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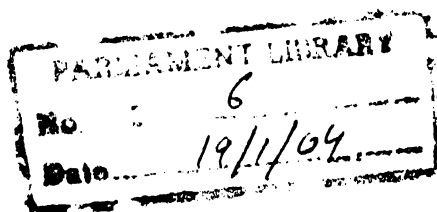
Sravana 9, 1925 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 31, 2003/Sravana 09, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, seven persons have been killed in the Bomb Blast today in Mumbai(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (THANE) : The law and order situation has been disturbed...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khaire, what do you want to say?

[Translation]

Rest of the Members may kindly take their seats. Things cannot go on like this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Your notice is with me. All can speak but one by one. Please sit down right now. Chandrakant Khaire ji, what do you want to say, please say that.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I extend my thanks to you for having given me an opportunity to speak. Sir, it is the bomb blast that occurred in the small of morning hours today i.e. at 3.10 a.m. in Yadav Nagar area Jogeshwari in Mumbai, it was the sixth bomb blast during the period of last seven months. A person named Dilnawaz Kan used to manufacture explosives in the Jogeshwari area where the explosion took place at 3.10 a.m. But he used to supply these explosives to the film industry. This explosion was three times severe than the explosion that took place in Ghatkopar day before yesterday. Common people are terrorised as a result of severity of the blast and the deafening noise it made. Seven people have been killed and thirty injured in the incident some of

whose condition is critical. I would like to say that the Maharashtra Government have totally failed in establishing law and order in the state. This is the sixth bomb blast occurred at Dilnawaz Khan's house that too late night at 3.10 a.m.? Explosives used in shooting of films are not so severe that they kill people. It should be investigated as to which persons are involved in this blast and they are involved with which terrorist outfit(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may put your point after the Question Hour...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : There is no Law and Order in Maharashtra and 'Bandh' was observed in Mumbai yesterday. It was collectively organised by Shivsena and Bharatiya Janata Party. One core fifty lakh people of Mumbai and Thane have organised this Bandh to unite entire India on the issue of death of three persons killed in Ghatkopar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I want to listen to Shri Khaire.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN) : 'Zero Hour' should not be allowed now.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I am not going to permit it now. I want to know from the Hon. Members one-by-one.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE Maharashtra Government have proved to be a failure and so the Union Government must give statement on this issue...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA Mr. Speaker, Sir, bomb explosions have also occurred thrice in my constituency. Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra had given the statement that the person was a stuntman. How could he know this fact within just an hour. And how could explosive be there in the house of a stuntman? Who is this Dilnawaz Khan? He is an activist on SIMI. The Government of Maharashtra had failed to do anything in this regard...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me say one thing.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister of Home Affairs will make a statement immediately after the Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : I request the Union Government to intervene in this matter. A survey team should be sent there and immediate action should be taken on this....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is a serious issue. Please sit down.

[English]

Shri Somaiya, please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister of Home Affairs would make a statement on this subject immediately after the Questions Hour. I would then give you permission to speak.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is decision of the House.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir the issue to be raised by me is very important....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Matter of every hon. Member is important. I wish to say one thing. I have decided that the Question Hours should go on. Members intending to say anything may say it after the Question Hour. I have received many notes of Adjournment Motion today.

[English]

One is against the attempt to influence CBI Probe into Taj Heritage Corridor case. That is the Adjournment Motion given by you. The other is regarding misuse of CBI by manipulating original tapes containing speeches of Union Ministers. Then there is another Motion regarding problems being faced by sugarcane growers. Then there is a Motion regarding situation arising out of the pathetic condition of renowned Ustad Bismillah Khan by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. There are so many Adjournment Motions that I have received. If I allow everybody to speak, then the Question Hour cannot be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I would give just two minutes to Malhotra Ji for Speaking.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, I have also given a notice... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Sir, I am not questioning your ruling, but what is the basis on which Shri Malhotra will speak? Sir, you want that the Question Hour should be conducted.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I want the Question Hour to be conducted.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Then if Shri Malhotra is allowed to speak, we should also be allowed to make our statements.. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has taken the permission from me to speak. I have permitted him to speak because for the last four days he has been trying to raise this issue.

.. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for Suspension of Question Hour. The way M.Ps. behaved day before yesterday...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to give permission for more than two minutes to each one of you. I will take the issues during 'Zero Hour' only.

.. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request and wish to have a ruling from the Chair that the decision taken on that day regarding continuation of the Question Hour may be implemented.

Now it has been said that the hon. Minister would give statement at 12.00 O'clock, so this is one way and the second way can be that all the Adjournment Motions may you reject

or approve, but the Question Hour should not be suspended. Otherwise such developments, if continue to happen in the same manner, would cause trouble.

Sir, I have been mentioning about an issue since the last many days. You have always asked me to raise it in the 'Zero Hour'. This is also regarding Adjournment Motion....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I agree and as an exception, I give permission to Shri Dasmunsi to speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, I made it very clear that we have no intention to disturb the Question Hour...(Interruptions) Who did what yesterday is on record...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is because of them that the House gets disturbed everyday, we just came sit in the House everyday and go and now also these people are disturbing the House.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe, in the best parliamentary traditions, to run the parliamentary system, the Opposition has always the prerogative to bring issues, subject to the permission of the Chair, and those who do not know the traditions, I only pity for their ignorance...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Sir, we pity for their ignorance...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has uttered an objectionable word...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I heard Shri Khaire without disturbing him...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can always speak when the Chair has permitted you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave a notice for Adjournment Motion. It is your discretion

and I fully agree with you, Sir. One after another, an attempt is being made by the Union Government to destroy the institutional mechanism including CBI...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, I strongly object to it. This is not the way of doing it.(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I register my strong protest to the matter in which this has been done by CBI.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is saying totally wrong thing(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not permitted your Adjournment Motion notice. You can speak during 'Zero Hour'. I am rejecting the Adjournment Motion notice. During 'Zero Hour' you can raise this issue.

All other Adjournment Motion notices have been rejected by me.

I have decided to go to the Question Hour now. Please sit down. Everybody should sit down now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Prime is a very serious question . Please allow one to speak for two minutes...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour, now you resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me take up this issue to the Business Advisory Committee today. From Monday, I will not allow any subject, whatever importance of the subject may be. Question Hour has always the priority. Please remember that from Monday I will straightaway go to the Question Hour. Please do not give any Adjournment Motion notice unless it is exceptionally important.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

11.12 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No. 161. Dr. Ashok Patel.

