representation of the People (Third Amendment) Bill, 2002
13. The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2002
14. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2002
15. The Transfer of Property (Amendment) Bill, 2002

16. The Indian Evidence (Amendment) Bill, 2002
17. The Freedom of Information Bill, 2002
18. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2002
19. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2002
20. The Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002
21. The Competition Bill, 2002
22. The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Bill, 2002
23. The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2002
24. The Biological Diversity Bill, 2002

12.03% hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Twenty-fourth Report

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I lay Twenty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Committee on Petitions.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we take 'Zero Hour', Shri P. Mohan ji, you please speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the very first notice is mine.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is immediately after this.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (MUZAFFARNAGAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is in the list, you please sit now.

[English]

* SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Hon. Speaker Sir, Tamil Nadu is reeling under severe drought conditions and is in the grip of a severe drought. The failure of two successive monsoons has added to the woes of both the farmers for their irrigation needs and the common people for their drinking water need. Agriculture is worst hit and water supply for daily use has been affected. In Tamil Nadu, at least twenty farmers in the Cauvery Delta region have met with suicidal death due to nil or negligible water flow in river Cauvery, Monsoon failure and perished crops have driven them to their wits' end. They have put an end to themselves due to debt burden resulting in hunger and utter poverty. In Madurai, that is, in my constituency, also a farmer has ended his life committing suicide due to severe problems in carrying out his cultivation and occupation. Drinking water problem has become acute. Agricultural activity has come to a grinding halt in many places due to water scarcity that has deprived them of irrigation facilities. In Madurai district, cultivation has been taken up in merely 30,000 acres of land out of 1.50 lakh acres of land. Crops have withered away due to paucity of water. A central team visited Tamil Nadu to review the drought situation and its serious impact. As yet there is no appropriate action based on their report. People run from pillar to post. They are driven to all that they can to get rain and water. They pray to appease gods. To propitiate rain god they conduct wedding ceremonies to donkeys. They spare not even superstitions to ensure rain to carry on their lives which is hard hit now. They do not get any help from any source. Even Tamil Nadu Government has resorted to a delayed measure of declaring all the 28 districts other than Chennai as drought hit. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to provide timely relief measure by way of releasing adequate funds and enough of food grains. It is incumbent on the Centre to come to the rescue of farmers and common people who go without water to save their lives and livelihood. I hope other hon. colleagues from Tamil Nadu will also highlight this vexing issue of water scarcity that affect the agricultural community and the common people both in urban and rural areas.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI): Sir, I wish to associate myself with the Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Sir, I wish to associate myself with the Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, Shri V. Vetrivelvan, Shri A.K.S. Vijayan, Shri Adhi

Shankar and Shri A. Krishnaswamy associate themselves with Shri P. Mohan on this issue.

Shri Mohan, please remember that when you want to speak in any language other than English or Hindi, you have to give advance notice. I have permitted you today.

SHRI P. MOHAN: I have given advance notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the water of 'Ganga' is becoming polluted in 'Prayag'. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Have you given notice?

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Yes Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait. Your turn will also come.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please cooperate. We can take up all the notices provided you cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirti Azad Ji, one notice on cricket has also been given.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government was very eager to tackle terrorism and elements encouraging terrorism that is why POTA was brought in this House. POTA had been passed in Lok Sabha on the basis of majority and muscle-power but it could not be passed in Rajya Sabha.

Hence a Joint Session was convened on 26 March 2002 and POTA was passed. The Samajwadi party had some apprehension as experiences relating to TADA were not good and it was thought that perhaps POTA may also be used against political rivals and this is what exactly happening today Shri Vaiko who was quite vociferous in supporting TADA has landed up in Jail today. It is alleged that he is LTTE supporter. Excuse me for my saying that when he was being put behind the bars the Government of India was having a dialogue with LTTE supporters.

What is happening in UP in the name of POTA. It is being misused, people are being harassed deliberately, MLAs

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

are being ill treated. Raja Bhaiya who was in BJP Government for more than five years had good moral conduct but now since he has started criticising Mayawati Government, charges have been levelled against him under POTA, his father Udai Pratap Singh has also been implicated, charges against him as well as against MLA Akshay Kumar have been levelled under POTA and all other MLAs are being harassed. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has alleged that these people were conspiring to murder her and that Udai Pratap Singh, father of Raja Bhaiya has links with ISI. These charges are baseless, when the Government of India was contacted, it was assured that honourable Minister of Law Shri Arun Jaitley will look into the matter. He should clarify whether the matter has been investigated and facts have been found out or not. POTA is being misused to tackle rivals. The supporters of Samajwadi Party are being tortured.

Lastly, I humbly request the Union Government to see as to how the government in Uttar Pradesh is functioning. I would like to remind Shri Malhotra Ji that honourable Minister of Law and the Minister of Home Affairs had assured that POTA will not be allowed to be misused. Today people of BJP and Lok Dal have surrendered before Mayawati. They do not have any say. Shri Vinay Katiyar ji, Kalraj Mishra and Rajnath Singh ji have said Raja Bhaiya and his father have been falsely implicated under POTA, and charges against them should be withdrawn. Where has Vinay Katiyar disappeared today? In the edition of yesterday or day before yesterday of daily Hindustan, a statement of Vinay Katiyar was published wherein he had stated, who is Raja Bhaiya and what is POTA?

Today whatever, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Kumari Mayawati is doing in Uttar Pradesh is doing solely at the behest of BJP and Lok Dal, otherwise she cannot dare to use POTA against anyone. It is a very serious matter. Therefore, my submission is that the Minister of Law and the Minister of Home Affairs should come in the House and assure that charges framed under POTA against Raja Bhaiya, Udai Pratap, Singh and Akshaya Pratap Singh etc. will be withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want your protection and I would like to request through you that honourable Law Minister and Home Minister should prove the justification of POTA levelled against people in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Ramji Lal Suman Ji, please sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL): Mr. Speaker Sir, honourable Ramji Lal Suman has raised an issue of POTA. I would like to know about it from the honourable Prime Minister and hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister who is also

the Minister of Home Affairs, who have just left the House that it is not just an allegation, it is an issue for discussion as well. It is openly talked about between all the officers and the public as well that firstly Raja Bhaiya whose actual name is Raghuraj Pratap Singh, has been arrested at the behest of Chief Minister. A minister was found to be carrying an AK-56 in his car by Hazratganj police station, whereas the police said that he was not carrying any illegal arm. Police has stated that we have accepted it before the electronic media, print media that no illegal arms have been recovered from him. Subsequently, he was urgently taken to Lucknow police station. There, a Minister in the Government of Uttar Pradesh came with an AK-56 rifle in his car. It should be seriously pondered over. Thereafter police refused and his 74 year old father, who has renounced the world, was arrested on the fake charge of possessing AK-56 rifles. This conspiracy was hatched by the Chief Minister and Ministers of UP.

I would like to know that how the hon'ble Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister did not come to know this even though they have many intelligence agencies such as IB, RAW, CBI, etc. The news is that a certain agency told the Union Government that the fake charge of possessing AK56 rifles has been levelled against him. Will the Government in Delhi keep quiet even when POTA is applied on innocents and the Uttar Pradesh Government will keep on detaining people under POTA. It will not do? I would like to convey to the Government through you and this House, that POTA is being used on political considerations which should not be done. If this trend continues and the use of POTA is not regulated and if POTA is not withdrawn, then I would like to warn all here that Uttar Pradesh will go on the verge of a split. A civil war like scenario exists there. I am not concerned about the party which is in Government, but the tension is mounting throughout. The atmosphere of the whole country is being vitiated. Therefore, I would like you all to seriously consider it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cases against Raja Bhaiya, his father, Raja Ram Pandey, Ramnath Saroj and Jai Prakash Yadav under POTA and NSA should be withdrawn and even POTA should be repealed. I would like to caution Union Government that Uttar Pradesh Government is bent up on dividing both the country and the society. POTA should immediately be withdrawn otherwise no one would be able to prevent civil war in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (DARBHANGA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to speak on the same issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a notice on cricket. I would give you an opportunity to speak on that.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak on POTA also.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. But I would give you opportunity only after Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have risen to speak on the matter raised by Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav relating to misuse of POTA. The hon'ble Member of this House, Shri Vaiko, as all know, was charged with POTA by the Tamil Nadu Government. It was also an instance of misuse of POTA. Atrocities are being committed in Uttar Pradesh, POTA is being misused there. Hon'ble Ministers of the Union Government had said time and again that POTA will not be misused, but it is being misused. What do they have to say on it? Why the Government are keeping quiet when POTA is being misused in various parts of the country. Even after the assurances by the Government, POTA is being misused in various parts of the country. Even after the assurance by the Government, POTA is being misused and the Government keep quiet. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may also be allowed to speak on the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would allow you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, we fully support the demand made by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav; POTA should be totally scrapped immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice under Rule 193 about the anarchy prevailing in Bihar. I have also submitted a voluminous file and you should peruse all the documents carefully. In Bihar, inhuman acts are being committed against humans, they are being killed in fake encounters. A strange situation prevails there. I had also given a voluminous file to Shri Somnath Chatterjee last time. He agreed that situation is serious but he did not support me in the House. Fake encounters have become common way to kill people there. A married woman abducted by the goondas. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, I have also given notice on POTA alongwith Kunwar Akhilesh Singhji and some other hon. Members. Therefore, I request you to allow all the Members who have given notices to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you later, please sit down.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there married

women are abducted by the goondas and they are forced to remarry. A woman was abducted and was forced to remarry. That particular woman also has a child. The Chairperson of National Commission for women, Ms. Purnima Advani went there. People informed her about the whereabouts of the woman, even then the police did nothing. A former Police Commissioner said that he seemed to be somewhere in Hastinapur and the law and order situation in the state is in bad shape. It was said that a retired DGP. Similarly, Dalits there are being killed for the last 11 years. A Muslim junior engineer of my constituency working in MCD, Delhi was dragged alongwith his motorcycle and was murdered in Ghanshyampur, Darbhanga. Still nothing happened. Nobody listens to the urgings of his kinsmen. I feel so sorry. If my father had still been a Member of Congress, he would have been ashamed. It is regrettable that they are supporting those in Bihar who are creating anarchy there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All the hon'ble Members, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: A journalist of 'Hindustan' daily was abducted. ...*(Interruptions)* Police could not trace him for three days but the men of Laloo Prasad located him in three hours. It reveals the extent to which the goons are getting protection and support from State Government there. ...*(Interruptions)* A minister of the State Government, Mrs. Rama Devi is threatened by her own Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have received 26 notices from hon. Members to raise different issues. I really desire that they should get opportunities to place the issues before the House. But the manner in which we want to speak on the issues, it does not permit the other Members to get their opportunities. Therefore, now I will only allow those Members to speak who have given specific notices on specific issues.

On this specific issue, the Members who have given notices had been allowed to speak.

Now, Shri P.R. Dasmunsi may speak.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: You have given me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I had given you opportunity to speak. I have not received any notice from you till date.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: I am discussing about Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When there is a discussion relating to Bihar, I would give you more time to speak, please sit down now.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Please see these documents. This is all about Bihar. I would like to speak on it for two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given five minutes to you. You had not given any notice. Please try to understand.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: I was arrested there. You did not get this information even in Lok Sabha. I have never even violated traffic signals and have never being challenged even once. But I remained in jail for two days. People says that it is good for politicians to go to jail, unless and until politician to go to jail they do not become big persons I went to jail for some good cause not for committing any crime. I did not ask for granting bail. The type of anarchy that is prevailing in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to take up other issue now. Please sit down.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Sir, I have given notice under rule 193 and I would like to submit that discussion should be held under section 355 of constitution. All efforts must be made to improve the situation in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.R. Dasmunsiji, if you will not raise your issue, I would call the next name.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: The situation in Bihar is very critical, so I would like to request that a discussion should be held under rule 193 and President's rule should be imposed in Bihar. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji, please resume your seat.

12.23 hrs.

RE: SENDING GOOD WISHES TO INDIAN CRICKET TEAM PLAYING IN WORLD CUP

(English)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I am thankful to you for your presence in South Africa to witness the World Cup Cricket match and also for your kind blessings to the players.

We, as sports lovers and as citizens of this country, always get disappointed when our team loses and get encouraged when our team wins. This team belongs to India; they are great sons of the country. On many occasions, they score such results which become history for India. Sachin Tendulkar is one of our sports ambassadors. Be it Yuvraj Singh, be it Javagal Srinath, be it Saurav Ganguly, they scored many runs and played great innings for the country. Maybe, in 2-3 matches they could not show off. Yesterday, Mohammed Kaifs house has been attacked in Allahabad.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): It is very unfortunate.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In several places, Sachin's posters and Saurav Ganguly's posters are being burnt, and effigies are being burnt. They are yet to play four matches. I request the Union Home Minister that total protection should be ensured to all the cricketers, to build up their morale; let us not lose hope; and let us convey our abundant faith in them.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Let us send our good wishes to them.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We should not bring down the players into such vulgarity. They created history many times.

There is a France Football team led by Zinedane Zidane who is the key to their success; in the World Cup Football match, his team could not qualify in the second round and he explained the reasons. Yet, the people of France did not attack their houses and burn their effigies. This is unfortunate that is happening here. We should now show such a discourtesy to our boys who play for the country. Cricket is a game; for that matter, every game needs luck; luck may not be there for them on this occasion, but that does not mean that we could abuse them and we could treat them like this - attacking the houses and burning the effigies. That should not be encouraged at least by this Parliament and we should send our good wishes to them.

Sir, you are from cricket field. I appeal through you to the Government that it should give all protection to them. Let us collectively pray for the goodwill of the team and for their final game, and let them bring colours to our country. Let us not abuse them everyday from here.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Let the message go from this Parliament wishing them all.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Parliament should send its best wishes to the team and condemn the attacks.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support whatever has been raised by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshiji, I think, this is not correct, The hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should get notice of this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, are you speaking on the same issue?

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Your word will be the word of the House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: A message should go from the House to the nation that these boys should not be treated like this. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): On this issue, I have to make a request to the Chair. The House should ask the Government to give due protection to all the players. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I endorse the views of Shri Dasmunsi. Cricket is a game of chance, Sometimes our team wins and sometimes it may not win. We must boost the morale of players. You had also gone there to support them. But unfortunately our team did not play well. Our team is still strong. If we boost their morale, we can still win the match. The goodwishes of the people of the country are with them and we have enormous faith in them. People were disappointed when they did not play well, they reacted but this does not mean that anyone should be attacked. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We do not win all elections. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Hon'ble Minister is sitting here. I urge upon him to give protection to their families.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you also say something on this matter. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): I agree with the hon. Members that we should not behave the way cricket supporters have behaved. It is just a beginning. As you have been rightly saying in electronic media, it is just a beginning.

There are four matches to come. We should encourage our boys. Nothing should be done which dashes their mood. Under your leadership, Sir, a message should go to them to the effect, 'Cheer up boys! We are with you. There is nothing to worry about.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (DARBHANGA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, being a player and a national selector of the team I associate myself with the feeling expressed by the honourable members. I honour their sentiments. When we won the cricket cup in 1983, I was also a member of that cricket team, but at that time expectations from players of winning the match were not so strong as there were not many advertisements on television. Innovative advertisements were not shown. Like dancing Tiger appearing on the screen at the time a sixer is hit by the player or holding a catch by jumping from the mountain etc. We played a simple cricket. The circumstances are quite different now. Now even if any team loses by giving a tough fight, there is not much of disappointment, but our team's performance against Australia was not at all good. Out batting was not so strong. We were not satisfied. I was also present there. It was quite shocking that our team played like this. When our team lost the match I started receiving messages.

[English]

'Every Indian should promise that he or she is not going to buy things endorsed by these players.'

[Translation]

The players should not endorse things. Some people were not happy. I would like to submit that whenever our team wins or loses a match, our country has definitely some benefit. When our team could not win a match our countrymen said that they would prefer Thums Up instead of Pepsi and Coca-Cola and buy Onida instead of Samsung or L.G. T.V. There is a discussion on the batting order. I am one of the selector so that people ask me in this regard. A player should select his number of batting place according to his performance. Again a question arises. Who should be the opening batsman? Sachin Tendulkar should be batting at the first position or not? A player should be judged by his performance whether he is in form or not. It is managed by team management basically. In such a condition if Virendra Sehwag and Sachin Tendulkar are opening batsman, it is good. No doubt I am selector but there are super selectors too, they decide. What should be done and what should not so our prime duty is to send our good wishes to our team. Our team has yet to play four matches while we have won one match, if we win three

matches i.e. if we lose the match with Namibia then it is not a matter of concern although we will not lose this match. If we win three matches then also we will reach in super six as England did not play with Zimbabwe, so they lost four points. I would like to submit about I.C.C. also. The International Cricket Council in Harare. ...*(Interruptions)* The team of England did not go to play. ...*(Interruptions)* England have to give its four points to Zimbabwe. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.):
Mr. Speaker, what are you telling? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshjee, Kirti Azadjee is a cricketer and also a selector of this team. If he wants to say something in this regard, please allow him to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: I am concluding in two minutes. I consider ICC responsible for this, England which did not go to Zimbabwe to play, should have been penalised after being stripped of its four points. England is sitting on it and could not take the decision. It is observing that whosoever wins or loses, England should be benefited. Therefore, the people in the ICC still today continue the policy of apartheid. Therefore, we must support the Chairman of BCCI. Shri Dalmiyajee for his fight for players, for India. We should support our players that they should perform better there and should not get involved in such things and should not come under pressure of anyone. Thank you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The issue that has been raised by Shri Dasmunsi is a very limited issue.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): Sir, I would like to submit something different. Exuberance on either side is bad.

[Translation]

Indian players are there. Anything can be done and allowed to fight. If we adore too much, too much brickbats may be also there. If this side it takes place too much, that side may also hold good.

[English]

Indian chauvanism is not there. Indians are playing in this tournament and they are playing well. I feel proud when Indians play well. But here it is not India that is playing. The country is not playing. The country has not selected the team. The country has not done this. The Parliament has not done

this. The Government has not done this. It is just like a NGO who has done this. Indians are playing there and earning a lot of money. When there is exuberance in their support, there is exuberance in their opposition also. The Government should see to it that law and order is not jeopardised and the security of the players is not in danger.

MR. SPEAKER: Friends, I would not like to go into the merits and demerits of the case. We must be proud of our players. They have created records in the past. After all they are our players. Though technically they are working under an autonomous body, yet they are all Indians. We must wish them good luck. We must remain together on this issue. I would like to urge upon the Government that it is our duty, through the State Governments, to see that our players are protected and they should be given the fullest protection so that their minds should be free and they must try for a victory. I am sure that with the encouragement from the Indian Parliament our team would be in a position to do better next time.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, some message may be sent to the team that the entire Parliament wishes them well and are behind them.

MR. SPEAKER: A message would be sent to them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Saiduzzama, you have given a notice about problems being faced by farmers in Uttar Pradesh and other States due to non-payment of dues. Do you want a copy of this?