[Translation]

Import of Track Detecting Machine

+

*161. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI T. M. SELVAGANPATHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have no arrangements to check the tracks with the help of machines due to which large amount of time is taken for carrying out this work;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to import latest ultrasoni rail flaw detection, machines for carrying out said checks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which these machines are likely to be made available;

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(f) whether the Railways have picked up a project involving research in the field of fault detection and propagation; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The ultrasonic testing of track is being done with the help of USFD (Ultrasonic Flaw Detection) machines, which are operated manually. In addition, one Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURT) car has also been deployed for this purpose.

(b) to (e) Global tender for procurement of two SPURT cars at an estimated cost of Rs. 35 crores is presently under consideration of the Railways. The machines are likely to be supplied within 13½ months after placement of order.

(f) and (g) The International Union of Railways (UIC) has taken up a research project on "Rail Defect Management". Indian Railways is also participating in this project alongwith some other Railways. Indian Railways has been assigned the work of various laboratory tests related to this project.

DR. ASHOK PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir 75 percent of the rail accidents in the country occur due to the faulty tracks. On one hand the railway administration is increasing the number of high speed trains and on the other, it is also true that the 15 thousand kilometres long railway lines in the country are in a bad condition which were to be replaced by 2001 but now these are likely to be replaced by 2007. As per railway's specification, it is essential to check the track after the passage of 80 lakh tonnes of weight over them but the railway does not have the latest ultrasonic flaw detection machine at their disposal right now. The Government has stated in the reply that the proposal for importing SPURT cars is under consideration. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to by when the orders for importing these cars will be placed because it will take another 13½ months in reaching of the consignment after placing the orders for that and by that time the condition of the rail lines will further worsen?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that we propose to procure the Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURT) car for the maintenance of railway lines and the matter has been pending for long despite the fact that a proposal in this regard was made in the rolling stock programme. One tender was floated but it had to be discharged because no one came to us to apply for tender as per our specifications. We floated the tender again in 2001 after making a review of the kind of SPURT car is needed and now it is likely to be finalised at the earliest.

DR. ASHOK PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have in part (e) and (f) of their reply stated that a research project on 'Rail Management' has been started. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the said project is likely to be completed and how far will it help in checking the railway accidents?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the International Union of Railways (UIC) has taken up a research project on 'Rail Defect Management'. The railways and the affiliated institutions of several countries are also parties to it. Indian Railways is also included in it. Association of American Railway, East Japan Railway Queen's land railway, China Academy of railway Sciences and Railway Technical Research Institute of Japan are also participating in it. We have invested one million dollars in it and several works were entrusted to be initiated in India under the project. India has sent its report to UIC after having completed the research and testing work which were to be performed here. Now the document will be given final shape once the report from all other countries also arrives. It will give a lot of boost especially to the railway defect inspection and Railway Failure Prediction Technology and would also facilitate the adoption of the cost effective Railway Defect Management Policy. We expect that UCI would complete the project.

[English]

SHRI T. M. SELVAGANPATHI : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the common man of this country has become quite accustomed to the rail mishaps, the accidents, as an integral part of one's life. This Question is being raised in order to ensure railway safety to the passengers. Almost, more than 1000 people died in the three years' time from March 2000 to 2003. There are nearly 1,300 accidents which occurred in the past three years, and the number of persons injured was more than 3000. Now, all this is attributed to the fact that the tracks are afflicted by metal fatigue. This is the condition. Now, we believe, the Railway Board is afflicted by mental fatigue, including the hon. Minister who has a track record of resigning and assuming. Sir, this is a serious issue. A non-lapsable fund of nearly Rs. 17,000 crore has been earmarked for this purpose, and the arrears as on April, 2001 would get extended up to 2007. My question is, when are you going to complete this process? What programme do you have? Please elicit us as to how many kilometres of track have so far been repaired, how many bridges, which are dilapidated, have been repaired and when is this whole programme of this non-lapsable fund of Rs. 17,000 crore going to be completed?

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : This is part (a) of my question. Part (b) is, recently there was a news item regarding Virudhunagar-Rajapalayam broad-gauge conversion amounting to Rs. 60 crore and odd. The Railway Safety Commissioner had inspected that, thinking that the work was completed. In fact, to our dismay, the track cannot hold even a speed of 50 kilometres. If this is the condition of a new establishment of gauge conversion, what would be the fate? It is unbelievable.

MR. SPEAKER : You please put your question. Shri Selvaganpathi, you use your opportunity. If you do not put the question straight, you are aware that there are so many Members who want to ask questions on this and they may miss their opportunity.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Yes, Sir, I am putting the question straightaway right now. What is the action going to be taken against these erring officials? Part (c) of my question is, there are 9,000 railway staff members who had been dismissed on account of these lapses. How many officers are there against whom action has been initiated? There is no data for this purpose. This shows that everything is fudged under the carpet. We want to know how many officers are there against whom action has been taken.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you look at the original question it will become clear that the points raised by the hon. Member do not have any relation to it.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with you.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : However it shouldn't give the impression that I don't want to reply the question raised by him. Hence I would like to reply his queries.

As far as special railway safety fund is concerned, the august House is aware that the special railway safety fund has become operational since October, 2002. The list of the works to be performed under the special railway safety fund has been placed in the House as green book and the work is being done as per the list, whether it is of track renewal, bridge replacement, signal gear replacement or any other work. The detailed report in regard to that is placed on the Table of the House and the work is being performed under it.

There was a provision of Rs. 1400 crore for the last year to be spent over the remaining six months and Rs. 1434 crore had been spent during the period. Next year i.e. for 2002-2003 there was a budgetary allocation of Rs. 2210 crore for and more than Rs. 2400 crore were spent by us. The budgetary allocation for the current year is Rs. 2311 crore. There is a target for renewal of 16538 kilometres track during the next six seven years and so far the work of the renewal of 5833 kilometres track has been completed. Similarly other works are being undertaken.

As far the reference of the hon. Member about the low speed of a particular section is concerned I would look into it thoroughly to find out as to why the section speed is so low as mentioned by the hon. Member. I would give full information about it.