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (MUZAFFARNAGAR): Sir, I have already sent a copy.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Sir, very grave situation prevails all-over the state today. Today the farmer is fighting between life and death. Artisans have not been paid for the last two years and the sugar mills are not ready to take the standing crops. If farmers ask for their money, they are beaten, taken to the prisons and atrocities are committed on them by the Government of U.P. Today, grave situation prevails in the country. In this situation, where farmers have to face odds, credits are being realised from them. Despite the waiving off loans by the Government, credit is demanded from them and they are being sent to jails. Farmers are demonstrating at many places in States and demanding the price of sugarcane. They are being subjected to harsh treatment by different means. I request the Government that they be paid at the moment and they must

be paid back their arrears and atrocities over farmers should stop.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be very brief. I would like to cover maximum number of notices that have been given.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): The issue of closure of fertilizer units of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and the Fertilizer Corporation of India was raised on the very floor of this House. Six units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India and the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation have been closed and thousands of workers have been thrown out on the streets. In the whole of eastern India consisting of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa, there will be no urea manufacturing units. The farmers of these States will have to buy fertilizer at a higher price.

An assurance was given by the Prime Minister when we met him that at least one fertilizer unit would be there in each State. In spite of the assurance given by the Prime Minister and in spite of the matter having been raised on the floor of the House, all these units have been closed down since 20th of December and the Durgapur Unit was closed down on 20th of January. Children of these workers are still studying in the schools. They have been evicted from their quarters. Water supply and electricity supply have been stopped. Where would the children go? The question as to how farmers would get fertilizer at a cheaper price has not been considered at all.

This is a very important issue. Fifteen thousand workers are still there in the National Jute Corporation Ltd. There are six units - five in West Bengal and one in Bihar. The Government, very recently has issued orders to close down all these six units of the NJMC. As a result of this, all the 15000 workers are on the streets. They have not received their salaries for the last six months. Five workers have committed suicide and two workers have died because of starvation. In spite of that, their salaries have not been paid and the Government has decided to close down all these units of the NJMC. As a result of this, jute growers of West Bengal also have suffered. I urge upon the Government to reconsider their decision to close down the fertilizer units as well as the units of the NJMC.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with Basudeb Acharia ji but despite this I want to say that my Durgapur unit alongwith 6 units had gone to the courts. The High Court have given the stay order till January 20th. When the date of stay order passed away, Shri Rajnish Goyal,

IAS, who is the director in your Ministry said that he would teach a lesson to Durgapur unit. No payment have been made in the Durgapur unit till now and not only this, the hospital and school have been closed. Not even payment of that has been done. In Haldia, Barauni and Ramagundam, 200-215 persons have been kept for post closure jobs carry out. But in Durgapur only 10 persons have been kept. Therefore, they cannot do all the work. The pay have not been paid even to people of Durgapur unit and Rajnish Goyal, IAS, I would say that the Government should have. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lakshman Seth, Shri. Tarit Baran Topdar and Shri Bikash Chowdhury will also be allowed to associate themselves with Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Sir, one unit of HFCL belongs to my constituency. This factory has been closed with effect from 20th December. Also, the employees have been relieved from duty with effect from 6th January, 2003. Most of the workmen have not been paid their dues as promised by the Government of India on the plea that they are staying in their quarters. The hon. Minister assured that till the examinations of the students were over, the workmen would be allowed to stay in their quarters. But, as I said earlier, the workmen have not been paid their dues. As a result of that, they are starving. They are not getting wages and they are not getting their other dues as a result of their staying in the quarters. So, my earnest request is that the workmen, who are willing to take the quarters, must be allowed to take the quarters. They should be allowed to possess the quarters so that they can continue to stay in their quarters and flats. The students also can continue their studies.

Sir, it is most inhuman on the part of the Government to have done this. That is why, we seek your intervention in this matter.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (MURSHIDABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, everybody knows that the hon. Prime Minister of this country has already announced the Rivers Linking Programme. The hon. Prime Minister has already announced that 37 big rivers of our country would be linked up. After that, the Planning Commission has also announced the programme. It has been reported that Rs.5,80,000 crore is required to link up the rivers. My point in this regard is that it is a huge programme. It should be discussed in this august House properly. The interest of every State should be considered. The river-related issues like erosion, floods etc. should be addressed in this programme.

In this regard, I would also like to say that the demand

of West Bengal also should be included in this programme. I would further like to say in this regard that there are any differences of opinion regarding the programme among the experts. Their views should be considered and taken up by the Government. The issue should be placed before this august House at the proper time and discussed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to tell you the view points of farmers of Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Munger, Banka of Bihar. When floods inundated Bihar in the months of August and September, Kharif crops were destroyed of the farmers of these districts in that flood. The farmers lost their crops of betel leaf, wheat, maize, banana, linseed and oil seeds. The wheat has bigger plant, ears have sprouted out but not a single grain is in it. The nature could not help it and the devastation of nature was such that all crops were destroyed in snowfall which took place there. Today farmers of Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Munger at Banka are weeping in their field. The rabi crop of these farmers are also destroyed. No foodgrains is available as eatables in their homes. Besides, problem of repaying loans have also cropped up for the farmers. I request the Union Government that it should send a team there from here. That team must take stock of compensation for the crops of farmers. Therefore, I request the PM that these farmers who are weeping and in search of an urgent help must get the compensation from National Calamity Relief Fund for their destroyed crops.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to raise a very important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Sir, Shri Vetrivelan also has to raise a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: That is very nice.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA): Sir, three major tremors rocked the village Mirkhel of taluka Degalur of district Nanded of Marathwada region of Maharashtra. People were panick-stricken after half past five o'clock in the evening. Complete information regarding incident has not been received that how many persons have been killed in that. Latur district is at the side of Maharashtra. Dharashiva district which is called Osmanabad like Aurangabad is called Shombhujee Nagar, many houses have collapsed. I want to attract the attention of the Union Government through you towards Deglur taluka and want that

loss due to tremor, apart from giving maximum help in the crisis, information in that regard must be given to the House.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (VADODARA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for permitting me to raise a very important issue pertaining to my State, Gujarat and that is about connecting of the Gujarat coastline with National Highways.

The map of National Highways of India reveals that most of the coastline of the country is connected with National Highways, whereas the Gujarat coastline, which comprises of 25 per cent of the total coastline of the country, is not connected with National Highways. The Government of Gujarat had repeatedly requested the Central Government to take necessary action in this regard, but nothing has materialised as yet. So, I would urge the Government to connect the Gujarat coastline with National Highways.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Sir, a demonstration was organised in Meerut against Hindu terrorism by a dalit organisation named Rashtra Juta Brigade on December 8, 2002. RSS people opposed it and burnt their effigy. Initially the police helped. Police arrested 214 people of the organisation and kept in Meerut jail for two and a half months. Through you, I request the department of home and grave injustice have been meted out to them. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, they must get justice.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (BALAGHAT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to thank you that you have called my name. The subject I am going to raise is an issue of Madhya Pradesh giving constitutional challenges. An area in Baihar of my constituency Balaghat district is such which is the den of Naxalites. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have raised my voice at least twenty times against Naxalism during the last three years.

Sir, what the hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has said in his speech at Baihar meeting is worth considering in the House. I have with me the C.D and video cassette of the said speech. I am not the one to keep quiet on this issue. This must be resolved here in this session. The Chief Minister openly said in the public meeting that they should not fight against him. And he further elaborated that he had been doing what I wanted and that if at all I had to fight I should do so against the Central Government. P.W.G is a banned organisation in regard to which the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh says openly in the public meeting that we should fight against the Central Government and not against him.

The second objectionable thing he said was against the

Forces. He said very jokingly that they should not execute any incident for the next four months. I would like to request you to kindly allow me to lay the C.D. of the said speech on the table of the House. I have also written in this regard to the hon. Home Minister and the Governor of Madhya Pradesh and have also provided the CD. to them. I really fail to understand the definition of POTA. The man who is occupying the constitutional post in Madhya Pradesh where he goes on provoking a Naxalite group against the Central Government. This House must discuss and decide whether the Chief Minister of a State enjoys the right of making such statement. If he makes such a statement then the Central Government must take action against him. This House must decide as to what sort of action may be taken in this kind of situation.

I would like to request you not to confine this matter to the Zero Hour. Moreover, I would like you to allow me to place the C.D. of the concerned speech on the table of the House so that the matter can be decided.

[English]

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (ANANTAPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a burning issue concerning the most backward area, that is, Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh. There is Guntakal Railway Division. It was formed in 1955. Since the inception of this Division, it has been catering to the needs of the people of Rayalaseema.

Yesterday, the Ministry of Railways has issued a fresh Notification with regard to the territory of this Division. In that Notification, an injustice has been done to the Guntakal Division. The Bellary section in that Division has been bifurcated and merged with Hubli Division.

The total income from this Division is Rs. 536 crore out of which it is getting Rs. 400 crore per year only from transportation of iron-ore. The iron-ore mines are located only in the Bellary section. That is why this division will be questionable in future.

I would request the Ministry of Railways to please pick up the old Notification, issued on 2nd July, 2002. In this regard, there was no need to issue a fresh Notification within eight months.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (MORADABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House to the problems of sugar cane farmers of western Uttar Pradesh. The Sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh are facing problems for so many years. They are not getting payments of their produces from the mill owners. The farmers

are not able to perform the marriage of their daughters and pay the school-fees of their wards. The farmers of western Uttar Pradesh are staging a dharna at the court, but the Government is spelling all sorts of miseries against them. Through you, I would like to tell the Central Government that when the Central Govt. is booking so many persons under POTA then it should also book those mill owners under POTA who are not making payment of farmers. Moreover, I would also like to add that until the farmers get payment of their produce, there should be a stay on the recovery notice served to the farmers.

KUNWAR AHKILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Sir, I support the contention of the Hon. Member and would like to mention that Central Govt. has given a free hand to the Uttar Pradesh Govt. The Central Govt. is a mute spectator. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You make my work easier.

[English]

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue in my constituency as well as in Tamil Nadu. Bangalore and Mysore Divisions will be taken away from the Southern Railways. These will form part of the South-Western Railway with effect from 1st April, 2003. This has been inaugurated by the hon. Prime Minister at a function held recently. The sections from Bangalore to Omalur and Patchur to Jolarpettai are at present with Bangalore Division of Southern Railway and with the formation of South-Western Railway, these sections will go to the South-Western Railway.

My constituents are very much agitated by this move. The Railway employees working on the Hosur-Omalur and Patchur-Jolarpettai Sections will now have to run to Hubli for sorting out their problems.

At present they have easy access to Bangalore being the Divisional Headquarters and Chennai being the Zonal Headquarters. When these sections are merged with South Western Railway, the employees will also be subjected to transfer to Karnataka and they will face immense problems of educating their children.

The Railway users also feel that they will not get a fair deal from the South-Western Railway and for all the problems, which have to be sorted out at the Zonal level, they will have to go to Hubli for which there is no easy access by train. ...*(Interruptions)* No, that is not true. There is no train from Jolarpettai to Hubli.

Sir, there is already some animosity against the Tamil

people as far as Karnataka State is concerned for various reasons. It may not be out of place to mention that during the Kaveri water agitation even vehicles with Tamil number plates were the target of the fury unleashed by antisocial elements.

I, on my party, even though tempers were inflamed, ensured that my constituents did not resort to any violence against the Kannada speaking people. Nevertheless, the feeling persists that if the Omalur-Hosur and Patchur-Jolarpettai sections remain with Bangalore Division and thereby get merged with South-Western Railway, the railway users as well as Railway employees will be treated as "Outsiders." Such ill feeling will degenerate into a serious industrial relations problems.

I therefore, strongly urge that the Omalur-Hosur and Jolarpettai-Patchur Sections are retained with Southern Railway. As a temporary measure, It can be merged with Palghat Division and in due course it will form part of the Salem Division for which all the MPs of Tamil Nadu have demanded in one voice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat now. I have called Shri Punnu Lal Mohale.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. I cannot give you so much time.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government have introduced Crop Insurance Scheme in Chhattisgarh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Mohale's statement will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mohale ji, you speak. Your speech is going on record.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Govt. has introduced Crop Insurance Scheme in States like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat as also in Chhattisgarh. The paddy crop in Chhattisgarh has been destroyed. ...*(Interruptions)* No proper step has been taken to implement

the Crop Insurance Scheme in Chhattisgarh. Yet the farmers of the State have got the insurance done for their crops. After that the State witnessed drought. The Chhattisgarh Govt. has declared drought in the State. The assessment in regard to the damage to the crops has already been done but no compensation has been given. This is causing problem to the farmers. People of the State are not getting loans. The proposed waiving of loans has been stayed. The State Govt. is not doing that. Farmers of the State are not worried about the rabi crop. There is a problem of electricity and water. Farmers have no resources to repay their loans. The Central Government should ensure the payment of compensation amount to the farmers under the crop insurance scheme and should compel the State Government for this.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to raise the issue regarding Ganga-Padma River erosion.

The river erosion has assumed a serious dimension, particularly, in West Bengal. Thousands and thousands of people are being harassed and they are facing serious problems. Their houses, households and belongings are being lost due to the erosion. The erosion causes floods every year in West Bengal.

Sir, these points have been raised several times and we had also met the hon. Prime Minister to solve this problem. At present, lakhs and lakhs of people in West Bengal are on the streets, marching and urging upon the Union Government to address this matter urgently.

13.00 hrs.

This is a very serious issue and I urge upon the Union Government to address the matter and resolve it as soon as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANDHUKA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the gauge conversion work from Verawal to Surendra Nagar via Botad is underway. Consequently, local and mail trains running between Verawal and Amreli have been stopped. Therefore, the daily commuters including farmers and students are facing problems. There is no night train from Ahmedabad to Botad. I would like to request that one night train must be introduced. The metre gauge line from Botad to Ahmedabad must be converted into a broad gauge line. Moreover, new rail line should be laid from Dhosa to Botad so that the people of Gujarat and Saurashtra may be benefited.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up matters under rule 377. Shri Yogi Aditya Nath.

- (i) **Need to take steps for revival of closed sugar mills in eastern Uttar Pradesh.**

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR): Sir, the eastern part of U.P. is a densely populated area of the State but it is the most backward area from economic point of view. Major part of this area is bordering with Nepal and Bihar State. A unit of fertiliser industry was set up in Gorakhpur in the post independence era to develop it from industrial point of view. At present only sugar mills are the sole basis for industrial development of the area ensuring jobs to the unemployed youths and also a source of finance to the farmers and workers. All sugar mills were set up between the year 1920 to 1932. These sugar mills are being closed down one by one for lack of modernisation and expansion which should have been carried-out with the time. This is for certain that this area, which has unemployment high on its graphics, is going to suffer from starvation and the infamous anti-national organisations like I.S.I and SIMI involved in insurgent activities in the area are likely to succeed in misleading the youths there. So, industrial development of the area is of utmost importance. Economic package should be given to the closed mills so that the unemployed youths, farmers and workers can get the job and requisite development of the area can take place.

- (ii) **Need to confer 'Bharat Ratna' on late Kalpana Chawla, an astronaut of Indian origin**

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (JAMNAGAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kalpana Chawla of Indian origin, who was on a space mission, died all of a sudden in space itself. People all-over the world deeply mourned her death. People at several places paid tribute to her.

She was of Indian origin. So, great soul should be conferred the honour of 'Bharat Ratna' and this would be the only way to pay tribute to her in true sense. This is the highest ever award for those who bring laurels to the country. The Parliament and the country should honour them.

[English]

- (iii) **Need to take steps for connecting coastal areas in Gujarat with National Highways**

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (VADODARA): The Government of Gujarat has repeatedly requested the Central Government for connecting its coastal areas with National Highways, upgradation of N.H. 15 to Bhuj-Khavada-India Bridge-Dharamshala and four-laning of NH-8, 8A, 59 and 6 (total 140.20 kms. in length). But nothing has come out so far in this regard.

I urge the Government to take the necessary steps in this matter.

- (iv) **Need to provide adequate financial assistance to the Government of Gujarat to overcome drought situation in Kutch and other districts of the State**

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): Kutch district and other areas in Gujarat are facing third consecutive drought. People and cattle are facing acute shortage of drinking water and cattle feed, i.e. grass. Thousands of cattle in Kutch died due to non-availability of adequate grass and drinking water.

I urge the Central Government to grant additional assistance to State Government to overcome this grave situation.

- (v) **Need to formulate a plan for development of Inter-state navigation in Ganga River between Buxar and Farakka, Bihar**

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform you through this House that a major part from Buxar to Farakka in Bihar is covered by inland navigation through Ganga. There is a need to make inland navigation route navigation worthy to facilitate transportation and traffic facilities in Bihar. Other operational river systems are also there in Northern Bihar, through which inland navigation route probabilities can be explored to improve the traffic system and strengthen the economy.

I request the hon. Minister of Surface Transport to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study and chalk-out a concrete project for the implementation of the proposals emerging out of the study.

14.08 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

(vi) Need to include 'Angika' language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

SHRI SUBODH ROY (BHAGALPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir "Angika" is the mother tongue of rural areas of Bhagalpur, Banka, Munger, Khagadia, Jamui, Shekhpura, Lohisarai, Purnia, Godda, Sahebganj, Deoghar, Madhepura, Supoul, Begusaral and Katihar districts of Bihar. "Angika" is the most commonly used unguia franca of about three crore people. This is an ancient and rich language which is called by other names also. Lyricism is the basic feature of this language. It has got four dialects namely 1) Chamapanagar, 2) Mungaria, 3) Dharampusia and 4) Khoha. This language is spoken within an area covering about 58 thousand square kilometre. This language was used in the most ancient Vikramshila University. Now Tiika Manjhi-Bhagalpur University has opened a separate department for the study of the languages.

I, therefore, demand the Government for the inclusion of "Angika" language in the Eight Schedule of the Constitution for its proper development.

(vii) Need to implement the project of linking of rivers for better water management in the country

[English]

SHRI Y.V. RAO (GUNTUR): Sir, the whole country is facing an unprecedented drought situation. In several parts of the country, both in cities and villages, the situation has arisen where steps are to be taken for the supply of adequate quantity of drinking water besides water for agriculture. I may mention here that Gandipet on the banks of Moosi river dried up after 80 years causing concern for drinking water in Hyderabad.

All of us know that there is sufficient surplus water in many rivers including the Brahmaputra and the Ganga which overflow in the form of floods causing damage to human lives and property. Long back, an eminent engineer Dr. K.L. Rao had proposed the scheme of linking rivers to meet the requirement of water in all parts of the country. For several decades, the proposal has remained as it is. Now, it is fortunate that the hon. Prime Minister is taking a lot of interest in this proposal and efforts are under way to give a final shape. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has also supported the proposal. The proposal is very timely and worth considering.

I understand that the ultimate cost of the project may be

very high, but considering the benefits that may accrue to the people of the entire country, I urge upon the Government to seriously considering taking early steps for starting the project.

(viii) Need to take effective steps to solve growing employment problem in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Sir, through you, I would like to draw your kind attention to the burning problem of unemployment in the country. On the one hand, the country is forging ahead on the path of development and progress, new economic reforms are being passionately advocated, and it is being proudly claimed that the country's economy is getting strengthened and on the other increase in unemployment is being admitted in the Parliament tongue in cheek. I am not able to understand the contradiction. In fact, there is big difference between the claims and the ground realities of the liberalisation and industrial policy. This policy is capital intensive. The country needs labour intensive policy. Under the existing policy, the Government is encouraging the capital intensive industries. As a result of it, the job opportunities in the country are decreasing and unemployment is on the rise.

Therefore, I urge the Government that it should change its policy and encourage labour intensive technique so as to create more job opportunities in the country.

(ix) Need to restart functioning of oil depot in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): Sir, it has been brought to my notice by the Oil dealers and consumers of Marathwada that IOC, IBP, and HPC companies have discontinued distribution of oil from their depot at Aurangabad (Sambhajinagar) w.e.f. Jan. 2003. At present, the distribution of oil is being done from Manmad which is 150 k.m away from there. The companies say that depot at Sambhajinagar do not have the arrangements for shortage of ethanol mixed petrol but this reason is not at all convincing. Therefore, I would request that this depot should be made functional again.

(x) Need to declare Rohtas-Sasaram-Balia via Buxar road in Bihar as a National Highway.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (ARRAH): Sir, the road passing through Rohtas-Sasaram-Kargadam, Kochas, Chausa, Buxar to Balia in Uttar Pradesh is the main state highway. This is a quite busy road, All the light and heavy vehicles going from Bengal Jharkhand and Bihar to Balia in Uttar Pradesh pass through this highway. This is single lane highway. Owing to heavy traffic, the road generally remains congested causing several serious accidents resulting in heavy loss of life and property.

Therefore, I would request the Transport and Highway Minister to declare this state highway as the national highway in the larger public interest.

(xi) Need to waive interest on loans taken by farmers from various financial institutions in Karnataka

[English]

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN): There is a steep rise in the cases of farmers committing suicide in the country, particularly in Karnataka. It is alarming. Last month itself, that is, during January, 2003 six farmers committed suicide in Chikmagalur District of Karnataka. During the last six months, several farmers have committed suicide. These include coffee, tobacco and *toor dal* growers. Due to failure of monsoon in Karnataka, the farmers are in distress.

The farmers have taken loans from different banks and cooperative societies. At present, they are not in a position to repay the agricultural loans and its interest.

It is high time for the Government of India to extend its helping hand to Karnataka Government by giving financial help for the benefit of farmers.

I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister of India to direct all banks and other financial institutions to waive off interest on agricultural loan, to allow sufficient time for the farmers to repay the loans in instalments, and a part of the loan should also be exempted.

(xii) Need to expedite exploration of oil and gas reserves in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore districts in Rajasthan.

[Translation]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): Mr. Chairman, Sir, almost 50 per cent of total desert area of Rajasthan falls in my Parliamentary Constituency of Barmer and Jaisalmer. Though this area has got rich reserves of Zipsun, Granite, Steel grade lime, marble, oil and gas yet this area is backward, famine prone and with no job opportunities.

After a span of 40 years, the oil companies have found oil and gas reserves there. As informed by hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas on 4.2.03 a Scottish Company, Kairan Energy has found 20 million tonnes of oil and gas reserves in Gudamalani in Barmer district. Before it, the

Saraswati Oil Exploration company had found oil and gas reserves to the tune of 14 million tonnes. I would like to make a special mention here that oil and gas wells have been found in Sanchaur region of Jaisalmer and Jalore district. These finds should be given, priorities. The wells that were closed down owing to Indo-Pak tension should be made operational.

In the end, I would request the Hon. Prime Minister that -

(a) Foreign oil exploration companies should be assigned survey work of blocks in Barmer-Jaisalmer and Jalore districts.

(b) Adequate funds be allocated for extraction of oil in the areas where oil and gas reserves have been found.

(c) Oil refineries be set up on priority basis in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts for local testing and research work.

(xiii) Need to provide compensation to the farmers whose crops have been affected by hailstorm in Monghyr district in Bihar

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (MONGHYR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, heavy hailstorm in Jamalpur, Dharhara, Bariyapur and Khadagpur blocks in Munger district of Bihar on 1st Feb. has damaged the crops in Jhoa Bahiyar, Harinmar, Kalarampur, Itahari, Patam, Gadhi Rampur, Padiya, Parham, Parada, Sidhya, Shivkund, Hemagapur, Ukara, Lohachi, Jabnyad, Kalyanpur, Bariyapura etc. of village panchayats and villages causing heavy damage to wheat maize, mustard (oil seed), Arhar, Chana, Masoor and vegetables and affecting as many as 50 thousand farmers. The whole years income of the farmer has gone waste. Most of the farmers do not have Kisan credit cards and the district administration has not provided any insurance cover. The farmers do not have any money to invest in agriculture and to make both ends meet. They have been pushed to starvation. The Government is not providing any assistance thereby adding to their woes.

Therefore, I earnestly request the Hon. Agriculture Minister to provide compensation to the farmers. The farmers should be provided funds for agriculture and sustaining their lives. All loans should also be waived and administration be given directions to provide Kisan credit cards and insurance cover to the farmers and this areas be declared as famine affected.

14.20 hrs.

WATER (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Item No.6. Shri T.R. Baalu.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, be taken into consideration."

This Bill seeks to augment the resources of Central and State Pollution Control Boards and to promote economy in the use of water with a view to abating pollution.

With the passing of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rapid expansion of industries and towns, the responsibility and workload of the Pollution Control Boards have increased considerably. However, the financial and other resources available with these Boards have not kept pace with the increase in cost and with the overall commitments, which involve increased financial liabilities.

The Cess rates fixed in 1991 are low and have not been revised so far. The State Governments and the Central and State Pollution Control Boards have been emphasising the need to enhance the existing Cess rates. While the responsibilities of State Boards are still growing, there has been no commensurate increase in their resources, and the current Cess rates have not proved to be a sufficient deterrent to push consumers to reduce the use of water.

Though nearly three-fourths of earth is water, the estimated volume of fresh water in our rivers, ground water, snow and ice is about 2.5 per cent only, the rest being sea or salt water. Total usable fresh water supply to ecosystem and humans from river systems, lakes, wetlands, soil moisture and shallow ground water is less than one per cent of all fresh water and only 0.01 per cent of all the water on earth.

As per World Health Organisation, only 0.007 per cent of all water on earth is readily available for human consumption globally. This indicates that fresh water on earth is finite and also unevenly distributed. Thus, water, as a national resource is very precious. However, we are taking to unsustainable use of water, much water is wasted, used inefficiently and polluted through abusive exploitation. The per capita availability of fresh water is fast declining.

In India, the per capita average annual fresh water availability has reduced from 5177 cubic meters from 1951 to about 1820 cubic meters in 2001, and is estimated to further come down to 1341 cubic meters in 2025. Therefore, we are required to take all measures to promote conservation and efficient use of water. This Bill is a decisive step in this direction.

Sir, the proposal to enhance water Cess rates is in consonance with the Government's Policy Statement on Abatement of Pollution, which prescribes adoption of economic instruments for abatement of pollution and conservation of natural resources. Economic instruments integrate economic consideration into environmental decision-making. They offer an incentive to industries to reduce pollution below the levels determined by regulations and disincentive to those who use excessive water.

They encourage adoption of new technologies, cleaner production processes and promotion of non-polluting and environment-friendly products by favouring new research and development activities.

Further, the economic instruments help to promote conservation of natural resources, and also act as a source of finance to the statutory agencies entrusted with the task of controlling pollution.

The standards of effluents are notified under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and failure to comply with the prescribed standards attracts prosecution.

These regulations become more effective when combined with economic instruments, and the Water Cess Act offers an economic incentive to reduce pollution.

Water consuming industrial units which conform to the prescribed standards for effluents have to pay lower amounts of cess, and this acts as a financial incentive for units to comply with the prescribed standards.

By enhancing the cess rates, this incentive becomes a stronger motivating force for reducing pollution.

The present proposal is to increase the current rates of cess on water consumption approximately three-fold over the existing rates.

The new rates will indicate the maximum permissible level and the actual rates will be notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests from time to time.

Sir, the Bill also seeks to extend cess application to all categories of industries which consume water more than the prescribed minimum water quantity and discharge sewage or trade effluents.

However, cess on hydel power is proposed to be abolished on the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

The Bill as presented to the hon. House is in conformity with the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

The Bill has been drawn up as a result of consultation between the Central and State Pollution Control Boards and other Ministries and Departments.

Sir, through you, I look forward to this august House for valued opinion and support for this measure.

With these words, I move the Motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, be taken into consideration."

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Respected Chairperson, we support this Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2000. But at the same time, we doubt whether making the water cess and collecting the cess for the purpose of the Pollution Control Board is constitutional or not. This point has to be answered. It is because now the Constitution is very clear in telling that water supply and drainage are in the State List of the Seventh Schedule, entry 17, which says: "Water, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power subject to the provisions of entry 56 of List 1."

In the same way, the State Governments have got powers regarding water on the surface. But at the same time, the panchayats have now been vested with more powers of regulating water in their areas by the new amendment of the Constitution of India by making the Eleventh Schedule wherein the drinking water is the item 11 of the Eleventh Schedule. In the same ways, Nagarpalikas - Municipalities and Corporations - have got the right under the Twelfth Schedule to regulate water supply, that is, item 5 - water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes.

Therefore, in toto, the power for regulating the water now shifts from the hands of the Central Government. Even if we take it in a comprehensive way, the land and the water underground is the property of the State. In the federal set up, the State has got the right on the land. Whatever is there inside the land, be it major or minor mineral, the right is with the State Government. It is classified by the Act of the Parliament.

But at the same time, water is now a scarce commodity in every State. A lot of fighting is going on; and the State Governments are coming forward with more legislations, to regulate groundwater, on the basis of sample laws of the Central Government. In Tamil Nadu, there is a new legislation now, as a result of which, people could not dig new wells. If they do, they will be prosecuted and imprisoned. So, very stringent management is going on just to preserve the scarce commodity, that is, water, which is an asset of a particular State.

Now, the Central Government wants to have cess on water, especially on the consumption made by the industry. The new Bill in Clause 2 says:

"(c) 'Industry' includes any operation or process, or treatment and disposal system, which consumes waters and/or gives rise to sewage effluent or trade effluent, but does not include any hydel power unit."

No doubt, it is clubbed with the activity of the industry. It is clubbed with the production or manufacturing of an industry. Keeping that aspect in mind, as 'industry' is the subject of the Central Government, how can the Central Government have cess on water which is a scarce commodity for the villagers? The industries are now polluting the entire system of Indian social structure. They get some property in a particular village and they take away water from the underground and from the surface, the rain water preserved in the tanks or from the irrigation tanks. They take out water with the help of very gigantic motors, making the villagers suffer because they will be without water for their agricultural purposes.

Therefore, I request the Government to do certain things. I know that the hon. Minister is very dynamic; he has created, an environment friendly nation. India has become environment friendly now. By addressing many seminars and conferences, India is now one of the countries where environment is given the top priority. But at the same time, we have to look at the aspect of villagers who are dependent on water alone. Even for drinking purposes, many villages do not have water. Now, multi-purpose drinking water facilities are made available. Through Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Facilities, the Central Government is spending a lot of money to give water to one village which may be about 20-40 kms. away from a particular village. They dig out water and supply water to the whole village; so, the entire village is dependent on one source. If that source is also taken away by the industries, by way of their consumption - water cess is also now going to the Central Government or the State Government's Pollution Control Board - how can the local panchayats manage themselves? They will not get water for their drinking water purposes; their own resources are taken away by the industry. They do not

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

get water either for drinking purposes or for irrigation purposes. This has to be looked into.

I request that there should be an overall review of this aspect to see whether this cess can go to panchayats and municipalities. Cess may be collected now; it may be challenged in the court; it may be looked into by the Legal Department whether it can be done properly or not. Till then, at least, water cess should be given to the panchayats and municipalities. They are dependent on water management only; water cess can be utilised for augmenting local resources and not for the management of the State Pollution Control Board or the Central Pollution Control Board. They can earn money for their own management through some other means, but they need not utilise this water cess. This is my first submission. Many of the multinational corporations, in the name of Coca Cola or Pepsi or in the name of some mineral water, are stealing away the entire resources of the villages.

Villages are becoming poorer and poorer day in, day out. Scientific studies are being carried out. With the help of satellite mapping, we could find out that the level of underground water throughout India, especially in South India and more particularly in Tamil Nadu, is very poor and if the same situation continues for 20-30 years, we will have another Sahara desert in South India. This is the finding of INSAT mapping. Remote-controlled scientific studies are coming out with a clear theory that we have to preserve water as far as possible. Environment pollution should be controlled as early as possible. We are not objecting to the prevention and control of pollution. It is very-very important as it eats away the vital part of the Indian social system.

Those multinational companies which are not allowed to start an industry in the West are being allowed to put up an industry in the Asian countries, especially in India. We know the Bhopal incident. That industry was totally prohibited in America and, therefore, they came forward to put up an industry in India, more so, in the central part of the city. Same thing happens with every chemical industry throughout India. The companies which are being banned by the European and American countries, we are very flexible in allowing them to start an industry here just because they are willing to do so and the result is, they pollute the mainland. Pollution cannot be controlled by remote control, sitting either in Delhi or Chennai. The Pollution Board is not so effective to catch the culprit red-handed. They can very easily cheat the Board by asking whether there is any public interest litigation in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has directed that all the 11 industries should be closed. Similarly, all the industries in and around Agra should be closed. This sort of dictum is being followed by the Ministry. They could not have the power to

see that this type of pollution is controlled. Therefore, what I would like to stress upon is, the Central Government should give more teeth to the panchayats and local boards so that they can prevent pollution. We have got the Ministry. The hon. Minister Shri Baalu has floated a lot of enactments like the environment friendly, Bio-diversity Act which has given power to the villages and communities. They can manage the assets, utilise usufruct and earn profit. This type of new thinking has come up in the way of legislation brought forward by the Environment Ministry. Why not the same thing comes up in this particular area also because according to the Constitution, water has to be managed by the local bodies? Local bodies should have the system to monitor and punish the people as also to get the assets from the persons who are actually enjoying this facility for their industrial purposes.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that the original enactment, that is, the Water (Prevention and Control) Pollution Act, 1974, was initiated during the period of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Pre-emptively this Bill was brought so that entire India can be protected from pollution as early as possible. Subsequently there was dilution of power. The Executive was not so efficient to implement this Act. I am afraid, even though we are having a cess of five paise per kilo litre, how are we going to manage it. What is the system? How is the human resource available with the Pollution Control Board going to enforce it?

Suppose an industry has not paid it, what is the remedy available? Are they going to file a suit? Are they going to enforce it through Revenue Recovery Act. Is there any tie up with the State Governments or the local administration? All these things have to be considered. I think the talisman lies in giving power to the local bodies so that they can well manage the situation. At the same time, they can also protect their own interest by not allowing the industries to take away the water. We have got many examples to state in this regard.

The first violator is the respective corporation. I may be giving a contradictory view. On the one hand, I am saying that the corporations and the local bodies should have the power to execute water cess but on the other hand, I am saying that they are the violators of the pollution laws. It is because very easily, they put all the sewage at one place. It may be land or irrigation tank or waste land or wet land. Nobody bothers about it. How are we going to see that the pollution is properly controlled? Have we asked the corporations or other agencies to go in for re-cycling? All these things have to be considered. We are giving powers to one agency but we are not giving power to the grassroot people, which means the total system will be in chaos. Therefore, we have to give duties as well as rights to the same bodies so that they can enforce it properly.

If we find any violation, we can compel that particular institution or the local body to mend ways. We can tell them that they have to obey the law, otherwise action will be taken against them.

I can give the example of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation where they are dumping a lot of sewage to the detriment of the people living in that corporation limit. People living there are having a lot of contagious diseases because the Corporation puts the sewage in the very mainland in Coimbatore. In the same way, a lot of river-beds are polluted by the industries which are placed nearby. Nobody can take action against them. There is no clear law to tell that you have violated the law, and, therefore, you will be prosecuted. We have to give the petition to the Pollution Board and they will have an inquiry sitting in Chennai or somewhere else. They will take their own time. If they go to court, then they will stop the entire industry. All these things are happening. Therefore, a clear system should be evolved so that the municipalities could control the industries and the municipalities themselves are also controlled properly.

With this observation, I would like to suggest that there should be a total review of this particular Bill. We may enact it now but afterwards the Ministry could look into it and have some discussion with the local administration to see that this enactment is enforced properly. It should not be that it remains only on paper or enforced in certain areas. No area should be left out for breeding corruption through official system.

With these words, I support this Bill but at the same time, I request for reconsideration of this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (DOMARIAGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on my legs to support this Bill. This Bill has been introduced for imposing water cess since all the industries are misusing water. The original Bill was enacted in 1977. A long time has passed since then and it has been misused several times. This bill seeks to make the water Board see to it that water is not misused and does not get polluted. The water gets polluted due to nullahs flowing in towns and cities. Water is life and it is our duty to save water from getting polluted. I, therefore, support this Bill and this Bill should be enacted so that people may be free from water borne diseases in the coming days and they remain healthy.

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (MURSHIDABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, before coming to the subject of the Bill, namely, Water Reservation and Control of Pollution Cess (Amendment) Bill, I would like to inform the House about a news item

published in one of the important dailies today. It says, '48 students of a Delhi Government Girls High School in Shakurpur in North-West Delhi fell ill after drinking contaminated water from school taps'. The very heading of the Bill says 'Prevention and Control of Pollution' but this is the kind of water that we are drinking everyday. There was also another report in the newspapers recently that water was found to be contaminated in the sealed mineral water bottles. This is the actual position in regard to the so-called pollution free water all across the country.

Sir, the first point that I would like to make is that according to our Constitution, the subject of water is in the State List. So, after the passing of this Bill, the State Governments should be taken into confidence in regard to the implementation of the various provisions of this Bill. Since the subject of water is in the State List, the Ministry concerned would have to devise a process by which the various State Governments would be taken into confidence while implementing the various provisions of this Bill. I am in favour of this Bill. But I would like to know as to how the Ministry proposes to take the State Governments into confidence in this matter.

Sir, the basic object of this Bill is to increase the cess. It has been stated in the Objects and Reasons of the Bill that, 'the present rate of water cess is inadequate for the purpose of meeting the financial requirements of the Central and State Pollution Boards and so it is very much required to increase the rate of cess'. It has also been stated in the Bill that this increase in cess is meant only for the industrial sector. I would like to submit in this regard that the domestic sector should be exempt from this. It is not desirable to impose cess on water that is used for drinking and cooking purposes.

Sir, it has also been mentioned that, 'it is also expected that rationalisation of the cess rates structure will induce discipline and economy in the use of water'. I suppose it is a bit ambitious thought. It is not possible to induce a sense of discipline and economy in the use of water by increasing the rate of cess. I feel, inducing discipline and economy in the use of water is required, but we need to devise some other system for doing this.

It has also been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that this is necessary because gradually water is becoming a scarce natural resource. This is absolutely correct. Water is a scarce natural resource. We should try our best to protect this natural resource. We must devise some methods in order that we could protect this natural resource.

Now I come to the speech made by the hon. Minister while introducing the Bill. He talked about fresh water. But there is no context to observe that the fresh water is the minimum demand of every citizen of the country. What is the

[Shri Moinul Hassan]

situation throughout the country today? It is not the case of a particular State. In different States like Delhi, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh; in South, North and central region; people are very much searching for fresh water, especially in rural areas. People are forced to drink the arsenic fluoride mixed water. This is a health hazard and would pose a big problem to the people. There is no proper treatment available. I am saying all this because our minimum requirement is the potable fresh water, which is not being provided to my countrymen.