Third question asked by him is as to what action has been taken against guilty persons? The action is taken against the guilty persons every year. I can also give you the figure in this regard of your desire. The action against a total of 2586 persons has been taken during the last five year out of which major penalty was imposed on 904 persons i.e. 35 percent of the guilty persons and the similar penalty was imposed against the remaining 65 percent of the people. In this way action has been taken against the guilty persons ... (Interruptions) it also includes officers. If you want the year-wise detail of the action taken, against the officers and employees separately, I will give you the year-wise details thereof.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there has been an increase in rail fractures and the ultrasonic testing machine is required to detect the defect in the track. We have a manually operated ultrasonic flaw detection machine and one self-propelled ultrasonic flaw detection machine. Now, there is a proposal to acquire two more self-propelled ultrasonic flaw detection machines. As a result of rail fractures and defects in tracks, the average speed in the case of goods trains is only 26 kilometres per hour; and in the case of passenger trains, it is 52 kilometres per hour. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether only two self-propelled ultrasonic defect detection machines would be sufficient to find the defects and to rectify defects and rail fractures that are increasing in recent times. As a result of this, there have been caution orders and speed restrictions. So, I would like to know whether this problem could be tackled with the help of two self-propelled ultrasonic defect testing machines.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : So far as rail and wilt failure are concerned, 3551 cases of rail failure and 7763 cases of wilt failure were reported in the year 2001-02. This number decreased to 3196 cases of rail failure and 7488 cases of wilt failure in 2002-03. We have the figure upto June this year which shows that the number of cases have further declined. Thus the figures for the last two-three years show that cases of rail and wilt failure are declining.

You have rightly said that the 'ultrasonic Rail Flow Detection' Machine, US Safety machine that we currently have, is manually operated. We have 227 single rail testers and 156 double rail testers. Their capacity is very low. The former can test 100 kms of track every month. Even then we are able to test more track with Ultrasonic Rail Flaw Detection than required, but it is not completely accurate. Therefore, right from the beginning our effort has been to procure a SPURT Car since it is more efficient. As I have already told that once a tender was called but none of the bids were as per specification therefore it was discharged. Now we are finalising second tender on the basis of new specifications. We are procuring two SPURT cars under rolling stock programme and provision for three more has been under special railway safety fund. Thus we will be having five SPURT cars in near future. We have other arrangements and once the new additions are made, they will be enough for our requirement. We will go further in this context keeping in view our requirements and their efficacy.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I am sorry to ask this question, as I have highest regard for the hon'ble Minister.

Accidents in railways are on the rise. He may also be feeling bad about it as we all do. Even then we are not using the best equipments available in the world. In reply to the question regarding when the SPURT car will be purchased the following is said:-

[English]

"Global tender for procurement of two SPURT cars at an estimated cost of Rs. 35 crore is presently under consideration of the Railways".

[Translation]

He has not yet taken a decision on this.

Thereafter he says—

[English]

"The machines are likely to be supplied with 13½ months after placement of order."

[Translation]

This is one such machine which can be easily procured and used. On the one hand so many people are being killed, crores of rupees are being lost and even then such an attitude is being adopted for the procurement of the machine—it is beyond my comprehension. If there is any problem hon'ble Minister should resolve that. If there is any difficulty at the level of the Government, the Government should resolve that. If anything is required on an urgent basis, then the Government should have no problem in it. But even then it is not happening, I cannot understand why. I would like to know as to what is the reason? I request you to expedite the purchase of that Machine.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the concern raised by the hon'ble Member. It is but natural. That is why I have replied that first tender has been discharged and with regard to second tender we are already negotiating with the firm offering lowest quotation. We have also inquired about the machines operating elsewhere of the firm which had quoted lowest price. After negotiations, that will be put up by the RDSO to the Railway board. That will be put up soon. We have assessed it in very short time and a decision will be taken soon in this regard. It has been told to us that the machine will be delivered to us within thirteen and half months of the placement of order. Besides we are also taking advance action. We are also inviting tenders for the procurement that is to be made through Special Railway Safety Fund. We will try to obtain the machines either on procurement or lease basis. We will get the best technology available in the world. There is no problem of money. We have arranged adequate money. But you should also understand that there are many problems in procurement....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I think, you are quite efficient in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We are taking care.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has assured us that Ultrasonic Detecting Machines would be purchased at the earliest with a view to check the rising number of train accidents. I would like to submit that all the machines ought to be purchased within two months.

Recently Samata Party had to suffer an accident in Bihar. An effort was made to save you from the accident there. Nitish Kumar ji managed to save himself but Raghunath Jha ji and Mandal ji were not so fortunate. Efforts were made to save Prabhunath ji also. But the other two were left unprotected. You have to make efforts to check the accidents occurring both in your party as well as in railways ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can place the reply on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Now, Question No. 162. Shri Laxman Giluwa.

I would also like to take up Question No. 167 along with it. Both can be taken up together as they are concerned with the same topic.

Criteria Laid Down For Rural Electrification

+

162. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria laid down for rural electrification;
- (b) whether passing of electricity cables nearby any village is deemed as electrification of the said village even if no electricity connection is given;
- (c) if so, the factual position in this regard; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to remove the shortcomings in the laid down criteria for rural electrification?

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

Statement

(a) The present definition of village electrification as adopted by the Government in October, 1997 provides that "A village will be deemed to be electrified if the electricity is used in the inhabited locality, within the revenue boundary of the village, for any purpose whatsoever".

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Presently, a village is deemed to be electrified only if there is a domestic or non domestic (commercial, industrial) connection within the inhabited locality of the village.

(d) After consultation with the States/State Electricity Boards, REC and CEA the following definition of village electrification is proposed:

- a. the basic infrastructure such as distribution transformer and or distribution lines is made available in the inhabited locality within the revenue boundary of the village including at least one hamle/Dalit Basti as applicable;
- b. any of the public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centres, Dispensaries, Community Centres etc. availa power supply on demand;
- c. the ratings of distribution transformer and LT lines to be provided in the village would be finalized as per the anticipated number of connections decided in consultation with the Panchayat/Zila Parishad/District Administration who will also issue the necessary certificate of village electrification on completion of the works; and
- d. the number of households electrified should be minimum 10% for villages which are un-electrified, before the village is declared electrified.

This revision of definition would be prospective.

[English]

Redefine the Term 'Village Electrification'

+

*167. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to redefine the term 'village electrification' to provide for wider coverage of village households;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the target of village electrification has been achieved during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to cover the electrification of the entire village?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the new proposed definition are as under :-

(i) the basic infrastructure such as distribution transformer and or distribution lines is made available in the inhabited locality within the revenue boundary of the village including at least one hamlet/Dalit Basti as applicable;

(ii) any of the public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centres, Dispensaries, Community Centres etc. avail power supply on demand;

(iii) the ratings of distribution transformer and LT lines to be provided in the village would be finalized as per the anticipated number of connections decided in consultation with the Panchayat/Zila Parishad/District Administration who will also issue the necessary certificate of village electrification on completion of the works; and

(iv) the number of households electrified should be minimum 10% for villages which are un-electrified, before the village is declared electrified.