Recently, the Government introduced the Swajaldhara programme. Hon. Rashtrapati has also mentioned about this programme yesterday in his Address. But, I have my own doubts because the previous programme launched by the Government of India for fresh potable water is almost stopped. I understand that it is a State subject. But for a long time, Government of India has also been giving some funds to build water treatment plants in order to make potable water available to the common people especially in rural areas and basti areas. I apprehend that it is now going to be stopped. Therefore, I would request through you, Sir, that the Government should take up this programme again to set up as many water treatment plants as possible in a big way, so that people would get fresh water as announced by the hon. Minister. Otherwise, there will be a great problem.

In my district of West Bengal, arsenic-free water is a craze of the common people. Arsenic water is like poison. Doctors and scientists say that arsenic fluoride is mixed in ground water throughout the country. At least 12-13 States are now suffering with this contamination. I request that proper action should be taken by the Government of India.

Coming to the provisions of the Bill, I see that cess is going to be increased for the industrial sector. There should be substantial increase of cess for the industrial sector for different reasons because it is now required to be done. But at the same time, the Government should be cautious about how to use this extra cess and who will use it. There should be a proper mechanism to use this money to improve conditions in areas where pollution is taking place due to the industrial activities.

With these words, I would conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Amendment Bill regarding water pollution as introduced by the Hon. Minister mentions that it seeks to further amend the Act which was enacted in 1977. Under the Bill enacted in 1974, the Pollution Control Boards of the Centre

and the States were constituted. When the revenues declined, taxes are levied to increase them. However, cess on water was imposed in 1991 without making amendment to the Act. But now the Government wants to amend the Act. The rate of water cess would be increased further so that Pollution Control Boards work better. Everybody knows that water is life and one can't do without water. 97% of the sea-water is saline and only the remaining 3 per cent is potable but that too has got polluted. Will the hon. Minister state that increase in water cess would be of any help to the Pollution Control Boards? There is scarcity of drinking water in villages because the ground water is getting polluted. What remedial measures the Government has taken for this? People discharge waste material in rivers, nullahs, ponds and pits which lead to contamination of ground water. Of course, the quality of water is good at a depth of 200 ft. Today's newspaper have carried a news item that 34 children have been taken ill in Delhi after consuming contaminated water. What does it mean? It simply means that the people are drinking contaminated water. Nearly half of the diseases in the country are caused by contaminated water and despite this fact the Government propose to impose cess on water. The industrial lobby in our country is very strong. The sugar industry is the biggest polluter. The Pollution Control Board has failed to take any action against it.

14.57 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair)

Madam Chairperson, the hon. Members know the extent to which the sugar mills are responsible for pollution of water in the areas where there are sugar mills. Now, one has modern technology with the help of which we can check water-pollution. But this thing requires funds which the sugar mill owners do not want to provide. They are polluting water. Water is a national asset. The industry lobby says that there is water, air and noise pollution but I think that the thinking of this Government have also got vitiated. The Government should tell about the measures to get rid of all sorts of pollution since one cannot do without water. When the snow melts on the high reaches, its water comes down, along the rivers and that too gets polluted. The rain and pond water also gets polluted. But the Pollution Control Board seems to have no way out to tide over this problem. The common public is also aware that the surface water has got polluted but water which comes out from a 200 ft. deep tube well is safe for drinking.

15.00 hrs.

But the water available at a depth of 25-30 ft. is polluted and it also does not taste good and one does not feel like

drinking it. But there is no system in place to improve it or check the pollution. How a man will do without groundwater? But the Government intends to increase the water cess.

When they have not made provision for charge in the case of hydel power why have they done so in the case of thermal power? Water is also used in thermal power. Dematerialised water is used in that and that is also polluted one, various metals are present in that, when the water evaporates, the tube leaks in thermal power and then water is required for making the ash. In generating hydel power, the water flows continuously and water costs nothing in generating hydel power. Water flows downwards and thereby power is generated. You have exempted it, it is all right but why a tariff has been levied on the thermal power. This thing should be explained.

They say that wherever the Government want to give exemption, it will do so. If you want to give such exemption then what is the need of a law. Industrialists have their lobby and are dominating over the Government, therefore their factories are causing pollution just to save a few crores of rupees and the Pollution Control Boards are also not discharging their duties properly. I want to give examples of pollution caused by factories. Fishes are dying in villages due to polluted water in villages and the people are drinking the same water. Rich people drink bottled water priced at Rs.10 a litre but after tests it was found that 60% of the bottled water is also contaminated. A farmer is getting just Rs.8/- per litre of milk sold while water is being sold at Rs.10/- a litre. What a shame for the Government and what a shameful system is in place.

The proverb, the water is life will be pragmatic only when the water will be free from pollution and the common man gets safe drinking water. This is a issue concerning most of the pool. A poor man drinks the water which is available to him irrespective of its quality and that causes several diseases. The modern medical science testified that half of the diseases are caused by the polluted water. Various viruses which find their entry into one's body through water causing several diseases including stomach related disease. The Hon. Minister should ensure that the cess which is being increased by making an announcement to the water (Prevention and Control of Pollution/Cess Amendment/Bill) will give a fillip to the Prevention Control Boards at the centre and States and their financial health would be improved. It has been felt that this will prove more effective. But it has not been stated clearly whether this will help control pollution and provide clean and safe drinking water to the people and also whether it will be sustainable. This Bill was drafted by the officers and the hon. Minister has simply brought forward it. But if arrangements are made to provide safe drinking water to the people and

work to control pollution is undertaken, then only we will support this Bill otherwise we oppose it.

The hon. Minister should first share his information with us regarding the measures taken by the Government to save the water of the river, the pond and the ground water from pollution so that people could get safe ground water at a reasonable level. I want to know whether the hon Minister has any information about it. Only after that this Bill should be passed, otherwise we oppose this.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Madam Chairman, at the outset, I would like to welcome this piece of legislation which has been presented by the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests Shri T.R. Baalu.

The Water Cess Act was enacted in 1977. The objective of the Act was to augment the resources of the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards. It was enacted to provide for the levy and collection of cess on the consumption of water by the specified industries and local authorities. The cess rate was revised, for the first time, in 1991 by effecting an approximately three-fold increase. The cess is collected by the State Pollution Control Board and later on disbursed as per the formula notified by the Government.

The proposed amendment is to strengthen the Pollution Control Boards. When we are augmenting the resources of the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards, when we are trying to rationalise the cess rate, I would like to mention one or two very important points before the hon. Minister.

Today, the serious concern of the entire humanity is pollution - the pollution of the rivers, the pollution of the small ponds and water sources. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the State Pollution Control Boards are functioning to our expectations. We are welcoming the steps taken for augmenting the cess. At the same time, I would like to know whether the Government of India has taken any step to review the performance of the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards. Of course, the State Pollution Control Boards are functioning under the control of the State Governments. At the same time, the Central Pollution Control Board has also got the same control over the State Pollution Control Boards. In my opinion, the dismal picture can be seen everywhere. Rampant corruption can be seen in some of the State Pollution Control Boards. There are a lot of allegations raised umpteen number of times in various forums. They have not been taken seriously by the

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

Government. This is a very serious matter. The Pollution Control Boards are expected to play a very vital role in our country. But, unfortunately, this is not happening.

Next, water is a very precious wealth in the present day situation. The water scarcity is a major concern of the whole humanity. The historian says that if there is a third-world war, it will be fought on water. In Syria, there was a small war fought on water. It was not noticed properly. There was a war fought on water. The rivers are polluted in a large scale. There is over-dependence on the ground water. There is no scheme for preserving the rain water. Also, serious attention is not paid by various Governments for preserving the natural water sources. Mr. Minister, of course, this is not entirely your subject. This is a subject which is connected with the Water Resources Ministry also. So, when we are talking about water pollution, these issues are to be addressed properly.

What is happening now? Most of the rivers are drying or dying in our country. Wherever you go, you can see the big bridges. There is no water. The bridges were built up once upon a time when the rivers were full and active. We can see the bridges on the rivers and rivers without any water at all. If one river dies, the State dies, the culture dies and the humanity dies. So, proper attention has not been paid to this aspect.

Now, the major concern is regarding selling of rivers in certain States. In my State of Kerala, major multinational companies are trying to purchase river water in a large scale.

It was started when the Left Democratic Front Government was in power in Kerala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): No, that is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Your Government had started it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: But the implementation was done by your Government.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: It has become a very controversial matter in Kerala. I would like to know whether any State Government is empowered to sell the river water to the multinational companies.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Shri Antony has started it.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Shri Antony has not taken any decision on this matter. Your Government had

started this. Our Government has not taken any decision on this matter. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not want to enter into any kind of argument here on this matter. I am talking about the general problem being faced by the people in the country. It is not only in Kerala, but in other places also, the multinational companies are coming and they are trying to take away the water from the rivers. This is going to be a major environmental problem in our country. That is my concern.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: But after they bottle, it is even more polluted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Yes, that has been widely reported in newspapers.

I would like to point out here that there is no cess levied by the Government on these people who are selling water at Rs. 19 and Rs. 15 and earning profit out of this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Madam Chairperson, there should be an inquiry as to whether the Health Minister or the Environment Minister is responsible for the selling of polluted water. Who gave clearance for this? All the facts should be tabled in the House very soon. We cannot spare the Minister on this count, because they are playing with the life of the people in the name of water.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: They have given a clean chit to the bottlers by saying that the standards are set by the World Health Organisation.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Madam, this is a very serious issue. What they are selling is not at all mineral water. It is so-called mineral water. They take water from our own rivers, bottle it, put their label and are earning profit out of it, but there is no cess levied on them.

I would like to submit that the time has come to check all these kinds of activities. There should be some kind of restriction on use of water because our rivers are getting polluted and due to that, environmental degradation is taking place.

In our country, drinking water problem is the major issue in every village. The ground water level has gone down. The ponds and wells have dried up and have been completely abandoned by the people. There is no water for agricultural operations. Every State is fighting with its neighbouring State for water. Tamil Nadu is fighting with Karnataka, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are fighting for water and Punjab and Rajasthan are also fighting. Even our State Kerala is fighting with Tamil Nadu for water. So, due to scarcity, it has become a national issue which is concerning all sections of the society.

Madam, river pollution is a major problem in our country. The hon. Minister is well aware about the holy river Pamba in Kerala. Pamba is a holy river which is catering to the requirements of thousands of Sabarimala pilgrims in our State of Kerala. Pamba is the major river in our State and that is polluted now. This is known to the Minister. The Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for cleaning this river and the Minister was very kind enough to give assurances to our Chief Minister and also Members of Parliament from Kerala. Shri Francis George, myself and other Members of Parliament from Kerala approached the Minister and requested him to take necessary action for the proper cleaning of the river Pamba.

I would request that this work should be included in the National River Conservation Project and more money should be allotted to this project instead of giving money to Pollution Control Boards which have become very corrupt. If more and more money is given to the National River Conservation Project, they can take up many more programmes and clean our rivers. So, I would like to emphasise that the Pamba Action Plan is very much essential for the State of Kerala because the Pamba river caters to the requirements of thousands of pilgrims who come to Sabarimala every year.

There is another river called Manimala and this also meets the requirements of Sabarimala pilgrims who are coming from different parts of the country. Thousands of pilgrims are coming to Erimeli and also utilising the Manimala river. It should be included either in the Pamba Action Plan or a separate plan has to be prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests so that Manimala river can be cleaned up. Why I am saying this is because in the coming days, this is going to become a major issue. So, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has to pay more attention in cleaning up the rivers and preserving the natural water resources. More and more attention should also be given towards proper implementation and functioning of the State Pollution Control Boards.

Of course, we have a water policy. Under the changed circumstances, it is all the more necessary to have a relook on the water policy which we are having. In my opinion, a comprehensive water policy should be brought forward before this august House to have a relook on the major issues that are being faced by the people and the society.

A major challenge is coming from the side of the MNCs and big industrialists. I am giving you an example. In our State, Kochi is having an industrial belt. The people of Kochi and surrounding areas are not getting drinking water. At the same time, all major industries in that area are getting plenty of water. Why are we allowing them to do that? Even in the villages,

the people are not getting drinking water. But these industries are getting enough water. Why are we allowing them? We are having a serious shortage of water for agricultural operations. In this case, why can't we tell them to desalinate the seawater and use it? Anyway, they are investing a lot of money. Why can they not utilise seawater for industrial purposes?

I suggest that by looking into the scarcity of water, the Government of India should instruct them to utilise seawater for their industrial operations so that the poor people can be saved from the scarcity of water.

Since the Minister hails from the State of Tamil Nadu and has always been fighting for the Cauvery water, I think, these issues have to be addressed seriously. These issues can be sorted out only when we have a vision.

The Standing Committee has given three recommendations. I congratulate the Minister because he has accepted those recommendations. One recommendation is excluding the hydel projects. The cess on water used for domestic purposes need not be increased. The cess need not be levied on the use of water by hydel power units. All industries which use water and cause pollution may be covered under the Act by examining Schedule I of the Act. These three recommendations have been accepted. You have respected the wishes of the Standing Committee. I express my deep gratitude to you for this gesture.

This issue is very serious. Within the context of discussing a small amendment will not satisfy the House. I think some time has to be found out separately. This House has to discuss the issue of scarcity of water, preservation of natural resources and effective utilisation of rain water. All these aspects have to be discussed properly.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): I would like to speak on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am calling from the list before me. There has been some confusion in the list given by the Secretariat. I will just check up.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Madam Chairperson, I rise here to support this Bill which has been moved by the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests for imposition of cess on water. It is very important because water is life and there are lot of stories about water in history also.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

When Shahjahan was jailed in Red Fort in Agra, he wanted to drink the water of Yamuna, but was refused that water by Aurangzeb. So, it is written on the Taj Mahal that 'Blessed are the Hindus who offer water to the dead'. Therefore, water is life and it definitely is the source of life in this planet Earth. To conserve it, our Minister has taken the initiative and I congratulate him on this move. But at the same time, Madam Chairperson, I would like to say that water has been carelessly dealt with since long.

The pre-Independence per capita consumption and availability of water was very high, but now if you take the statistics, you will see that per capita availability and consumption of water has drastically gone down. Therefore, clearly indicating that water has become a very scarce commodity and it should be protected carefully.

At the same time, I would like to say that the Pollution Boards of the Centre and the States, who are supposed to monitor the proper utilisation of water have not been able to do. In my Legislative Assembly career for three terms, I have been a member of the Forest and Environment Committee at the State level in Orissa. A lot of cases were booked against industrialists who were polluting the water but not a single conviction was made. So, from here you can come to know the seriousness with what the various Pollution Boards are functioning. So, some seriousness has to be gone into for implementing and checking pollution in water.

Now, Ganga Action Plan is there. At the same time for cleaning up Brahmaputra some money has been sanctioned. Similarly, there are rivers in Orissa, there are rivers throughout the country which are being gradually polluted, thereby affecting the marine life there. Polluted marine life means the survival of the poor people, the survival of the fishermen is in jeopardy. To save the lives of the people, the marine life has to be protected and it can only be protected if the waters are clean and effluents are treated properly.

Madam, as a member of some committees in the States, like Estimates and Public Accounts, we visited a lot of steel plants, including Navarattnas and all and you will be surprised to know that not a single water treatment plan was running. At Rourkela when we visited, the water treatment plan was closed. JK Paper Mill, which has got a massive plant on the Nagavalli River in Orissa, has completely polluted the Nagavalli River, thereby the entire marine life has been destroyed and the fishermen are dying of starvation. Today, allegations of starvation deaths are made before the Human Rights Commission. Their intake of protein has gone down, the intake of calories is very low as compared to the other parts of the population.

Therefore, this cess, which the hon. Minister has initiated is a very good step. I hope money is spent in the right direction for the protection of water. The abolition of cess on hydropower unit is welcome because hydropower is generally clean power. It is known as one of the cleanest source of energy. So, removing the cess on hydropower is a good move. I support this Bill for imposing cess on water. It is a welcome move, but at the same time it should be implemented with right earnestness.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, there were names, but they were not listed. Now, I call Shri Dharamraj Singh Patel.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (PHULPUR): Madam Chairman, the hon. Minister has introduced the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2000. In this regard only this much I would like to say that the efforts of the hon. Minister to remove water pollution are only partial. All the hon. Members have highlighted that the ground water extracted through wells is too polluted to be consumed. I visited my constituency Phulpur in Allahabad during the rains where I saw hundreds of wells overflowing with literally black water. The people of the village were unable to use that water for drinking. They complained to me about this. So where the water table is high where the land is infertile or where there are banks of the rivers, where the rivers are brimful of water, the water there is dirty which the people are forced to drink.

Just now you have referred to the Brahmaputra and many other rivers. I would like to tell you about pollution in the Ganga. Recently a fair was organised in Allahabad which was attended by hundreds of people including sadhus and saints. The Ganga water is highly polluted there. The water of the rivers which are regarded as sacred since thousands of years ago and where lakhs of people go to have a holy dip at the Sangam during the Kumbh and where people go to immerse the mortal remains of the deceased have turned black or red as a result of washing of animal hides. A survey was also conducted at the Kumbh fair. A number of survey reports have come in with the finding that the Ganga water is polluted. But this time it was a great surprise that people were reluctant to have a dip therein. We would like to know as to what measures are going to be taken by the Central Pollution Board or the State Pollution Boards by bringing in this partial Bill and increasing the allocation slightly. Will you stop the other exploitation of ground water?

He is a very wise and able Minister. He must at least bring in a comprehensive Bill regarding cleaning of the rivers

and the ill maintained village tubewell. In this regard a comprehensive Bill should be brought forward so that the holy rivers may be cleaned. What are the measures he is taking to clean the polluted water of the wells? What are the future plans of the Government with regard to the cleaning of the rivers? We are afraid that as the Ganga, the Yamuna and the Saraswati waters have become badly polluted and also have turned black and red, after some time nobody would go there for darshan, the Ganga will be forgotten and this will be a historic loss. So I request the Government to bring forward a comprehensive bill. The Government of India must tell us about the measures they are going to take in order to clean the rivers and the wells for the benefit of the country. With this request I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Madam Chairperson, I rise not to object the Bill. As such, the name of the Bill is all right. The name of the Bill is, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill. But it appears that the Bill itself deals with the enhancement of the cess rate and it is not adequate in regard to the control of pollution.

First of all, I would like to say one thing in regard to the cess rate. It was already mentioned earlier by one hon. Member in this august House that as per the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution, as per the Eleventh Schedule, the subject of water has gone to the institution of local self-government.

Minor irrigation and such other subjects have gone to the institution of local self-government. So, that cess is collected by State Pollution Control Boards and deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India. Later, it is disbursed to the Boards after the Appropriation Bill is passed by Parliament but is there any provision for any share to the local self-government? Since this subject has been entrusted to the local bodies, we should discuss whether we should give teeth to the local bodies so that they can regulate and Control pollution.

I would like to draw your attention and, through you, the attention of the hon. Minister concerned to the fact that in several places, particularly in West Bengal in more than 200 blocks, the underground water has been polluted. There are problems caused by arsenic, chloride and saline content. So, I would like to know whether the Government has taken up any programme to control pollution in those areas.

I am unable to understand why the hon. Minister has not mentioned about the thermal power stations. The thermal power stations cause a lot of pollution as they discharge spoilt water into rivers, which is harmful to the fish and also to the

environment. So, something should be done in this regard.

There are also problems faced by our peasants. Some hon. colleagues have mentioned here about multinational companies coming in, using the water for selling and making money. They are getting all the water for making money but the peasants are not getting water in their localities for irrigation. It is not possible for them to get fresh water also.

The intention of this Bill is basically all right but it is not adequate. The local bodies should be given enough teeth so that they can regulate and control pollution by taking stringent action against those who pollute fresh water.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Madam Chairman, I would like to submit only this in regard to the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2000 brought forward by Shri T.R. Baalu that polluted water is endangering many a lives in the country. Industries use water and pollute it as well. Wherever industries have been set up, water gets polluted there and locals are made to drink that polluted water. That is why I would submit that industries should continue to be run and people should get jobs but not at the cost of polluting water which endangers people's lives. Therefore, the industries should not throw their effluents into rivers. You should take up this matter with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. We support the Bill brought by hon. Minister. Shri Baaluji is a good Minister. He is Baalu, but we have Laloo as well. We shall be doing a nice job, there should be no politics in it. Politics should not be brought in the subject of water. Your department should work for cleaning the water. Baaluji is a strong Minister. Nowadays he is in the other party but he may join us tomorrow. I hope he will do well even if he remains there. The position of Tamil Nadu is such that he may join us when we come to power after next elections. I hope he will discharge the responsibilities of the department under his charge efficiently. With these words I support the Bill.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He is making predictions on your behalf.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Madam, first of all, I should assure my friends in the Opposition as well as in the Ruling Party that I will be honest wherever I am.

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

Many of the hon. Members who have participated in this debate have very well pointed out the shortcomings and appreciated whatever has to be appreciated; they never fail to appreciate. So, first of all, I want to thank the hon. Members who have participated in the debate on this piece of legislation. At the same time, many Members have gone beyond the ambit of this Bill. But whatever it is, the suggestions given by them will definitely be taken care of and I will see that those suggestions are considered favourably and properly.

This Bill mainly pertains to the industrial water. It is a rather deterrent not to use more water. The water should not be used unnecessarily and whatever is required for a particular unit should be used in a careful and measured manner. But, at the same time, those who are using the water without having any rational approach are being fined also. This cess is intended for those who are not using the water rationally.

The hon. Member, Shri Sudarsana Natchiappan is a learned lawyer. He knows about it. Of course, it is their own Bill. The first Bill was brought in 1977 and it was passed in 1977. This has been empowered by Article 248 and by the empowerment of Article 248, this Bill has been brought before the Parliament. So, there would not be any ambiguity or any such thing as far as the constitutional provisions are concerned. However, at the same time, Shri Sudarsana Natchiappan wanted to know as to what would be the sharing. The sharing would be like this: the State Pollution Control Boards will get 80 per cent and the Central Pollution Control Board, which is under my domain, will have only 20 per cent. This particular issue was lingering for more than one decade.

Since 1991-92 onwards, the State Pollution Control Boards were vociferous and they were arguing in various interactions, in various seminars, and particularly in the Coimbatore Conference on 1st January, 1992, if I am correct, all the Ministers of Environment and all the Consultative Committee Members had participated wherein they argued that the cess should be revised. They argued that it has to be increased manifold.

So, I have restricted it to three times over and above what we are receiving now. The money, which is collected, goes to the Exchequer of the Central Government and once again, it is returned to the State Pollution Control Boards. In fact, after enacting the Environment Protection Act, 1986, the activities of the Pollution Control Boards have increased a lot and their responsibilities have increased manifold. To match the work, they could not deliver properly. That is why, whatever amount is being collected now, 80 per cent of that amount will go to the State Pollution Control Boards.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: But the concern everywhere is that they will create only jobs and employ more people, but will not do real work for controlling pollution. All the money will go there.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, I do admit that you are correct. We have to see the machinery. It all depends upon the Head of the Department. It all depends upon the person who is holding the portfolio also. I do not think that there will be any problem. Hereafter, the State Pollution Control Boards may not come and say that they are not having financial resources and so on. This Bill is merely to see that the resources of the State Pollution Control Boards and Central Pollution Control Board are increased.

Shri Molnul Hassan has also questioned whether the States will be taken into confidence in such matters. The States have already been taken into confidence. The Ministers have been taken into confidence. I have personally interacted with many of the Environment Ministers during the Coimbatore Conference. This total money which is being collected, about another Rs. 130 crore to Rs. 140 crore, will augment their resources. It will help the State Pollution Control Boards.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has asked why the rivers are polluted, a lot of water bodies are polluted and that the Ministry has not taken care. He has mentioned especially that the Ganga is polluted and so on. He is one hundred per cent correct. Madam, when late lamented leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi was in power in 1985, he had envisaged the National River Conservation Programme. In that Programme, the Ganga Action Plan I was envisaged. What is the length of the river Ganga? It is 2,525 kilometres. What is the pollution load that had been taken into account at that particular point of time to deal with? It is not even 30 per cent. Let us say, it is 35 per cent. The money was invested to deal with the pollution load of 35 per cent. That has been created now. We have dealt with only 35 per cent. How do we expect 100 per cent result? When I compare it with the river Thames, I find that river Thames is 250 kilometres only.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: We have read in the report that the first phase of the Ganga Action Plan is over and Rs 500 crore have been spent on it but so far only 35 per cent work has been done.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You listen to the reply first.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Yes, it is correct that about Rs. 460 crore have been spent. In that, we have dealt with only 30 per

cent to 35 per cent of the pollution load. That is why, I want to compare it with the river Thames in London. It took 39 years whereas Ganga Action Plan I was envisaged in 1985 and last March, the programme was completed. But whatever money was there in the kitty had been spent and we made good of it. That is all. But I cannot say that 100 per cent success has been achieved. I will not claim 100 per cent success. It is only 35 per cent. The river Thames took 39 years and they poured money like anything, but in spite of that, they could achieve results only after 100 years.

Salmon fish reappeared only after hundred years. The problem of pollution of rivers cannot be dealt with immediately. I cannot say that all the pollution took place under your Government. All the State Governments are requested several times to see that abatement of pollution in the rivers takes place. How do rivers get polluted in the first place? Rivers are getting polluted because of drainage, because of the municipal waste, because of industrial waste, etc.

For your information Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, there are 1555 high-polluting industries in India, of 17 categories of industries, only 23 units are polluting. Action against those 23 polluting industries has already been taken by the Ministry. We are not keeping quiet. If you notice that any industrial unit is flouting the rules and regulations of the Environment Protection Act, you can as well write to me. You can send a telegram to me; or you can even tell me orally in the Parliament. Within minutes of that I can initiate action against that unit. There is no problem in that. Out of all the Members of Parliament, Madam, I do not know how Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is managing to write four letters every week. Perhaps he could advise the other Members of Parliament on that. If he had raised this with me personally, the problem would have been solved by now.

I now come to the point raised by Shri Ramesh Chennithala. He is my neighbour. He is from Kerala.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: That is the problem.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Not in politics, Madam. In politics he is far away from me and in fact quite opposite to me.

He knows pretty well that I had taken much pains to discuss all these matters with my officers. I had promised his Chief Minister as well as him on the other day that the river Pamba will be taken care of. I said that after the due process, technical scrutiny is gone through, the project would be taken into consideration. This project has to be taken to the Cabinet for clearance. His party ruled the country for more than 40 years. During that time he failed to get this project cleared. Now he is using his friend to see that something is done in

this regard. Cleaning of the Pamba is a very important matter. Lakhs and lakhs of pilgrims visit Ayyappa temple from all over the country. I told Chief Minister of Kerala as well as the Hon'ble Member - because he pointed his finger at me I am saying this - that I was ready to discuss with my Secretary and officers to see that a Rs.25 crore project is cleared within a week or 10 days. But they had not come back to me. Is it not a fact?

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): We do not agree with that. The project has been submitted. You have been very gracious to consider it very favourably. To our understanding, the 25 crore rupee project is now pending in your Ministry. We want early clearance of that project.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Your project proposal is now under consideration of the Department. I have already promised to your Chief Minister that I will be taking up this project as and when possible. The processing will take some time. It is you who have delayed it.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: We are not blaming you. We are only requesting you to speed it up.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Anyway, this is all said in a friendly way.

I will now come to what Shri Bikram Keshari Deo has said. He is a very great environmentalist. He has attended many world conferences along with me. I agree with what he said. Shri Patel talked about Ganga Action Plan I and II and so on. I have already replied to that.

Shri Dasmunsi, a sweet enemy and good friend of mine, talked about the bottled water. As you know pretty well, it pertains to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

But as a Government, as a Cabinet Minister, I do admit that I am also responsible. Our hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs who is also the Union Health Minister has already taken some action in this regard.

Previously, they were in power and it was their Government at that point of time. Everybody agreed and it was envisaged and said that the BIS standards should be kept up. So, everybody kept up the BIS standards. But now from some NGOs, there is a hue and cry. But I can assure this august House that our Government will take proper action on this issue.

Madam Chairperson, Shri P.H. Pandian wanted to know whether the local bodies would be given their due share. Yes, of course, the local bodies would be given their due share. It

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is because 80 per cent money goes to the State Pollution Control Boards only. So, the State Pollution Control Boards would definitely take care of local bodies in protecting the water and doing the pollution abatement activities and so on.

I want to tell the House that for the past 100 years, the temperature of the globe has increased. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, what about my suggestion?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I have already answered to that. I would not come to that side. In the very beginning I had told that I would not come to that side.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: But automatically, you will come to this side. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, for the past 100 years, the temperature of the globe has increased by about 0.6 degree centigrade. This phenomenon has occurred. The scientific community is vociferously deliberating this issue in the world summits and so on for the past so many years.

This climate change and the temperature increase is because of emission of carbon dioxide. During the second half of the 20th Century, developmental activities had taken place in many countries including India. Now, many of the Western countries which are responsible for the heavy emission of the carbon dioxide have come forward to see that such an emission is reduced and that the environment is protected. But at the same time, some countries especially the US is not at all having any rational approach towards this phenomenon.

As far as India is concerned, it is for us to see that emission of carbon dioxide is controlled properly. This is the root cause for the melting of ice, inundation of river, rise of sea level, erosion of soil and so on which are also responsible for depleting water in the sub-soil.

So, it is for everybody to see that this emission is controlled. At any point of time, it has to be controlled. The emission of carbon dioxide which is the culprit for the climate change will have to be contained. For this purpose, our State Pollution Control Boards as well as the Central Pollution Board are devoting the entire time.

Madam, I have covered all the points raised by the hon. Members. But if there is anything to be further clarified to any of the hon. friends, I will brief them.

Now, I request that this Bill may kindly be passed.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 4, --

for "2000"

substitute "2003" (2)

(Shri T.R. Baalu)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1, -

for "fifty-first"

substitute "fifty-fourth" (1)

(Shri T.R. Baalu)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.57 hrs.

ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the Indian Penal Code, be taken into consideration."

Madam, I do move this Bill for consideration and approval by this hon. House. This is a small amendment both to the Representation of the People Act and to the Indian Penal Code. I may just explain the background of this amendment.

Pursuant to a demand which was raised by a section of the defence forces, the Chief Election Commissioner had, in 1997, written to the Government with regard to a situation by which there is virtually a denial of vote to those officers of the armed forces and to the other employees of the armed forces who are posed in far-flung areas of the country. I used the word 'denial', for the reason that particularly after the amendment to Section 30 of the Representation of the People Act, the time period between the withdrawal of candidates and the actual casting of votes is now reduced to 14 days, from the earlier period of 21 days. As a result of these 14-day-period, for the officers and other employees of the armed forces who are posted in far-flung positions on the border, there is a cumbersome process of voting by postal ballot which is available to them.

This process of postal ballot is like this. For instance, in the context of the Navy, the postal ballot, during this 14-day-period, will be despatched by the Returning Officer to the Naval Headquarters. From the Naval Headquarters, it will be

despatched to the ship or the unit through the FMO; and from thereafter, the vote, after being cast, will be sent back by a postal ballot, to the Returning Officer. A similar procedure for officers is also there.

Similarly in the case of the Air Force, the Returning Officer is to send from all over the country, the ballot papers to the Air Headquarters; from there, they get sent to the respective units. The officer casts his vote and then the vote is sent back to the Returning Officer. In the context of the Army officers, it would be sent by the Returning Officer of each constituency to the Army Headquarters. From the Army Headquarters - let us say, if the officer of the Army is posted in the North East - it will be sent to the APO in Calcutta; from there, it would be sent to Arunachal Pradesh or Nagaland or wherever the officer is posted. From there, the vote has to come back to the Returning Officer.

Now, we do expect that in this entire circuitous route that the ballot paper takes, this must come back, within the 14-day-period, to the Returning Officer for the vote to be registered.

Due to this entire process, on the 19th December 1997, the Chief Election Commissioner, wrote to the Government that because of the logistical constraints of despatching postal ballots, recording them and then getting them back, the percentage of voters of the Armed Forces, who are actually able to exercise their vote, has gone down considerably.

16.00 hrs.

He had mentioned that the total voting is now between 10 to 15 per cent, which means almost 85 per cent of them have been deprived of their rights because of this procedural constraint. The right exists in law. It exists on paper but effective exercise of that right is not possible. It was, therefore, suggested to make a change in the whole procedure.

In 1998, the Government moved an amendment to the law but because of the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha, it could not be taken up for consideration. In 1999, this law was again revived by the present amendment which has been made. The proposed amendment applies to all those officers of the Armed Forces which are so declared under the Army Act. *Ipsa facto* it applies to the Army officers and it can also apply to other Army officers which are notified under the Army Act. There are some illustrations to the officers whom it will apply to. It will apply to the terrestrial Army, the Central Reserve Police, the Air Force, the Navy, the BSF, the Coast Guard, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, the Central Security Force, the National Security Guard, the Railway Protection Force and the Army itself. These are the various categories to whom this can be made available. This has been discussed at various

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

levels. After it was introduced in Parliament, it was referred to the Standing Committee. There were two kinds of views which were expressed in the Standing Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): You are discussing about the situation obtained before introduction of electronic voting system. We now have the computerised system. Why should we lose the sanctity of secrecy in voting system? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Let us listen to the Minister. I will not allow you to interrupt. Let the Minister make the statement: You can speak when your turn comes. You cannot interrupt at this stage. You may speak after this is over.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: He has given me the opportunity to speak.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have to give you the permission and not him. I am not giving you the permission. I am not giving permission to anyone to speak now. Please sit down. You may give your name for participating in this discussion.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am raising the point as to why the secrecy be lost. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, if you want a debate even before you finish, it is all right. You can go ahead. When the Minister yields to him, what can I do!

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, there were two kinds of views which were expressed. Therefore, there was no complete consensus on the issue and the Government thought it proper that it should be discussed in the House and appropriately voted upon. One set of view is that those who serve the country in far-flung areas, because of these logistic reasons of their being away from the home constituencies, should they be effectively deprived because we are not able to reach ballot papers to them.

Today, we are switching on to the electronic voting system. In the electronic voting system, personal presence would normally be required in the present regime. There can be some additional postal ballots. That would not really change the fate of those who are 1000-1500 Kms. away. That position may not be logistically possible. It may not be possible to make sure that 540 ballot boxes or machines with regard to every constituency of the country are kept where every unit of CRPF, BSF or every unit of Army is posted. They would be posted even in far-flung areas. This situation may not really be possible.

Since there was a strong opinion even amongst the Armed Forces, as represented by the Defence Ministry, the Election Commission strongly recommended it, but there was a division as far as political opinion was concerned. I do not think there was a division in the political opinion with regard to the desirability of ensuring that voting rights are given to those people who effectively exercise it. But on the modalities, one of the arguments which was expressed was that once we have the system of proxy voting, where the rules are amended and a relative or a family member who is so nominated in the rules or is so authorised, is permitted to vote, the secrecy of the ballot would get lost.

This was the principal objection that has been raised against the system of proxy voting. On the one hand there is a larger public interest constraint that you allow them to effectively cast their vote, but if you have the present system continued, then how effective are you making the Postal Department? There will be a larger number of them who are deprived of their voting because of the logistical support. On the other hand, the argument would be, is secrecy going to be lost in the process if they authorise a particular relative like wife, or parents or child to vote in their own place?

Now, the Government is of the considered opinion that to choose between these two, the right to vote effectively should not be deprived to them. If somebody on his own option - he has the option to exercise the postal ballot, but if he wants as an alternative because postal ballot is proving to be largely ineffective because of logistical reasons - chooses a proxy system, then that facility should be allowed to him. I am sure, this would come up for consideration before this august House.

There is naturally a strong argument that is made, that is, what happens to the secrecy of voting? Is secrecy of voting an inherent part of our electoral system? There are several instances. For instance, when we vote in this House, there is no secrecy that is maintained. Now, I may just leave this question for the consideration of the hon. Members.

This issue came up for consideration by the Judiciary as well. Is secrecy an essential part of the electoral system that we practise? Shri Brar would recollect that this issue came up in the context of the Rajya Sabha election from Punjab where some apparent aberrations had taken place and some votes were shown. Therefore, the election got challenged on the grounds that the principle of secrecy was violated.

I would like to read out one paragraph from the judgement of the Supreme Court on this issue. There are only a few sentences and I hope, the hon. Members would kindly bear with me. I am quoting from the Judgement.

"Interpretation of section 94 which appeals to us for ensuring free and fair election. Secrecy of ballot was mooted to ensure free and fair elections. If the very secrecy of ballot instead of ensuring free and fair election strikes at the root of principles of free and fair elections, this basic postulates of democracy would be utilised for undoing free and fair elections which provide life and blood to parliamentary democracy. If secrecy of ballot instead of ensuring free and fair election is used, as is done in this case, defeats the very purpose for which it is enacted, like suppressing a wrong coming to light, or protect a fraud on the election process or even defend a crime that is forgery of ballot papers, the principle of secrecy of ballot will have to yield to a larger principle of free and fair election."

In this case the circumstances do not exist. In this case the choice is even higher. They were dealing with a case where the principle of secrecy had to yield because secrecy was used for a corrupt practice and they said that where secrecy is used for a corrupt practice, transparency perhaps may provide the sunlight. Here we are dealing with a case where the right to vote is under threat. Either you have the right to vote which is effectively denuded, or alternatively you have a right to vote where you give up your right of secrecy of your vote in favour of a person that you trust and who would be one of the nominated person in the rules that are so framed. Therefore, Government is of the considered opinion that this House takes up this issue for consideration and that in such cases, the option of postal ballot would still be available but those of the employees of these Armed Forces who wish to exercise the proxy principle, can authorise persons who would be authorised persons on their behalf, rules would be framed to give effect to this, and such a right would effectively be made available to them.

Therefore, consequential amendments on account of this are really to section 59 because section 59 so far forbids proxy voting. Therefore, section 59 permits proxy vote in case there is an enabling provision created. Then there are corresponding amendments to section 60 and section 62. Since it could also have some corresponding effect on section 171(d) of the Indian Penal Code because impersonation etc. are offences, there has to be a consequential change. These consequential changes have been made, the underlying principle being that an enabling provision for proxy vote for members of the Armed Forces, who are serving in far-flung areas, has been created by virtue of this amendment.