This revision of definition would be prospective.

(c) and (d) Targets and achievements of village electrification during the last three years are given below:

Year	Target	Achievement
2000-01	2600	1218
2001-02	13776	1458
2002-03	10,000	6005

(e) To electrify the entire village, Government has taken the following steps;

(i) In Chief Ministers' Conference in 2001, it was resolved to electrify all villages by 2007.

(ii) From the year 2001-02, Rural Electrification including electrification of dalit bastis and hamlets has been treated as Basic Minimum Service and has been included under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). Under this programme funds are released for all the six components including rural electrification. During the year 2002-03, Rs. 363 crores was released under PMGY for rural electrification. In 2003-04, a budgetary provision of Rs. 2767 crores has been kept under PMGY for all the six components including rural electrification. The States have to make the inter-se allocation depending upon their priorities.

(iii) Under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP), Rs. 600 crores have been released to the States during 2002-03 as compared to release of Rs. 175 crores in the year 2001-02. Again during 2003-04 a budgetary provision of Rs. 600 crores has been kept under MNP.

(iv) Under Kutir Jyoti Programme Government provides funds to the States as 100% grant. During the year 2002-03, Rs. 98.79 crores has been released. In 2003-04, a budgetary provision of Rs. 100 crores has been provided.

(v) Govt. have approved grant of interest subsidy of Rs. 563.87 crores under Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme (AREP) during the 10th Plan period for electrification of unelectrified villages, dalit bastis, hamlets and tribal villages, out of which an amount of Rs. 163.87 crores was provided in the budget of 2002-03. Of these, Rs. 157.87 crores has been utilized. For the year 2003-04 a budget provision of Rs. 100 crores has been provided.

(vi) REC has also offered very low rate of interest for village electrification, electrification of hamlets and dalit bastis including household services. REC has earmarked

Rs. 500 crores every year for village electrification for the next four years.

- (vii) Under the Electricity Act, 2003 decentralized generation and distribution of electricity (Stand alone system) in rural area has been exempted from licensing.
- (viii) The Electricity Act, 2003 also provides for electricity distribution in rural area by local authorities, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Users' associations, Co-operative societies, non-governmental organizational or franchisees.
- (ix) REST Mission has been launched by the Government of India to provide access to electricity to rural areas based on use of various technology options.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after 55 years of our independence, a number of villages are yet to be electrified. On the basis of the criteria laid down in this regard, we see that electrification has not got the required pace. I would like to submit that my Parliamentary constituency-district Singhbhum is situated in the West of Jharkhand State. In this Parliamentary constituency there are a number of block headquarters like Tapnagar, Manjhari and Kumar Dongia which have not electrified so far. Such major blocks are still deprived of electricity. Secondly, I would like to state that Government had made an announcement for electrification of the villages of all representatives of people within one year but still the electricity has not reached there. Therefore, my question is that on the basis of the criteria, what was the target fixed for providing electricity to the villages of scheduled tribes people and other castes people and to what extent the target has been achieved.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the distribution of electricity is a state subject. The question asked here is in regard to the criteria laid down for rural electrification. The question asked by the hon'ble Member is regarding the position of rural electrification at present. As per the present definition of rural electrification, even if a single house of a village is given electricity connection, the village is deemed to be electrified...*(Interruptions)* I am telling the present definition. Even under this criteria, there are still 78,000 unelectrified villages. The question of Jharkhand has been raised in this respect. Several schemes are implemented for rural electrification such as PMGY, MMP, Kutir Jyoti and ERP. The rural electrification is undertaken under these schemes and efforts are made to provide electricity to each

and every house of the villages. However, this responsibility lies mainly with the State Governments, they are responsible for distribution of electricity. So far as the blocks mentioned by the hon'ble Member are concerned, I do not have written information in this regard at this moment but if he likes, the information would be provided to him in writing.

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : I would also like to submit to the House that there is a village Anandpur in block Manoharpur of Western district Singboom where neither the transformers nor the poles have been installed, however, as per the official record, electrification of this village has been completed and electricity bills are coming in the name of the people of this village either from the Government or from the Board. I mean to say that neither the electricity connection has been given nor the electricity has been reached there, then how the electricity bills are coming in the name of the people of this village. I would like to know about it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How the hon'ble Minister can give information about a specific village? There are so many villages in our country.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have information regarding what hon'ble Member has asked about Anandpur village of Jharkhand. However, I would like to tell the number of villages in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Orissa which have been de-electrified. The number of villages de-electrified in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Orissa are 12000, 22,000, 7000 and 4000 respectively. Hence in total 45000 villages of these four states have been de-electrified. The villages where the power supply is discontinued are called de-electrified. I think Anandpur village may be one of them.

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : The country cannot be considered as fully electrified until the norms for electrification is changed that is 50% of the village instead of one house in a village, be electrified. Approx. 40,000 villages in Uttar Pradesh are still un-electrified. Villages are electrified under the various schemes of Central Government. In my State every MLA has a right to select five villages for electrification. We want that a scheme for electrification be also formulated just like the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna. Under this scheme every Member of Parliament should select villages to be electrified. What is the Opinion of hon'ble Minister in this regard?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

there is a need to change the present definition of rural electrification which I have mentioned here. Government agrees with the opinion of the hon'ble lady member. Besides, I would like to inform that we have sought opinion of all the States to change this definition. Efforts are being made in this regard. As hon'ble lady member has mentioned about 50% our endeavor is that if electricity is provided to at least 10% houses of a village, that village should be deemed as electrified. All the States have given their consent on 10%. The present definition would definitely be changed in future. The second question raised by him.....(*Interruptions*) I am replying to that.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Instead of a mere reply please make an announcement today itself.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : All the schemes for rural electrification which I have mentioned here, are funded through REC. All these schemes are launched by State Governments and they are also responsible for implementing and completing them. I agree with the demand of hon'ble lady member. I will definitely convey her feelings and the feelings of the entire House to the State Governments.

MR. SPEAKER : Question number 167 is also clubbed with this question. Shrimati Shyama Singh ji has asked that question but she is not present here, therefore, Shri Naresh Puglia may raise the question.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious question. MLAs are not being allowed to select the villages.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister will ponder over it seriously.

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Why you cannot direct the State Governments?

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot raise the second supplementary question. Please sit down.