With this, I would commend to the hon. Members to take up this Bill for consideration and pass this legislation.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the Indian Penal Code, be taken into consideration.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Madam Chairman, I heard the logic pleaded by the hon. Law Minister, who is back to his office after his chore in Gujarat. When I was hearing the logic of the distinguished Law Minister, I thought that he was participating in a debate of university level, in a sudden competition, without the rationale of the universal suffrage.

I was watching as to when this Bill was introduced. It was introduced in the Twelfth Lok Sabha headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and now we are debating it in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, again headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The word 'proxy', I appreciate, is harping on their minds since day one because the Government itself is a proxy of Bajrang Dal and RSS.

16.11 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

Let us, first of all, not question anybody's *bona fides*. Our brothers, sisters and friends in the Armed Forces and other para-military forces, as per the Act of 1950, are the great people who defend our borders and defend the sovereignty of the nation. We salute them and continue to salute them every time an opportunity comes our way. None of us here in this House are in agreement that any of their rights should be denied or opportunities are not accorded to them. On the contrary, this Parliament shall continue to strive and shall continue to find how best their involvement in the election process in a more transparent manner is ensured. That is why we are all sitting here on both sides of the House. Therefore, I would like to make this feeling very clear in the beginning itself on behalf of our Party. We do understand the problems faced by the Armed Forces and other forces like ITBP, CRPF, BSF, Coast Guards, Naval Force and Air force in the far-flung areas. We do also understand that year after year they should not feel that their views are not counted in the matter of taking a great decision with regard to elections in the country.

If not one day, let us sit for one month if required. We must find all the ways and means to see that they participate in the election process as per their desire. What did the Committee recommend? Unfortunately, whenever they feel it convenient, this Government quotes paragraphs together from the recommendations of various Committees; be it the Committee on HRD headed by Shri S.B. Chavan, if it suits Shri Murli Manohar Joshi; or the Committee on Home Affairs

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headed by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, if a part of its recommendations can be well argued by the Law Minister Shri Arun Jaitley. But, if it is a Committee on Petroleum headed by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and if the recommendations do not suit Shri Arjun Shourie, the final opinion is not conveyed to the House. What is the final opinion of the Parliamentary Committee in this matter?

The final opinion of the Committee is that in view of the sharply divergent perception in the Committee on the subject matter of the Bill, it is the considered view of the Committee that the Government should take up this issue at a larger level with major political parties to explore the possibilities of evolving a consensus on this issue. This is the direction and the recommendation of the Committee.

If I remember, hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, time and again, within and outside the House, stated that on any major issue or an issue of the nature where the nation should give priority, if there is a difference of opinion, we shall try to evolve a consensus. From day one after this Government was installed, this was the claim of the Prime Minister whose Government Shri Arun Jaitley represents as a Cabinet Minister.

The Standing Committee found that on a vital matter, two divergent views are there. One feels that it should not be done and the other feels that it should be done. I would quote from the Report of the Committee. It is in para 16.2 at page five. I think this has also been omitted by Law Minister. It says:

"The other section of the Members strongly feel that the introduction of the system of the proxy voting would militate against the whole concept of historically evolved electoral process in our country, the bedrock of which is the secret ballot."

The last paragraph says:

"They have also suggested that the Government should convene an all-party meeting for arriving at a consensus before proceeding with the Bill in Parliament"

Therefore, would it not have been fair on your part, before you come with this Bill today, to have thought that since the Session was commencing from 17th February, you should have fixed a date, talked to the political parties and understand their mind? Heavens will not fall. No election is taking place tomorrow, at least for Lok Sabha. We can also contribute. We can think once again. I did appreciate what the Defence Secretary stated before the Committee. I fully sympathise with his statement that was made before the Committee. I do not like to read the statement and waste the time of the House.

Let us think of the armed forces who are in Siachen. Let us think of those people who are in the peak of Nathu La. They also think that in the country's election process, why should not we involve ourselves and understand which party will win or which candidate will win in our constituencies. They may feel that way.

Is it not the duty of Parliament to find ways and means to ensure, in this modern India where IT revolution is at its best, to find out what best course should be available for them to ensure their participation? We could do that. It is not necessary that whatever we say is final. Ultimately, it is for the Government of the day to take it into consideration. The only argument you give is 21 days has been reduced to 14 days. In the Committee, the Department of Posts said that sixty per cent of the posts were returned and representatives of the Election Commission and others might have said that it is fifteen to twenty per cent. It may be. I am not going to debate on that issue. But first convince the House whether each vote, each adult suffrage, each individual's right to franchise is a transferable commodity or not. Is the very spirit of vote in secret, the very spirit of making my own choice or to determine, a transferable item to my son, daughter, brother, wife or anybody for that matter? Is that the spirit of the concept of Indian democracy, in terms of franchise? I am not even questioning nor am I giving any lesson or advice as to how to interpret article 14 of the Constitution, that is equality before law. I did understand when this point was considered under the People's Representation Act that a special provision is being made for special category of people. The way the country is moving, the way the society is being fragmented - I am not saying who is responsible; maybe I am responsible or maybe you are responsible - the way compassion and passion is being increased, if tomorrow in a district of Bihar or West Bengal or UP or Madhya Pradesh or Delhi or Rajasthan, a particular community says that for the last five elections it has been deprived of going to the polling centre on the day of poll and if they say that under article 14, equality before law, the authority enjoined on the armed forces in Siachen, since my condition is worse than that, give us the same proxy right so that our friends in other districts will cast the votes on our behalf, how will you question that rationale? Well, you can answer that law and order is a State subject and it is for the State to ensure whether a particular dalit of a village or a particular Muslim of a village or a backward of a village or a brahman of a village is getting his right to go to the polling centre. Well, you can answer that way.

Is that the answer? The answer is given based on the aspect of inconvenience, social suppression, communal onslaught etc. There, he can claim the equality before law. For example, for certain reasons, special provision is made

for proxy voting. You can say that my relations are staying in other States or other villages. Can they act on my behalf because I cannot go to the polling centre? How do you defend the logic? Therefore, I first make my appeal before going into the details of it. My appeal to the Government is this. As far as this House is concerned, on any important issue, there was no question of any non-cooperation with the Government. On any important legislation that the Government has brought forward time and again, this House has cooperated so far. The Government might have moved some amendments. That is a different matter. My first appeal to the hon. Law Minister is this. Mr. Minister, today you are everything. Please do not insist on passing this Bill. I would request you to take the views of the hon. Prime Minister to call a meeting. Please understand the views of each political party as much as you can. Please accommodate them as much as you can and then present a new text of it. This is a dangerous provision that you are creating. Proxy vote means what? It is not to satisfy the person concerned. What does Section 171 of the Indian Penal Code say? It is on electoral rights. I quote:

"171A (b) "electoral right" means the right of a person to stand, or not to stand as, or to withdraw from being a candidate or to vote or refrain from voting at an election."

The voting right of a person is not transferable to somebody else. I may be a person sitting in Siachen. My view may be to support Shri Arun Jaitley when he contests from Gujarat. Or, I may support Shri Tripathi. I would authorise my wife. But my wife's view may not be the same. My son's view may not be the same. How can he translate my desire? How can he interpret my wish? So, it is not merely giving the power. It is not a question of making it convenient to me to say that I am involved because my son is voting. So, the very purpose, the very spirit of the constitutional sanctity of secrecy and adult suffrage as per Article 326 is totally vitiated by this measure. Therefore, it is not merely a political quarrel. It is not merely a debating point among myself, Shri Arun Jaitley, the BIP, the Congress and the CPM. It is precisely the matter that if we want to ensure maximum number of participation, we should have a good mechanism. I am not talking of the total number of people voting. I am talking of a maximum number of people's participation. I am talking of the participation of our friendly, patriotic Armed Forces personnel staying in different parts of the country. For them, we can still find a way and mechanism. There is no sanctity in saying that since the election is held today, counting should be taken up day after tomorrow, Mr. Minister, you can even say that counting can be held after one week of polling. Let all things come. The Heaven will not fall if that is done. You can plan like that. You can incorporate their views. Why are you talking of a logic because the campaign period of 21 days has been

reduced to 14 days, the postal ballots will not reach in time.? Therefore, this is not the solution. I do not agree to this view. This is not a solution.

Mr. Minister, I told you that I am not questioning the *bona fide* of anybody. Please tell me very honestly one thing. Shri Jaitley, you are the Law Minister. You have defended many cases in the Supreme Court. A Second Lieutenant, a Brigadier, a Lieutenant General are all officers commanding a Cantonment. In a Cantonment, it starts from the rank of a Major. A senior officer can decide his plan, choice and option in a postal ballot. In case of a proxy vote, he can vote. But tell me the position of a *jawan* who will be helpless. He will be at the beck and call of a commanding officer at the place of his posting. So, kindly try to understand the reality. The *jawans* of BSF or any other force work under the control of the commanding officers. They simply cannot say that their option is this. They have to do what the commanding officer says. This is the practical reality. Therefore, I would request you to understand the implications. It is not sacrosanct that since voting is done today, the counting has to be taken up day after tomorrow. If you feel that far-flung areas are to be covered, first you should find out the areas.

I am not talking of the Cantonment of Delhi or Meerut or Nathu La or Siachen or any other far-flung area in the North Eastern Region. We can think of many other ways to see that they are involved in the electoral process. Every person working in the Defence Forces, whether in the Army or Navy or Air Force, carries his pay book and carries his identity card. Like that, let them also carry with them their Electoral Roll Number of their constituency and some sort of an Identity Card prepared by the Army to the effect that a particular soldier belongs to a particular constituency of the country. When election is declared while the battalion is on the move, the first task of the PR Desk of the battalion should be to find out as to how many persons of this battalion are posted in a particular strategic area and a mechanism should be worked out for their participation in the electoral process. If the Commanding Officer desires to negotiate with the Election Commission and send the ballot papers to the constituency straight away, instead of sending their ballot papers directly to 56 APO or to the Army Headquarter, he can do so. So, we can work out methods of further decentralisation. But if the Government wants to introduce proxy voting by taking this logic of 14 days campaign and postal ballot practice not working well, it is not correct.

Sir, I agree with the Minister that the postal ballot practice is also not good because we all contest Lok Sabha elections and we know what happens with postal ballots. They reach very late most of the time and many times they do not even

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

find time to despatch them in time. But what is the average percentage of polling in our country in the last five General Elections? It is not more than 58 per cent. I am now talking of the popular participation in the electoral process of the country. I am not happy with 58 per cent polling. In fact, I would desire that more and more people should come to the polling centres and exercise their voting right so that the polling percentage in our country goes up. If we see in this year's election, it may even go down further, but the polling percentage was never even 60 per cent in our country.

Therefore, if the personnel of the Armed Forces like to be involved in the electoral process in a proper manner as we involve ourselves, it is the duty of the Parliament and the Government to find out the latest possible mechanism to ensure that they really reflect their mind in the electoral process. If he knows that the following persons from so and so parties are contesting for the election, then he should be allowed to exercise his voting right according to his choice. He cannot say that he would choose his wife or brother who is looking after his establishment in his place to vote for him as proxy. As we all know, proxy vote always means false vote in popular perception. So, why should we give this proxy vote system, which is a stigma, to the Armed Forces personnel? If the Government wants to honour them and protect their right, then the Government should find out some other method by which they can really translate their ideas and express their mind in whatever manner they like. That is why, Section 59 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 says that 'secret ballot' means it is not 'proxy'. But the Government is trying to substitute that. Is it fair?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, what about the Indian staff in the Embassies abroad? Will they also have the right of proxy voting? Why should only the Armed Forces have that right? We are having hundreds of our Officers and Staff working in our Embassies abroad? How will they vote?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, Section 59 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 says:

"At every election where a poll is taken votes shall be given by ballot in such manner as may be prescribed, and no votes shall be received by proxy."

This provision is very clear. Therefore, I gave the example not for justifying my argument in this debate, but I wanted to honestly put forth my point of view. If I am allowed to cite another case, in a particular State, a particular community has been deprived of going to the polling centre and exercising their voting right in every election. They feel that had they been in the Army and posted in some remote

corner of the country like Siachen or some other area, they could have used their proxy vote. But since they are not in the Armed Forces and they are tortured and suppressed by other communities and the State does not give any protection to them, they have no right to give a proxy vote.

Is it equality before law? Is it transparency in the election system? Is it fairness? Think of the system and not of the group. The entire Parliament has its feelings and sentiments for the Armed Forces. But why do you give a stigma to them: "If you cannot vote, you choose whosoever you like. Proxy on the following names." No, that is not.

The Armed Forces expressed the opinion that they could not participate because of their hazardous occupation elsewhere. Whenever they use the postal ballot, it does not reach them in time. They are right. Let us find out the electronic voting machines. But the Defence Secretary himself stated before the Standing Committee: "Even about the electronic voting machine also, my fear is that secrecy will be tampered and known." He is also of the view that secrecy will not be ensured while using the electronic voting machines. He did not recommend proxy. I am sorry to say this. He said it in a meeting of the Standing Committee: "These are our hazards. If you are to take a final view about the Bill, please understand our problems." The Committee at the end said: "For this reason, instead of expressing divergent opinion, let all parties be taken into confidence for a consensus." In what manner, can we involve them in a greater number to enable them to use their franchise? The Committee Report said: "Two views have been equally divided and placed." The Committee discussed it with many important people. If the Report of the Committee is read page-by-page; the ultimate view is this. 'Unanimity' is one point. There is unanimity that the Armed Forces must be ensured to exercise their right. That is the unanimity. Unanimity is not 'proxy' or 'deny their right'. It is not like that.

If you carry that spirit, Shri Jaitley, there is still time. I request you on behalf of the Congress Party that you do not insist on passing the Bill today. You call a meeting. ...*(Interruptions)* We will join with you. You take our views and expertise. Then, you can again evolve your mind and tell us. It is not that the Heavens will fall or tomorrow something is going to happen.

In the Parliament, each party is keen to see that our Armed Forces get involved in the election process in a manner as other special category people do with special category arrangement, except distorting the provision of article 14 of the Constitution, distorting the provisions of Article 326 of the Constitution, distorting the provisions of secrecy of ballot. The very basis and foundation of Indian democracy is the secrecy

of ballot. Suppose I transfer my power to my wife and tell her to go on my behalf and vote. The secrecy is important and it is affected. You can say that the wife will go and there will be secrecy. That is understood. But how will the suffrage be translated in the manner I desire?

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (BHILWARA): What it really means is that you do not believe in your wife. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I think, those who believe in their wives that they should be subservient to them, do not respect their wives. They should also have their free thinking. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will have a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I do not like to question it. I only want to assure that I do not treat my wife as my subordinate. I consider her equal with respect and right of thinking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: General equality.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: That is the difference between the people retired from the Armed Forces sitting here and the people who are in politics. Unfortunately everything is not controlled. Army can be controlled. Wives do not like to be controlled.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: It means you do not share secrets.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We certainly share secrets that are good for the family.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): Sir, I want to meet his wife. I am a Service Officer's daughter, I want to see her. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, therefore, our party in the beginning, when the Bill was introduced, raised the objection and talked to the Government. Now the Standing Committee's conclusion has also come. I urge upon the Law Minister not to be in a hurry to pass this Bill. In the last Session, we have a record of passing many Bills, but as far as this Bill is concerned, I would request him not to create a situation for future of which others will take the advantage. Therefore, I would request him to wait; the hon. Minister can give his own views. I think, he will hear more in the all-party meeting, so please give time to this Bill. At the end of this Session, he can

again bring the Bill with some additions or amendments or enclosures and we will try to cooperate.

Again, I conclude by saying that our Party stands very clearly that the time has come that the people, not only of the Armed Forces but anybody, who are in the job elsewhere, who do not get proper communicative arrangements to cast their votes, should be given avenues in a manner which ensures transparency, secrecy and their own individual right, without transferring it to anybody. That is what my submission is and that is why we are opposing this Bill now.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Law Minister concurs with the opinion of Shri Dasmunsi. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know whether he is responding to what Shri Dasmunsi said or whether he is still pressing the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has asked the hon. Member to speak.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA): Mr. Chairman Sir, I stand to support the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 1999 to further amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

I have very carefully heard my hon. friend Shri Dasmunsi and a lot of sweet pills and a lot of sweetness has been spread about the imperative of giving the Servicemen the right to vote but not proxy. The cruel fact is, and let us face it, that they are opposed to giving him today the facility to vote.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Absolutely not. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Yes. The lung power will not do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he is trying to do politics. ...*(Interruptions)* I desire that in the name of Armed Forces such things should not be said. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I am not doing any politics. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Sir, this is their way of violating the principles. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)* Let him give his views, but not politicise this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, I will satisfy them. Today they are opposed to providing the Armed Forces the facility to be able to vote in bulk.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: They should give better ration to Armed Forces first, then they should talk about how they will vote. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Yes.

There is a very good reason for this. This Bill is one of the few Bills that has come out after an experience of 50 years of Indian bureaucracy, of the Postal Department's work, of the work of the Services and of the work of the Election Commission. We can keep on talking about it but the fact of the matter is that this is the Bill which, it is felt, is needed by the Service personnel. They have asked for it. Either this House takes a view that they are in the same category as those people who are being deprived, as pointed out by Shri Dasmunsi, from going to the polling stations or it takes the view that they are in a very important job for this country and because of those compulsions they have not been able to vote. Let us be very clear. This is a very cruel fact emerging and I am not politicising it. Everybody agrees that they must be given a way of voting in bulk.

Everybody agrees that they are one of the most disciplined lots of our society and that they will try to follow in letter and spirit how to facilitate their voting without any aberration in the concept of transparency or secrecy as required. If you are not prepared to grant this special status to the Servicemen, then you say so. It must be stated that they are no different, that we are only talking of distances and that we are talking of procedural problems. It is not only that but also it is a felt need. It is a requirement of the Services who have projected it through their Army Chief. This has been discussed in a very great detail in the Committee. It is admitted that two views had emerged, but do not say that we are making it political. We are responding to a felt need of the servicemen. As of now, we had asked the Postal Department. They gave one set of figures and ended up by saying that 60 per cent voted. I quote your figure.

In my constituency, 5,60,000 votes were cast. I am a Lieutenant General of that area. Only 49 postal ballots reached there. You can check it. These are the figures. I do not know whether you have picked up. Probably, Shri Brar may have picked up because they are more nearer to that place. Only 49 postal ballots were cast. If anybody is making out that by making this amendment, a very great deal of differences will be made, he is also mistaken. But there will be one difference that the Service personnel will feel that this House is alive to their problems, that it considers them somewhat special and that it feels that if this is given to the serviceman, he will not misuse it. If this is the feeling of this House, let us send that message. If that is not the feeling of the House, we can keep on debating any amount of amendments.

Of course, as regards the transferring of vote, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi had given his definition. I am not transferring the vote. I am asking somebody to vote for a particular person and I am asking that person with whom I have full belief to vote and that it will be like me, myself voting.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Would you mind my asking a question? There is a very simple practical question. There are 14 days. After the withdrawal of names, the exact candidates are known. You have to communicate to this Service person in Siachen or wherever the person is that now these are the candidates finally left. Then he must communicate back to you that out of those candidates he wants to vote for so and so. How does the person from the outpost communicate with his wife or son or daughter? If he can communicate, are there telephone connections available? Where must he go to communicate? How does he communicate to the person and in what way? That means, an advance form authorising his wife is already with his wife, but the candidates are known only after withdrawal. Within 14 days, you have to communicate to him that in this constituency, so and so are left and he must communicate back that this is my choice. So it comes to the same thing as conveying a paper and getting it back because his opinion has to be recorded, as he wants, or the wife is just authorised that she can vote for any candidate and there is no harm. How do you overcome the communication of the list to him and his reply to it within that period so that the person can vote? It is the same thing. There is no difference. What is this?

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Is she going to speak on this subject?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I am asking you questions.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I am not here to answer anybody, but one thing I will tell you that it specifically says that the Government will frame rules to facilitate and these are the details in which we must go into and ensure that it works in a foolproof manner.

This point, I am quite sure, would be taken care of when the rules are being framed. We are not talking on that. We are talking about the concept, specifically with regard to the amendments that are being proposed in this Bill. We are not talking about the rules. Those are the things that would be framed quite clearly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: If wives are not allowed even to disclose the addresses and if their letters are read in protected camps, how is it going to be overcome? How safe would the Armed Services be after this? This is an

infiltration into the camps. We are not even allowed to write letters to them without those letters being censored. This amounts to trivialising the whole matter by just looking at the vote bank. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (DARBHANGA): Sir, this is not the way to react when our Service personnel are fighting in the borders, giving their lives. This is an issue involving their right to cast their votes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi is on his legs. Please do not interrupt.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Actually, these smart remarks about vote bank, the Bajrang Dal and all are not very relevant. Communication between Ex-servicemen and Service daughters is always welcome. You are always welcome to say that.

Now, the fact of the matter is why does all this rigmarole take place? Why is there such a delay? Why could a letter not go to the *jawan* and he could not send a reply? There is a service constraint. ...*(Interruptions)* I am just trying to explain it to you, if you would listen to me. It is because it cannot be openly given out where he is serving or where his unit is. So, it has to go through some channels that do not disclose the unit. This makes the job very much more difficult.

I would like to touch upon the point raised by Shrimati Margaret Alva here. She asked: 'If you cannot send the ballot, how can you send information whom to vote?' If there has been a revolution, it is the *jawan's* access to his hometown through telephone. Today, most of the *jawans* can and do talk to their homes. There is a revolution and that fact must be taken into account. It is not like in the old times that he sends a letter and by then the child is born and so on. Now, he can communicate by word of mouth and communication by word of mouth is today much more faster than it was yesterday and it would be better tomorrow and therefore his communication to vote such and such candidate could be looked after. The rules would be framed later; I am not going into the details of that now.

There is one additional point. The hon. Minister has clarified most of the points but I wanted to make one additional point. The matter of this ballot gets compounded by another factor. Every day, the paramilitary units and Central police organisation units that come under the Army Act are being deployed more and more during election periods. Almost all units get deployed more and more. The result of that is that the officials also are more worried about their deployment and about how they are going to move to a certain place rather

than facilitate that *jawan* fill in his ballot paper and send it home.

This is the development in the last ten years and with this development, the number of votes coming through the ballot is even becoming more and more worse. So, all these arguments can go on and I do not want to throw an emotive sentence to the whole thing. But I do want to make this point that this has been a feeling of the Service personnel - people coming under the Army Act - that they are being deprived of a very basic right for doing a very important job for this country. So, they are literally being punished for doing their duties efficiently. We all know that sooner or later, the things can go very bad and it is the people in the uniform, who can do something about it which will solve their problems. They have this feeling and it is their demand. Therefore, when we say 'no' as of today, we can delay it as much as we like it. It has already got delayed. This matter was discussed threadbare, again and again, in the Committee itself for over a year and a half. It was discussed to set up a mini all-party system but where is more representation or better representation of all parties than in this House?

Therefore, what is the objective to hurry this process? It is to send the message that as they are alert to look after the interests of the country, this House is also alert for their felt need, their required need which they have asked for the last 50 years and which have been denied to them. This House should take a unanimous decision to give this facility.

Sir, a point is being made that what about other people who cannot give their votes. Well, you cannot equate the Servicemen with all other people. We are not talking of voters, we are talking of people in uniform who are giving us their lives. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi, please conclude. You have already taken 30 minutes. The allotted time for your Party is 20 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not have to say much on this subject. I would only say that what message will it convey to our brave personnel? We have to decide it today what message we wish to send them.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the entire House is for the Armed Forces. This kind of a thing is very bad. If somebody is trying to score some points on some pretext, it means we are giving a wrong message to the Armed Forces. This kind of sentiment is known to all of us. Everybody knows

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

about it. This will not work. Parliament never questioned the *bona fide* of the Armed Forces. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: The hon. Member can use the lungpower, but he cannot hide this fact that they are opposed to providing this facility to the Servicemen.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, in the Business Advisory Committee meeting we had decided that each Bill should be given two hours' time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Speaker has written as 'one hour'.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, Sir. It was decided by the hon. Speaker. Today, it was decided that each Bill should be given two hours' time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let the hon. Speaker be consulted. The Secretary General was also there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can ask the Secretary General.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Sir, it was decided in the Business Advisory Committee meeting that all the Bills should be given two hours' time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is from tomorrow onwards.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is for the Bills to be taken up from tomorrow.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: No. The Bills we discussed were the Bills which were to be taken up today itself. I do not know how. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If this is the way Opposition is being treated, we will not participate, we will not take part in any debate. This is not the way. I do not agree with it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wait for a minute. As per the minutes of the Business Advisory Committee, the Secretary General says, for Bills to be taken up from tomorrow, it is two hours. For Bills to be taken up today, it is only one hour.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: No, this was never discussed. If somebody is saying this thing, it is wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is absolutely wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We did not discuss. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyhow, it is going up to 6 o' clock. Let the Member speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is altogether different. Even if it is decided by the BAC and if this House wants to discuss it, it will be allowed, but to say that that was to be applicable to the Bills which will be coming up tomorrow, I would submit that it was never discussed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The word 'tomorrow' was not there in the minutes. I say this with authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You see the minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is not the way to mislead the House.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): If hon. Members want to deliberate upon it for one or two hours then the Government has no objection.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is right. We appreciate it and there is no dispute on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time is fixed for the Bills which are to be taken up from tomorrow.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It was not so. A Member of the House is making the statement and if anybody is saying this, either he has not. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is saying that for today, the time is not fixed. So, we will take it up.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Nothing has been decided as to today or tomorrow. It was plainly stated that all Bills will be discussed for two hours. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyhow, we are going to sit up to 6 O' clock. We have got another one hour.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the ruling Party Members are agreeable to discuss it. We do not want to. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, we will take it up to 6 o' clock. The time for discussion will be two hours.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It may be discussed up to 6 O' clock or more, but then, these other things should be carefully taken note of. Maybe, they have not understood it; maybe, they have misread it or something like that, but it was not discussed.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, this is an important Bill. We would like to speak on the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall we discuss it up to 6 o' clock?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, we will discuss it up to 6 o' clock.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I want to say that the Government is in the habit of bringing such Bills in piecemeal though there is a huge backlog of issues with respect to electoral reforms and other suggestions of so many committees. The Government only takes up certain portion which may help them. With the BJP Government, this is the attitude. As Shri Dasmansi mentioned, whenever they feel that it will help them at a particular point of time, they will pick and choose. They are not taking care of the entire gamut of electoral reforms; they are not taking care of preventing criminalisation of politics and elections; they are not taking care of State funding of election; and they are not taking care of various other issues as recommended by Indrajit Gupta Committee and other Committees. So, their method is to bring Bills in this piecemeal way. I think, it is not correct. Government should think over and bring some comprehensive Bills addressing all these pending issues so that the election and electoral process and right to franchise can be fully practised in our democratic system.

The next thing is that from our Party's side, I want to make it clear that we defend the rights of the persons in uniform. We stand by their rights - their economic rights, their political rights and their other social rights - because they are the sons and daughters of our country, they are the people of our country. They are discharging one of the most important duty by defending our nation, our sovereignty and our security. So, there are no two opinions in this country about defending the interest of the people in uniform, but unfortunately, Shri Tripathi has tried to inject here also certain element of emotion to show that they are the sole agents of the defenders, of the Armed Forces and all others are against the Armed Forces. I condemn this attitude. This is the attitude of the BJP.

17.00 hrs.

They are trying to bring some distorted versions of communalism and they are calling it *Hindutva* and trying to defend all Hindus as if they are their sole representative. This is their attitude.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Is talking about Servicemen communalism?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: This is the B.J.P's attitude. You are bringing an emotive issue to whip up sentiments, and you want to say that you are the sole representative of the Hindus, the Armed Forces or a particular section of the people. This is the attitude of the B.J.P., and they are utilising this in our country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: B.J.P. is not for the people, and B.J.P. is for *Hindutva* only.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: There are so many things, and we are demanding 'one rank, one pension' for them. You were a great votary of that. What has happened to that? After going to that side, you forgot that conveniently. This is your attitude. When it suits you, you talk about their voting rights, which is an emotive issue, as if you are their only representative.

...* This is one of your attempts or methods of placing these things. I condemn this. The Indian Army represents the Indian People, and all the Indian people stand by the Indian Army. I want to condemn the way you presented this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): This should not go on record.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I strongly object to this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will expunge that portion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: You have been taking pension money; you have been taking non-practising money of the Armed Forces with retrospective effect. The retired pensioners are being forced to cough up the money. I am fighting that case for you all, and you are trying to politicise our Services. ...*(Interruptions)*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not impute any motives. Let not any Member impute motives to members of the Armed Forces.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I heard what Shri Hannan Mollah said about the Armed Forces. I am expunging it. What Shri Hannan Mollah said about communalising the Armed Forces, I am expunging it. Let us not impute the motive of 'communalism' there. It is not correct and you should not say that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: He said that he was the sole agent of the Armed Forces, and all other parties were against the Armed Forces. This is their attitude. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Nothing should be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: They are saying that they are the sole representatives. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Hannan Mollah, please take your seat. Let the Members take their seats. Shri Ramdas, please take your seat.

The House will not approve of any such statement against the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces are above politics; they are the defenders of our borders. They are maintaining the integrity and sovereignty of the country. Let us not talk about politics.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Please check the record. That is what he has said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will go through the record. If there is

any such thing, I will expunge that. If there is any such thing, I will expunge that portion also. Let us not talk about politics.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I agree with your kind observation. From this side, when the debate began, we did not say anything against the Government or the Armed Forces. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kirti Azad, please sit down. My appeal to all the hon. Members is let us desist from making any statement against the Armed Forces. They are not represented here. Let us not impute any motives.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, to set the record straight, we from the Congress benches, in the beginning of the debate said, "We are here to co-operate. We have to ensure that they participate in the election process. We salute them. We want that they be involved. Have some more consultation. Take some more inputs." That is what we said. We did not say anything else. However, responding to that the speaker from the Ruling party said. "What message will go to the Armed Forces? You are denying them their rights." That is not what we said. ...(Interruptions) We did not say that. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not in good taste.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: I never said that. ...(Interruptions)

Please check the record. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I am asking the Minister to speak.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, we are trying to find an answer to the issue as to how we make the right to franchise of our Armed Forces more effective.

While introducing the Bill I myself said that there were two views on the subject. One view was to respect the right of secrecy as far as the elections are concerned. The other view is that in view of that right of secrecy being protected, the right is not being effectively exercised inasmuch as the percentage of those casting their votes has become negligible. Therefore that is a solution we are trying to find. There can be, as I have said in the beginning, two views on the subject. In the Standing Committee also there were two views. I do not think this is a debate where motives should be imputed.

I am very grateful to the hon. Member Shri Dasmunsi for having given the other side of the picture. This is an issue which the House has to discuss in the absence of any consensus outside the House. But then, we have heard the

statement, I have heard it, to the effect that this is an effort of the BJP*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: No, Sir, I have not said that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I expunge that portion.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Where do these issues come in? Any effort to bring into the debate these kinds of issues should be avoided. That is my only request.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, he should not put words in my mouth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already expunged those remarks of the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: He does not come prepared. His speech is not coherent. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: You cannot become a Minister, however vociferous you may sound.

[English]

Sir, Shri Prakash Mani Tripathy spoke as if BJP is the sole agent of the Armed Forces. I want to make it categorically clear. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Sir, in protest, I walk out of the House.

17.08 hrs,

(At this stage, Shri Kirti Jha Azad left the House.)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: He spoke as if they are the sole agents to represent the Armed Forces. I opposed that attitude and I said so. They are not the sole agents for the Armed Forces. Armed Forces represent the entire people of the country. The entire population of India stand by the Armed Forces. That is our attitude. I compared that attitude with the attitude of the BJP and said that everything they say has a double meaning. They follow double standards. That is how they try to whip up emotions and try to reap benefits from it. That is their character. That is what I said. I did not say anything else. The Minister was putting words in my mouth, which I never said.

Anyway, Sir, I want to categorically say that the Standing Committee debated in detail the question of franchise and the question of secrecy. The BJP always tries to give up on the principles. This has been the attitude of this Government.

When it comes to the issue of principle, they give it up. They take up those matters which suit them. They bring out those matters which are convenient for them. When the question of principle comes, they just give it a go by. When the principle of adult franchise, single vote, secret ballot comes, they are ready to give up that principle. On many issues they gave up the principle.

We stand by the principles. These principles should not be diluted, as mentioned by Shri Dasmunsi in his submission. The principles should not be given a go by.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude. Time allotted to you is three minutes.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Secondly, I would say that the word 'proxy' is a very derogatory word.

Here, "proxy" is cheating. In elections, "proxy" is used as cheating. You want to give the Armed Forces the word 'cheating'! You cannot give such a word. In elections, "proxy" means cheating elections. So, this word should not be there because it is derogatory here.

In fact, I demand that the Government should discuss this Bill again with all the political parties and find out certain methods. Today when we take the postal ballots, we find that all the modern methods are not available. Our science and technology has now advanced very much. We can utilise it in ensuring the voting of all the Armed personnel provided the Government is sincere. But instead, they want the easy going and the short cuts.

Sir, for that short cuts, they are sacrificing the principles. Here, we oppose it. We think that we should stand by the principles, utilise the science and technology and try to ensure their voting rights so that they can use their franchise. That is very much possible provided the Government has an open mind to try to discuss and find a way out. We must get the way.

So, Sir, I think that this Bill is not in correct perspective. It is not just giving them their right. It is just giving them the derogatory word instead of their right. We oppose to that. I would again say that, if we sit together, we can find out certain methods so that our brothers in uniform can get their voting rights and utilise them in full.

With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are debating this Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999. Three years are already over but many learned Members have expressed divergent views on

[Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi]

this Bill. No political party should get a mileage over this Bill and particularly so on the Armed forces. The whole House is unanimous on this issue.

But at the same time, we must find a way out to provide them the opportunity to exercise their franchise in a fair and transparent manner.

The number of days between the date of final list of tally of candidates contesting and the date of election has been brought down from 21 to 14. Our communication skills have improved a lot now, and there is every chance to cast their votes in a fair and transparent manner.

But it is said that it could be substituted by "proxy". The term "proxy" means just appointing somebody on their behalf to exercise their right. I would not say it 'their vote'. I would say it 'their right'.

Sir, presently, many hon. Members are the first timers. In the elections, we see a husband contesting against his wife, a son contesting against his father. We can see this trend across the country. If that is the case, how to reflect their views in a transparent manner is the most important problem. It is not gaining their favour by any political party. If it can substitute by "proxy", vote, I accept that this Bill should be passed. But I have my own doubts. It cannot replace the vote by in person or by postal ballot. How to reflect the views if a wife or a husband or a son or a daughter is contesting against each other? They could be influenced by external means and process.

Ultimately, the very purpose for which the right is being provided to the Armed Personnel is being defeated. That is the crux of the problem. We should not be in a hurry to pass voluminous legislation. The learned Minister is here; he is aware of all these rules and laws. If he wants to provide another opportunity to have a political discussion, let us have that political discussion; no party wants to take any political mileage out of this situation. Already three years have passed and Heavens are not going to fall, if some more time is given. So, please give a fair opportunity to discuss it among the political parties and arrive at a consensus, and pass this Bill so that at least our brethren in the Armed Forces feel that we are all unanimous to provide an opportunity to them and that we are all with them. Let us not argue that only by pushing through this legislation, we will provide them a right. It is not. It may not reflect their views.

So, kindly keep these things in mind. Keeping this in view, we must provide the armed forces or the brethren who are defending our borders or defending our country a right to

vote and not a proxy vote. We must find a way out so that their true ideas are reflected in the voting system. So, kindly think it over. The learned Minister can have a discussion again on this issue with various political parties and come out with a solution so that this Bill could be passed unanimously at that time.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am in a position to suggest certain things so that the rights of the army men are protected. Giving away that right to somebody will create a lot of confusion in the democratic set up.

Late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had created Internet and e-mail, etc. Now, the world is being run by e-commerce. If a website is created, a person can communicate easily. Everyday, 'opinion polls' are being conducted by many journals online. A secret PIN number is available for bank accounts; electronically, money is being transferred from one account to another. Many advanced things have come.

Therefore, I would like to suggest straightway one thing. We have come to the electronic age of even using voting machines. The Election Commission can create a website or some software by which a person can be communicated by PIN and also, the army men who are on the border areas can very easily communicate his vote by way of electronic methods. These types of modern things can be looked into. Very easily, by this method, he can locate the ballot paper; he can choose the candidate and he can vote. The secrecy will be maintained, if a secret number is given to that particular person. Even laptop is available and they can communicate from anywhere. There is no need even for a landline. That is the position in the world and the world is within palm's distance. These things can be made available.

In the 'Statement of Objects and Reasons', they have said that this 14-day-period is coming in the way. They have shown this as the main reason. They want to have the procedural aspects to be considered. I can even say that many express letters are sent by the modern communication system. Immediately letters can be sent and replies obtained. Courier services are available. Fax machines are available. A lot of new things have come up.

Therefore, instead of thinking like that, they can think of these things. We need not carry that right or give that right to somebody else. As Shri Murthy has said just now, even husbands and wives are fighting against each other. So, we cannot lose that right of voting. That is to be considered.

I can even cite one specific thing. We have got a report. In Nazareth in Sathankulam Assembly Constituency which is

going for bye-elections now, about 3,000 people are sitting on fast unto death. ...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not embarrass me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: I am not saying that the ruling AIDMK is doing it. I am very careful in using words. ...(Interruptions) We are now introducing the electronic voting system and are giving identity cards. That card itself is being purchased, coerced and got back.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: You must be knowing that the entire State Ministry is misusing it.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: I do not want to embarrass anybody.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should not make an allegation without any substance.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: I am just telling as to what is happening nowadays.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Without any substance, without any material in hand, it is not advisable to make allegations against a State Government. In that case, no State Government will be spared. I am expunging that allegation.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not here to deliberate on a particular constituency.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The hon. Member has not made any allegation against any Minister or any person. He has only narrated a situation. ...(Interruptions)

17.22 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I would like to submit that this proxy method will lead to. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): When an allegation is made against a Government or an individual we must have the supporting material in hand. The hon. Member does not have any material in hand. When I was in the Chair, I was a little embarrassed. I have already expunged that portion.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: I have the newspaper's cuttings in my hand. I can produce them. New buildings were constructed. New roads were laid. All sort of misuse is being made. The entire Government machinery is doing it against the Election Laws and this was reported to the Chief Election Commissioner and he has taken action also. They have withdrawn from village administration the right to give certificate. The cooperative banks were earlier allowed to open the Pass Books which was stopped by the Election Commission. I am not speaking without any record. I have got photographs to show how sarees were distributed. I can show everything. New buildings were constructed. New roads were laid. On the temple walls. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, the Member must first show the photographs to the Chair. Without first showing it to the Chair he cannot talk about them.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: I am laying them on the Table of the House.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: This is not a good practice. When a Member makes an allegation, it should have some relevance. It has no relevance to this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, all allegations made by Shri Natchiappan are true. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Let us follow and practice the established norms. Otherwise, tomorrow I can bring hundreds of photographs. I can show them for even imputing motives. I can use photographs to defame a person and he will be out. So, we must follow the norms.