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : You can direct them as Power Minister. The entire House is unanimous over it...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the entire House is unanimous, hon'ble Minister should not have any problem in this regard...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Hon'ble Minister should convey the opinion of the House to all the State Governments...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not against anyone, hon'ble Minister has also given an appropriate reply, however, the objective with which the feeling of the House would be conveyed will not be achieved and State Governments will not follow your directives given to them. When the entire House is unanimous to confer the MLAs and MPs the right to select the villages for electrification and also to increase the number of villages to be selected for it., hence, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is requested that you intervene into the matter keeping in view the demand that has been put forth and issue direction in this regard. Hon. George Saheb and Nitish Kumarji are present in the House. They also might be sharing the sentiments of the other hon. Members of the House. Hence there is no controversy or criticism involved in. The issue relates to developmental work and that too of villages. Hence we want that the funds meant for villages are spent there itself. The Defence Minister George Saheb also used to maintain the same thing during his socialist days. Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the Defence Minister wants so, the State Government will only agree to it, once you intervene in this regard...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Hon. Balasahebji will also think that he has sent a good person...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an opportunity which has come before you. You may have observed that despite the intention of the entire House, the right of selecting the villages for electrification has not been vested in the legislators and parliamentarians. Hence you are requested to help the hon. Minister by intervening in this regard...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully associate myself with the sentiments of the House. I am first a Member of the House and then a Minister. Hence I share the sentiment of the House and my sentiments are not different from it. The participation of the MP's is essential for the implementation of the rural electrification projects. Hence in the context, in my capacity as the Minister of Power, I would like to suggest the State Government that they should, in their respective States...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Hon. Minister, Sir, if necessary you issue directions by making amendments in the Act...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : See, a good suggestion has been given here and hon. Minister shares it. Now the work of issuing order in this regard has only been left. Hence the hon. Minister should issue whatever order he deems necessary in this regard at the earliest.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, your directive here will certainly be complied with.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister, in his reply has talked about 10 percent norms and has also stated that as per the norm, it was decided in the meeting of the power Ministers of the States that the entire village in which 10 percent of the household are provided electricity connections, will be considered as electrified village. Hon. Minister, Sir, 70 percent of our population lives in villages and even the electricity for operating pumps for irrigation is not available in the villages. The State Electricity Boards lack in funds due to which the educated unemployed youth are unable to irrigate their fields as the pumps can not be operated for want of electricity and they can not even set up cottage industries. In view of all these things, I would like to say that when the talks were held with the hon. Prime Minister in this regard under your guidance, it was suggested by you that one crore rupees be increased in MPLAD fund. The village and electrifications work be done through MPLADS funds by increasing the amount by one crore rupees. In this regard I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister and especially Mr. Speaker, Sir, to intervene in this regard so that some solution to this problem could be found out. The second part of my question is related to the precarious condition of the States due to the State Electricity Boards turning penniless. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he will issue such an order that the villages electrified minimum of 50 percent will only be considered as electrified?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the existing definition of rural electrification, the entire village is considered electrified even if one house in the village is provided electricity connection? It does not mean that the State Governments do not provide electricity connections in that village on demand. One connection only signifies that the power facility has reached the village. The State Government, can if so desires, provide more connections from that pole. It is not that under this definition that the State Governments...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You let the reply of the hon. Minister come.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Hon. Minister, Sir, you do not give such a reply. You also hail from rural background of an advanced State like Maharashtra. There are thousands of such villages in Maharashtra alone whose electrification is yet to take place. You should intervene to change such norms which allows the connections of one household to electricity to be considered as the electrification of the entire village. It is my demand. You are passing this responsibility to the State Governments and I have already told you about the

condition of the State Government and you also are aware about it.

MR. SPEAKER : You reply the original question.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : This definition due to which problems in rural areas are arising, is being amended to resolve the problem. The suggestion from all the State Governments were invited in this matter and the 10 percent formula has been accepted by all the State Governments. The change in definition is necessary so that the State Governments are forced to expedite the electrification ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Sir, hon. Minister has not replied about my question MPLAD fund.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister can reply it in the reply to the next question if he so desires.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that there are two rural electricity committees in one district of the constituency which I represent. I have got the experience of the elections for the Vidhan Sabha constituencies when I served as legislator. Today what is happening is that only that part of the village is electrified where the people of "Swarna" or forward castes and the affluent persons live and the dark still prevails in the settlements of the people belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and those of the workers and it is assumed that the electrification of the village has been completed. Hon. Minister has stated that further review of the prevailing norms is pending consideration. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have fixed a criteria on the basis of the people that no village where the settlements of the people belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and poods are not electrified, would be considered electrified. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he would try to ensure in the new norms that the electrification of such settlements on priority basis will be made mandatory for getting the village being declared as electrified?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, no such discrimination is exhibited by the Government of India.

Electrification is necessary for the rural masses. Whatever support I in this regard should be given by the Government of India to the State Governments is provided especially by the Ministry of Power.

Sir, rural electrifications corporation is one of our public undertakings...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Hon. Minister, Sir, my question is direct. When you modify the criteria, will you not ensure at that time that electrification of those colonies will be made mandatory?

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, you may consider this suggestion.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, the Government have decided to launch a special scheme for electrification of Dalit and Harijan colonies through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) costing Rs. 500 crore. For those Dalit colonies at the rate of one to three per cent interest...*(Interruptions)*. First please listen to the complete reply...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : You look towards the Chair and complete your reply.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : If electrification of colonies of SCs/STs is made mandatory, there will not be any problem...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, a provision of Rs. 500 crore has been made for resolving of this problem through REC. A loan at the interest rate of one percent and three percent has been provided for electrification of Dalit hamlets. If the State Government complete this programme within stipulated period then even interest will be waived off. It means REC has made a provision of Rs. 500 crore at zero per cent interest rate. The experience of the basis of which Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi ji has asked the question relates to his own State Madhya Pradesh. If this type of discrimination is going on there, then we would surely ask those States to desist from this kind of discrimination.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No. 163—Shri Chandra Vijay Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we are boycotting the Defence Minister.

11.54 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Sir, it is such a pity that when matters of national importance and matters of Defence are discussed, these people invariably stage a walk out...*(Interruptions)*

Production of Sub-Standard Machines

*163. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Machine Tool Prototype Factory at Ambarnath is designated to produce components for T-72 Tanks/ICV's etc;

(b) whether the said factory has produced sub-standard machines for sister factories worth Rs. 6.47 crores that were rejected;

(c) whether the commitments in meeting the demands from civil trade also fell below target;

(d) the officials held responsible for these lapses and the action taken against them; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent such recurrences in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recent report of CAG has brought out that 11 machines worth Rs. 6.47 crore, supplied by Machine Tool Prototype Factory between 1998 and 2001 to other sister factories had quality problems and could not be put to use. All these machines, except two, have since been commissioned after rectification. The remaining two machines have also been rectified/modified and are now awaiting inspection.

(c) Machine Tool Prototype Factory has been manufacturing products for civil sector to utilize its spare capacity. The factory has not been able to meet its civil trade target for several years. The factory has, however, achieved the target for civil trade during 2002-2003.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) To avoid recurrence of defects, machines are put to static trial and job trials before despatch to the users.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before any Supplementary Question is put up...* How long the murder of democracy will go on? The way Members from Congress Party keep sitting in Rajya Sabha...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : This word should be expunged from the record.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Whether Members of Congress Party have mutual understanding or not? Members of Congress Party in Rajya Sabha keep sitting for listening to Defence Minister and listen to him and do not walk out but here they do so. Whether staging a walkout against any Minister behoves? Please take action against behaviour of this kind.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you listen to them but do not listen to me...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance to speak after listening to them.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : How they would feel if similar situation is created against their leader tomorrow and is not allowed to speak and is treated in an unseemly manner? How they will feel if we start behaving with Sonia Gandhi in a similar way? Whomsoever they elect their leader is solely their right. It is Prime Minister's prerogative as to whom he inducts into the Cabinet. Their condemnable behaviour should be condemned strongly. Please take some action in this regard...(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Sir, what about my supplementary question?

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, similar incident took place in the House last Thursday. Hon. Member Yerrannaiduji had raised point of order and I too had urged you regarding the same. You gave a ruling also. You had stated in the ruling that nothing of this sort will happen next week and the House will function smoothly. I would like to tell you that though you gave a ruling yet there is still uproar in the House. How long it will continue in the House? We are disciplined Members of the House. We have levelled several other charges...* against Leader of Congress Party Shrimati Sonia Gandhi in this very House.

MR. SPEAKER : Such remarks be expunged from the records.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I gave a notice also under rule 193 for holding discussion on this issue but that has not been accepted so far. Let them do whatever they want but such situation should not arise in the House that we are compelled not to allow Sonia Gandhi even to utter a word...(Interruptions). She too will be compelled...(Interruptions). I have given a notice for holding discussion on this issue

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

under Rule 193 and a discussion should be held on this issue. Everything should be clear after all, how long it will prevail in this House?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to allowing transaction of business in the House and listening to the replies of hon. Defence Minister is concerned, whatever he is telling is all far from truth. BJP and Congress are pretending a fake show of adversity. They are insulting Defence Minister only by behaving in this way. I know everything. It is a conspiracy to deprive him of the Ministry(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is truth in what Shri Mulayam Singhji is telling. It was decided that this matter will be disposed of after holding discussion on it. Whenever Defence Minister is on his legs to say something, he is boycotted. What the Government are doing in this regard?...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Sir, only five minutes are left for the Question Hour to be over. Let the hon. Member ask his supplementary questions ...(Interruptions).

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, we want the Question Hour to be utilised properly. Explanations of this type spoil the Question Hour. Please allow the hon. Member to put his supplementary questions.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to conclude soon...(Interruptions). Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me. Malhotraji, though you condemn yet, there was a plan of divesting Defence Minister of his Ministry just to insult him. I can even give proof in this regard. Somehow, BJP leaders wanted to divest Defence Minister of his Ministry. Therefore, this all is going on. Whenever the Government desire, the boycott will come to an end ...(Interruptions). Malhotraji, there is no question of Censure Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : If it becomes a matter of politics in this way, I will not give permission to speak on this issue. It should not become an issue of politics.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : There will be unanimity by evening or by tomorrow. Congress Party and CPM abuse him daily. Then where is the scope? Had BJP Government wished so, the boycott would have come to an end right now...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I told earlier also that this issue would be resolved this week. I have come to know that hon. Minister was allowed to give reply in Rajya Sabha.

12.00 hrs.

As I read in the newspaper, Members of Congress Party were present here. Shri Malhotraji also has said same thing. I think some work has been done and remaining work will be completed expeditiously and hon. Minister will be able to give reply. He only will dignify the House and nothing else can do so. I can say only this much. Shri Chandra Vijayji, you may ask the question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge the Government that a Censure Motion against the Congress be passed in the House for unruly behaviour.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Sir, I endorse the views of the hon. Members that there is no doubt, we have a Defence Minister who has taken a pro-active role to ensure the welfare of the troops and also taken pains to ensure that they are well equipped as far as equipment and other things so.

MR. SPEAKER : You can put a straight question so that you get a reply. Otherwise there is no time to reply.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : I am putting a question.

Those two machines were supplied by Machine Tool Prototype Factory, for tanks, which could not be used. My question is this. Have specific norms been fixed to ensure that sub-standard equipment is not produced in future? Have certain standards been set? Has some responsibility been fixed?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you not interested in asking the question?

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking question only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Mafia and Piracy in Film Industry

*164. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :

SHRI KAMAL NATH :

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

(a) whether the Government's initiatives to encourage film makers to take finance from other sources had not been able to break the nexus between the underworld and industry;

(b) whether mafia are controlling the affairs of film industry;

(c) if so, whether the Government have organised any meeting of State Information and Broadcasting Ministers to discuss the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that film industry does not suffer loss on account of video piracy and mafia interference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) Some cases of involvement of money from underworld sources have been reported, and have been dealt with by the enforcement agencies under the applicable laws. On the other hand, efforts have been made to facilitate access of the film industry to clean capital. Some major steps taken in this regard are :

- "Entertainment Industry including films" has been specified as an approved activity for accessing finance under the Industrial Development Bank of India Act.
- The Reserve Bank of India has also evolved guidelines to enable banks to finance film production.
- In March 2002, the Foreign Direct Investment policy relevant to the film sector has been liberalized with 100% foreign direct investment being permitted in this sector without any conditions, on the automatic route.
- Small budget films, with an emphasis on those made by new directors, are provided film finance by National Film Development Corporation and Children's Film Society of India.
- Guidelines to facilitate shooting of co-productions in India have been liberalized recently and are expected, inter alia, to encourage Indian co-producers to access clean capital.

As far as piracy is concerned, the Copyright Act, 1957, vests the responsibility for dealing with offences relating to piracy with the police authorities of the State Governments

and Union Territory administrations. However, "Police" is a state subject under the Constitution of India and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is the responsibility of the State Government. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken several initiatives to discourage piracy of films.