He must give it first to the Chair and the Chair should have perused that. After that, they should allow that. So, these are all baseless allegations without any facts. They are all devoid of facts. So, it need not be on record. It has no relevance to this Bill. He is misusing this forum. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (AMRELI): Photographs of Ministers from Punjab are also there. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Now, the BJP is supporting AIADMK. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: They are not going to get back

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

even their deposit. They are going to lose. ...*(Interruptions)*
 What did you do in 1988 in Tripura? You used the Army personnel. You won the elections in Tripura. We are not doing that. You do not force me to say something. We are all friends. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, I may be permitted to submit. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, this material has no relevance. They are all forged documents. Let there be an inquiry. ...*(Interruptions)* He is side-tracking the issue. In Sathankulam, they are going to lose their deposit. They are going to lose their post. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, he has taken advantage because I was in the Chair. He thought that I would not come to the floor to reply him. That should not be the attitude. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to speak on this Bill, I will allow you. But please sit down now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, all the charges levelled by the hon. Member, Shri Natchiappan are true. Around 5000 people sat on a hunger strike in that Constituency. He is supplying all the material. If the Chair needs, tomorrow, we will supply all the proof. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, they are not contesting the election. The DMK Party is not contesting the election because they will lose their deposit. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, they are voting in the election. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: They are not going to vote for you. Sir, these are all baseless allegations. I would ask Shri Dasmunsi, is it the way? Tomorrow, I would also bring some documents. You know I am a lawyer. I can finish you one by one. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, he is threatening us even in Parliament. They would also threaten the voters like this. He is saying that he will finish us. How can he say like this? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Is it good? He is showing some photographs and some papers. This is not good. I had been a Presiding Officer myself. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I am laying all the documents on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: This is not good. It has no relevance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, he is prepared to authenticate those documents and place them on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would request the hon. Member that we would see if there is something which should not be laid. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, he has suddenly taken us by surprise. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Shri Pandian, what is happening in Sathankulam has been explained by him. Why are you saying so? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, we want to protect the interest of the Army people. ...*(Interruptions)* I am placing the documents on the Table. In this particular Bill, we want to protect the interest of the Army people. They have to vote and participate in the democratic process. But at the same time, as an ordinary voter, who has got the right to have the secrecy of choosing his own candidate by his own physical method of going to the polling booth, looking at the ballot paper or the ballot machine, and casting his vote independently without any pressure, that right should also be given to the Army people.

That is why we want that this right should not be transferred to somebody else. If such a process of transferring the right to vote starts, then a day would come when the NRIs would also be given voting rights and said that they can cast their vote by proxy. They can cast their votes from Germany and the USA and this sort of a thing will go on. There should not be a dilution of the sanctity of the Representation of the People Act. The very concept of voting right of a person would stand to be violated in such a case. That is why we want to submit that this right of voting should not be allowed to be transferred to somebody else. It is not a Company Law where

you give a proxy vote. It is a right of a citizen by birth and he exercises that right when he attains the appropriate age. A single vote can really have an effect on the results of every election, including even Parliamentary elections. One single vote against the will of a person can really alter the course of democracy.

What we would like to submit is that we should be driven by modern thoughts. We should not think that ballot papers would have to be sent to different places and many officers would be involved in the process and things like that. There is no need for it. When a person is registered as a postal ballot voter, then he should be identified and the ballot should reach that person concerned and he should vote according to his choice. Such a method should be followed.

Sir, with these few words, I oppose this Bill. I would like to request the hon. Minister to re-consider this Bill.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you. I stand here in support of the Bill relating to the Election Law amendments.

Sir, before I start, I would like to cite a quotation. It says, 'you turn to me, I shall turn to you'. This is for the consumption of Shri Hannan Mollah. I may tell him that this is a Biblical saying and not anything from the Hindu scriptures. The basic principle would be that we should turn to the Armed Forces, then the Armed Forces also would turn to us in a proper manner. Instead of going into the principles, the Members of the Opposition had got into the imbroglio relating to the procedure. We should not discuss the procedures here. Procedures can be discussed at a later stage when the question of Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 would be taken up after the passage of this Bill and after the Election Commission goes into the details about proxy voting itself. They have put the cart before the horse, instead of putting the horse before the cart.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what Shri Tripathi has stated has weight behind it. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi quoted the Secretary, Ministry of Defence regarding his views. I would have been more happy had he quoted the Lieutenant General who had appeared before the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee was divided on the question of principle. There was no consensus. The Standing Committees stand on consensus of opinion. As there was no consensus, I am sorry to say that again on party lines, the issue of principle was not decided. There were weighty reasons as to why proxy voting should have been allowed to the members of the Armed Forces.

Sir, I would again like to reiterate what the hon. Minister

has stated and also what has been stated by the former Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Shri Tripathi has stated. The Forces are deployed in the far-flung areas. Take the case of Nathu La or Kargil. Or, take the case the a Navy man who is in a submarine and is away from his home and where it is difficult to communicate and all those things, or for that matter take the case of the people in the Armed Forces who are deployed on peace-keeping missions outside the country or on some secret missions here and there.

If we do not give them the right to exercise their franchise in a proper manner, what would they think of us as their representatives sitting in this House? A large segment of the people will be deprived of casting their votes.

There was a mention about the postal authorities. The postal authorities are confused. They do not know whether the postal ballots relate to the service personnel or other personnel who are entitled to vote by post. That is why it was not taken into account by the Standing Committee itself. It was clearly indicated that only ten to fifteen per cent of the Armed Forces are able to cast their votes by postal ballot. You will kindly appreciate that because of mobilisation, demobilisation, posting in far-flung areas, etc., even the apex body of the Armed Forces is not able to know where a Jawan is posted. For officers it may be easy; for Jawans it may not be that easy. All these ballots come from the Returning Officer to the Record Room, to the Record Officer; and from Record Officer to the 99 APO; and then they are distributed here and there within the Army - I am not talking of the Navy or the Air Force as the hon. Minister has mentioned about them. It is a Herculean task.

It was mentioned that the electronic machines could be used. This is what Shri Radhakrishnan was trying to say when he intervened at that particular point of time. We have to keep the secrecy about the postings of the Armed Forces in different areas, which are sensitive areas where they are sent. If we give the electronic machines and such gadgets for voting, there is likelihood that their posting itself would be divulged or would be known to others. All these factors have been taken into account and after due deliberations this Bill has come. Only two sections of the R.P. are to be amended and the consequential changes will have to take place. But, the most important thing would be the framing of procedures which will be taken up at a later stage.

So far as the secrecy is concerned, I may remind the Minister that in 1878 this country had enacted the Evidence Act where there is a mention that any communication between a husband and wife is to be treated as sacrosanct and secret. Why did they take it into account? It is because there has to

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

be a certain amount of secrecy maintained. So, why say that because we give the power for somebody else to vote by proxy, the entire heavens will fall; or that the democratic process itself will be in jeopardy; or that Article 14 of the Constitution of India will be violated? We are saying to blow it out of proportions.

I am not going into all the details because all the details have been discussed here itself. I would like to say that this right of proxy voting is given to the personnel of the Armed Forces and all other CPMF or para-military forces who are deployed for a particular work and not to all the personnel of the para-military forces or CPMF as such. Only those who are deployed for some particular purpose and those who are governed by the Army Act, like the Assam Rifles or the Coast Guards, will have this power. All the CPMF and the para-military forces for all times to come will not have this power of proxy voting. When they are deployed for a particular purpose, only at that time they will get this power. Therefore, it is necessary that we send the correct message that we are interested in giving this power to the Armed Forces. We must send the correct message to the Armed Forces that we are sympathetic to their requirements.

While going into the different aspects, one could find that there are pros and cons to it, that any situation may come up and that no principle can be foolproof because 'to err is human'. We cannot say that we are absolutely foolproof in our system itself. But we must find out a way by which we empower them to cast their votes.

And this is the only method which has been thought out. I was quite impressed by the statement of the Lt. General who had appealed before the Standing Committee and I was also impressed by the manner in which he argued. Gen. Tripathy was modest enough not to say about the Armed Forces and their aspirations. They are the people who do not boast about themselves. They are not the people who go about making publicity about themselves. We make it and we make it to our political advantage. That has to be shunned and everybody has to take notice of it. Very beautifully, the Lt. General presented the fact that 15 lakh personnel of the Armed Forces - it might have been something more or less - are not able to exercise their franchise because of the time constraint which is involved and because of the communication difficulties which are there in this country. As he has said, by telephonic conversation, he can ascertain about the candidate and can say as to where the vote has to be cast. At this point of time, it has not been indicated as to who would be casting the proxy vote. It has to be decided at a later stage.

So, I would urge upon the Members present here to think properly and take a decision to pass this Bill because we are making so many amendments in the election procedures. We have made three amendments in the last Session itself. We are making this amendment and we are going to make some other amendments also. It is necessary that the election laws have to be changed. It does not have stenoplastic behaviour. It is not rigid by itself. As the society changes, as our attitudes change and as our requirements change, necessarily the election laws have also to be changed and a particular segment of people has to be given the due right so that the democratic process can be good and all encompassing. That is why, I urge upon the Members to pass this Bill.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, one statement which we would like to make on the floor of the House is that we are for facilitating the voting by the Armed Forces in all the elections. No Member should fling any insinuation at us saying that we are trying to obstruct this process of facilitating the Armed Forces to vote. We are with all the Members to see that they vote and take steps to see that their votes reach the places where they can be counted. As to how this can be done was considered by the Government and the Standing Committee. It seems that the Standing Committee have suggested that they are not in a position to come to the conclusion as to whether 'proxy voting' should be allowed or not. Their objection was that, if proxy voting is allowed, the principle of secret ballot would be affected and that is why, they have suggested that the Government should consult different parties and then try to find out if something can be done in this matter to see that this principle is also not affected. I was under the impression that the Government had not consulted but I was told that the Government did consult different party leaders and representatives of the parties and have come to the conclusion.

My only submission is that, in modern times, it should not be necessary for us to go against this salutary principle of secrecy of ballot. If there is any other method which can be adopted to facilitate voting, as was suggested by one of the Members here, let us do it. And if we come to the conclusion that it is not possible, then we should accept this Bill also.

One more opportunity for consultation should be provided and if it is possible, maybe tomorrow itself, the hon. Minister can consult the Members and he may reply to the debate tomorrow after consulting others. We would also like to apply our mind to this issue and discuss this issue. If it is possible, then he would accept our proposal and if it is not possible, then we will accept his proposal. This is the only submission that I wanted to make.

17.45 hrs

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (BHILWARA): Sir, I stand to support the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999. The issues which have come forth against passing this Bill are : one is secrecy and the other is that Members have said that the person to whom this proxy is going to be given cannot be trusted. Now, that is an issue which I want to really go into. But it is a fact that you have to trust somebody. Rules are still to be made. If you cannot trust your father whom you want to give the proxy to, if you cannot give proxy to your wife, I do not know who you will trust and who you will not trust. Members from that side can trust somebody coming from Italy and they can trust her, but they will not trust their wives. I am really surprised at that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Any citizen of India, whether his or her origin is Pakistan or Baluchistan or Afghanistan, we have faith in her. You should understand that. ...*(Interruptions)* You do not read law. ...*(Interruptions)* You just put on a cap and come here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: You do not have any trust in your wife. ...*(Interruptions)* You do not have trust in your father. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: First you remove your illiteracy. ...*(Interruptions)* I request the Member to remove his illiteracy about the citizenship that she has and then talk. ...*(Interruptions)* He does not know his origin. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: I did not take anybody's name. ...*(Interruptions)*

I have got a lot of friends in the Army. I also have the background of the Armed forces. They always say that sitting there in the snow-clad mountains, sitting in the borders, they are in touch with their family members everyday. Every third day or fifth day, they are speaking to them. They know exactly what is happening there. That is the best news that they get. Even the *jawans* are in touch with them. Even if they are not in touch with them directly, they get in touch with them through radio and electronic media and get to know what is happening there.

They feel that just because they are in the borders, they have no way to put their faith in a party or on a person and that their votes never mattered. It is a fact. There are about twenty lakhs of personnel and theirs is only a fraction of percentage of one billion people or 80 crores of people who are voting. It does not really make a difference. I remember, every time an election is conducted and after the election is over and the results are declared, people say, 'let us count the postal votes because we have to give the exact number

of postal votes which have come' It does not make a difference in the results of the election. It will never make a difference in the results of the election. The votes of these 20 lakh people will not make a difference in most of the constituencies, not only Lok Sabha elections but also in Assembly elections. But it is only a feeling and a feel good factor. We must send a message that they are also part of us. Since they are doing this hazardous work for the country, we should create that good feeling among them. That is more important than giving voting rights. The proxy vote in a democratic system is not new. A lot of countries have adopted this system of proxy voting. It is not a new thing in a democratic system. It is not that proxy voting is being introduced only in this country and that nowhere else it is there. It is there. But it is the faith that we have in them. It is the faith that the Defence Forces will have in us. It is very important. That message should be conveyed unanimously from this House. That is very important.

In the end, I would just say that there has been a reduction of the campaign time from 21 days to 14 days. But even when it was 21 days, people always thought that their vote would never reach in time. So, it is not just a question of that aspect. My friends very rightly pointed out as to why we cannot have a better system. If a better system can come forth, it is good. The Heaven is not going to fall if we come up with a better system. Even if we have that system, we can really amend the law again. I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill.

At the very outset, I would like to say that the hon. Law Minister has brought forward a small Bill. Why does the Government bring forward piece-meal Bills in respect of the representation of the People Act incorporating different aspects? My first point is that the Government should bring forward a comprehensive Bill. It is bringing forward only piece-meal Bills.

The hon. Law Minister has introduced the amending Bill incorporating the provision of proxy voting for the members of the Armed Forces and the members of the Para-Military Forces. He has argued that the Election Commission has reduced the period of campaign from 21 days to 14 days and it is not possible on the part of the members of the Armed Forces and the Para-Military Forces to exercise their franchise through postal ballot within a short period of time and that is why the Government has introduced this measure. For this purpose, the Law Minister is making a provision for the proxy voting.

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

We have tremendous respect to the members of the Armed Forces and the members of the Para-Military Forces. We salute them. They are protecting our motherland. They are sacrificing their lives for the sake of our motherland. We also agree with the hon. Law Minister that there should be a provision so that the members of the Armed Forces and the members of the Para-Military Forces can exercise their franchise and democratic rights. But I very respectfully beg to differ from the opinion of the hon. Law Minister. We cannot support the contention that they can exercise their right only by way of proxy voting.

The hon. Members from different sides argued in this regard. I would also agree with them that introduction of voting right by way of proxy voting is nothing but violation of the principle of secrecy. Suppose I am a member of the Armed Forces. I am posted in the North-East. I direct my wife to give my vote in favour of "A" Party. It is not a question of belief or disbelief which comes here between the wife and the husband. The point is that the wife has a different identity. She has every right to possess a different political opinion. My wife cannot support my political party. There is ample example in this regard. Shri Murthy has already narrated it. I cite one example.

Shri T. V. Thomas and Shrimati Gowri Thomas were both members of the Namboodripad Government. Shri T.V. Thomas represented the CPI. Shrimati Gowri Thomas represented the CPI (M). Both of them were Ministers in the Namboodripad Government but they belonged to different political parties. So, the wife has a different political identity. As I said earlier, it is not a question of belief or disbelief. I direct my wife to exercise her franchise in favour of "A" Party. My wife does not believe the principles and the ideology of "A" Party. She can exercise her franchise and vote as per her own choice in favour of "B" Party.

That is a violation of the principle of secrecy. So, we cannot support this Amendment Bill which provides for proxy voting to the members of the Armed Forces and para-military forces. I would urge the hon. Minister not to pass the Bill today and work for a consensus on this matter because it is related to our beloved brothers in the Armed Forces, para-military forces who are sacrificing their lives for the sake of the country. I would request him not to divide the House on this issue of giving voting rights to Armed Forces personnel.

I would request the hon. Minister to think again on this issue, consult all the political parties, arrive at a consensus and bring a comprehensive Bill later which can be supported by both the Treasury Benches and the Opposition Benches,

cutting across party lines. I would like to submit that we should find out a way to pass such a Bill unanimously in the House so that the members of the Armed Forces and para-military forces can exercise their voting right in an appropriate manner.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully support the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999. Today, when we are deliberating upon this Bill, we claim ourselves to be the biggest democracy in the world. We have adopted the Westminster model of Government. Every vote has got its value in a democracy. Therefore, if more people are involved in the electoral process and where every citizen of this country can exercise his franchise, then it would be fair.

Sir, with previous experience, it has been seen that a certain section of our society, that is, the Armed Forces personnel are not able to exercise their franchise to the fullest extent. The Reports of the Standing Committee are there and it has been mentioned clearly by the Defence Ministry and the Legislative Department that only 10 to 15 per cent of the ballot papers come back to the constituency and the rest, maybe 12 to 13 lakh voters who are in the Armed Forces and who would like to exercise their franchise, are denied this opportunity. So, this Amendment has been brought here so as to enable them to exercise their franchise. And no less a person than the Chief Election Commissioner, who is a constitutional authority, had recommended in 1997 that the system of proxy voting should be allowed.

The country from where we have adopted the Westminster type of Government, that is, the United Kingdom and other poor countries like Algeria which is democratically not very sound have allowed this system of proxy voting in their countries. So, I feel there is nothing wrong if more and more people are able to exercise their franchise in a democracy. The hon. Minister has also made a commitment in this House that Section 18 of the 1961 Act can be suitably amended later on for the convenience of the voters in the Armed Forces. So, why should the personnel of the Armed Forces be denied this right?

Sir, as per the findings of the Standing Committee, it has been seen that there is a great delay in the despatch of the postal ballots to the Returning Officer thereby the personnel of the Armed Forces are denied this democratic right. Therefore, I completely support this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* I would not like to be interrupted by my colleagues belonging to the C.P.I. (M), because we have our relatives in West Bengal and we know how the people of some blocks and colonies

who are not in favour of voting for their party are not allowed to vote in the elections there.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): We invite him.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: You do not invite.
...(Interruptions) They are not allowed to vote. ...(Interruptions)
If they are CPI (M) voters, they will vote for that party.
...(Interruptions) We have seen the elections in West Bengal.
...(Interruptions)

I support the Bill to the fullest extent. With these few words, I conclude and thank you. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House stands adjourned till eleven of the clock tomorrow.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Wednesday, February 19, 2003/Magha 30, 1924 (Saka)

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