- On the basis of a recommendation made by the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, which has been formed in the 24th State Information Ministers' Conference, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication has been entrusted with the task of preparing training modules for police officers to train them for anti-piracy work.
- To create anti-piracy mind-set and to promote cooperation among stakeholders, this Ministry had brought film producers, multi-service operators and cable operators together, and they had jointly resolved that films would not be exhibited without valid permission from the copying holders.
- In an effort to check cable piracy, the Cable Television Network Regulation Act has been amended in 2000, enabling the Government to prohibit a Cable operator from transmitting or retransmitting any programme or channel for which he has not been granted a licence by the copyright holder.
- A recommendation made by the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, that a realistic ceiling level for entertainment tax to be imposed by the State Governments could be 60%, since high rate of entertainment tax encourages piracy, has been persuasively communicated to all State Governments. A number of State Governments have responded positively.

[Translation]

Increase in Hydro Power Generation

*165. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have emphasized the need to increase the hydro-power generation and to double the power generation in the next 10 years;

(b) if so, the target fixed by the Government to increase the generation of hydro power;

(c) the steps taken by the Government so far to achieve this target; and

(d) the time by which this target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has accorded high priority to hydro electric power development in the country.

(b) and (d) The hydro power installed capacity as on 31.03.2003 was 26,910 MW. 14,393 MW hydro capacity is targeted to be added in 10th Plan and action has been initiated to ensure that more than 20,000 MW of hydro capacity is added during the 11th Plan period.

(c) The hydro-electric projects being executed under Central Sector, State Sector and Private Sector are being regularly monitored at various levels. Government of India has introduced three-stage clearance for hydro-electric projects in the Central Sector with the object of reducing time and cost over-runs during the implementation of these projects.

The Central Public sector plan outlay for hydro power development has been enhanced from Rs. 12,306 crore during the 9th plan to Rs. 25,839 crore during the 10th Plan. Similarly, budgetary support has been raised from Rs. 9284 crores during 9th plan to Rs. 17,511 crore during the 10th plan.

Ministry of Power has developed appropriate strategies to further harness the country's hydro potential. A nationwide preliminary ranking study was conducted by the Central Electricity Authority of potential hydel sites. After discussions with the State Governments, 162 schemes of an estimated capacity of about 50,000 MW have been selected for preparation of Pre-Feasibility Reports. These studies would be completed by September, 2004 after which further steps towards project implementation would be taken up in a phased manner.

[English]

Sick Central Public Sector Undertakings

*166. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY :

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of sick Central Public Sector Undertakings is growing year after year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof alongwith number of sick and loss incurring undertakings as on 30th June, 2003;

(c) whether any restructuring of rehabilitation plan is being formulated to bail out the sick and ailing CPSUs; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) to (d) The number of sick industrial Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) was 58 as on 31.12.1997 which increased to 68 as on 31.3.2003, till which period the information is available. As per public Enterprises Survey 2001-02, which was laid in Parliament on 3.3.2003, 57 (including 2 which have been closed subsequently) of these 68 CPSUs had incurred losses during 2001-02, till which period the information in respect of profitability is available.

The reasons for sickness are enterprise specific. Generally the reason include inherent problems of CPSUs taken over from the private sector, old and obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, surplus manpower, high interest burden, severe competition, resource crunch, low capacity utilization etc.

The Government policy on public sector is to restructure and revive potentially viable PSEs; to close down PSEs which cannot be revived; to bring down government equity in all non-strategic PSEs to 26% or lower, if necessary; and to fully protect interests of workers. In view of this, enterprise specific restructuring and rehabilitation measures are taken on case to case basis by the concerned administrative Ministry/ Department, which is an ongoing process. The sick industrial CPSUs are referred to the BIFR for revival/rehabilitation. For other CPSUs, the concerned administrative Ministry/ Department take similar rehabilitation measures in consultation with the Management and other stakeholders including workers. BIFR has sanctioned revival schemes in respect of 18 CPSUs as on 31.3.2003 till which period the information is available. List of these CPSUs is enclosed as statement.

Statement

List of CPSUs where Revival Schemes have been sanctioned by the BIFR

1. Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
2. Vignyan Industries Ltd.
3. British India Corpn. Ltd.

4. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.
5. U.P. Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
6. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
7. NTC (APKK & Mahe) Ltd.
8. NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.
9. NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.
10. NTC (MP) Ltd.
11. NTC (WB A B & O) Ltd.
12. NTC (UP) Ltd.
13. NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.
14. Instrumentation Ltd.
15. NTC (DPR) Ltd.
16. Jessop & Co. Ltd.
17. Scooters India Limited (Declared 'No longer sick')
18. North Eastern Regional Marketing Corporation Ltd. (Declared 'No longer sick')

Expansion of TV Channels and FM Stations

*168. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to formulate a comprehensive broadcast policy in view of the massive expansion of satellite television channels and private FM radio stations;

(b) if so, the facts and salient features thereof;

(c) the time by which the same is proposed to be implemented;

(d) whether any consultations have been held with the representatives of existing television/FM radio channels with regard to this policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) With the rapid advances in technology, expansion of satellite TV channels and private FM radio stations, the broadcasting scenario is continuously undergoing change. The Communication Convergence Bill when enacted would set up a single regulator to promote, facilitate and develop in an orderly manner carriage and content of communication [including broadcasting telecommunications and multimedia].

In the meantime, keeping in view the broad objectives of providing increasing access to the people to broadcasting services, ensuring diversity of content, and maximum choice of platforms at reasonable price to consumers, various policy initiatives have been taken. These include changes made in the uplinking policy of the year 2000 followed up by the policy for foreign investment in news channels uplinked from India; the amendments in the Cable Act at various times, the decision to permit private FM stations and the recent initiative of setting up of a Committee to make recommendations for Phase II FM broadcasting. These initiatives have been taken after a detailed consultative process.

[Translation]

Requirement of Coaches

*169. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the in-house production of railway

coaches is sufficient to meet the requirement of the railways;

(b) if so, the details of the different types of rail coaches manufactured in the country during each of the last two years, factory-wise;

(c) whether railway coaches are also imported to meet the domestic demand;

(d) if so, the names of those countries from where railway coaches have been imported during the last two years; and

(e) the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) Indian Railways have two coach production units namely Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai and Rail Coach Factory (RCF) Kapurthala. The total installed capacity available in these units is for manufacture of 2000 coaches annually. This is normally sufficient to meet the present requirement of Indian Railways (IR). Besides the in-house capacity of ICF & RCF, Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), Bangalore, a Public Sector Undertakings of the Ministry of Defence, and M/s. Jessops, a Public Sector Undertakings of the Ministry of Heavy Industries also have some capacity for manufacturing coaches, and any requirement of IR, in excess of in-house production capacity, is ordered on them.

(b) The Type-wise number of coaches manufactured in the last two years are as follows :

Type	Year	Railway Production Units		Other PSUs	
		ICF	RCF	BEML	JESSOPS
Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU)	2001-02	71		11	22
	2002-03	72		25	25
Mainline Electrical Multiple Unit (MEMU)	2001-02		48		
	2002-03	84			
Broad Gauge Diesel Multiple Units (BG DMU)	2001-02	57			
	2002-03	30			
Meter Gauge Diesel Multiple Unit (MGDMU)	2001-02		12		
	2002-03				
Broad Gauge (BG) Air Conditioned Coaches	2001-02	100	275		
	2002-03	98	223		
Broad Gauge (3G) Non Air Conditioned Coaches	2001-02	797	751		
	2002-03	660	579		
Meter Gauge (MG) Non Air Conditioned Coaches	2001-02		130		
	2002-03		130		

(c) Indian Railways have imported 24 coaches against a one time supply and transfer of technology contract-finalised in 1995.

(d) The coaches as per the above contract were imported from Germany. These coaches were received in the year 2000.

(e) The amount of foreign exchange spent for the import of 24 coaches is Deutsche Marks 52,663,500 (equivalent to approx. Rs. 107 crores).

[English]

Modernisation of Thermal Power Plants

*170. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any

action for modernization and increasing capacity of the Thermal power plants;

(b) if so, the details of the work done in this regard during the last two years; and

(c) the details of capacity addition of the Thermal power plants along with percentage thereof, Plant-wise?

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

(b) and (c) Renovation & Modernization (R & M)/Life Extension (LE) of the existing power stations has been recognized as one of the most cost effective options to achieve additional generation by virtue of short gestation period and low cost. Though increase in capacity due to LE/R&M programme is marginal, the improvement in generation is considerable due to increase in plant load factor. The details of Life Extension (LE) works on Thermal Power Plants completed during the last two years and percentage increase in capacity addition thereto are given the Statement enclosed. In addition, 178 R&M activities were completed on various units during this period.

Statement

Details of Life Extension (LE) works completed during last 2 years.

Sl. No.	State	Name of Station-Unit No.	Rated Capacity before LE works	Max. output before LE works	Capacity achieved after LE works	% increase in capacity after LE works	Increase in PLF (%) after LE works
1.	Haryana	Panipat-2	110 MW	90 MW	110 MW	22	40
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Kothagudem-5	105 MW	90 MW	120 MW	33	30
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Kothagudem-6	105 MW	90MW	120 MW	33	35
4.	Chhattisgarh	Korba (East)-2	40 MW	40 MW	50 MW	25	35
5.	Chhattisgarh	Korba (East)-3	40 MW	40 MW	50 MW	25	11
6.	Tamil Nadu	Ennore-5	110 MW	90 MW	110 MW	22	32
7.	Orissa	Talcher-3	60 MW	50 MW	60 MW	20	16
8.	West Bengal	Durgapur (DPL)-1	30 MW	20 MW	30 MW	50	*
9.	West Bengal	Durgapur (DPL)-3	70 MW	60 MW	77 MW	28	45
10.	West Bengal	Durgapur (DPL) - 5	75 MW	60 MW	77 MW	28	18
Total			745 MW	630 MW	804 MW	28	30**

* Unit under shut down due to various problems

** Average increase in PLF (%) after LE works on 9 units

[English]

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of Energy from NCES

*171. SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an ample scope for development of energy from Non-conventional Energy Sources in various States;

(b) if so, whether any efforts have been made to explore the possibilities in this regard and extent to which these sources have been exploited so far in these States, State-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof and amount allotted to States as an aid to expand NCES; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) A potential of over 80,000 MW power generation from non-conventional energy sources has been estimated. In addition, there is scope for installing decentralized systems, i.e., biogas plants, solar photovoltaic systems, solar water heaters, etc.

(b) to (d) The Government is implementing a wide range of programmes for exploring the non-conventional energy potential in the country. The details of estimated potential and achievements under the major programmes as on 31.3.2003 are given in Statement-I enclosed. The State-wise estimated potential for major programmes is given in Statement-II enclosed and the State-wise achievements are given in Statement III. The details of State-wise cumulative funds released under the various non-conventional energy programmes commencing from the 7th plan, i.e., 1985-86 up to 2002-03 are given in Statement-IV enclosed.

Statement-I*Estimated Potential and Achievements under Major Programmes as on 31.3.2003*

S.No.	Source/System	Estimated Potential	Achievements
A.	Power from Renewables		
1.	Solar Photovoltaic Power	20 MW/sq.km.	2.49 MW
2.	Wind Power	45195 MW	1869.50 MW
3.	Small Hydro Power (up to 25 MW)	15,000 MW	1509.26 MW
4.	Biomass/Bagasse Cogeneration Power	19,500 MW*	483.93 MW
5.	Biomass Gasifier		53.37 MW
6.	Energy from Wastes	2,700 MW	25.75 MW
	Power from Renewable (Total)	82,395 MW	3944.30 MW
B.	Decentralized Energy System		
7.	Family-size Biogas plant	120 lakh	35.24 lakh
8.	Solar Photovoltaic System	-	107 MW
9.	Solar Water Heating System	140 million sq.m. collector area	0.70 million sq. m. collector area

Sq. km. = Square Kilometer

Sq. m. = Square meter

MW = Mega-watt

*including Biomass Gasifier

Statement-II*State-wise Estimated Potential for major Non-conventional energy sources*

S.No.	States/UTs	Wind Power (MW)	SHP*** (MW)	Bagasse Cogen (MW)	Energy from MSW (MW)	Biogas* Plants (Nos. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8275	254.63	200	123	10.66
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1059.03	0	0	0.08
3.	Assam	0	118.00	0	8	3.08
4.	Bihar	0	194.02	200	62	9.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	57.90	0	20	
6.	Goa	0	2.60	0	0	0.08
7.	Gujarat	9675	156.83	200	112	5.54
8.	Haryana	0	30.05	0	23	3.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	1624.78	0	1	1.26
10.	Jharkhand	0	170.05	0	10	
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1207.27	0	0	1.29
12.	Karnataka	6620	652.61	300	151	6.80
13.	Kerala	875	466.85	0	37	1.51
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5500	336.32	0	92	14.91
15.	Maharashtra	3650	599.47	1000	287	8.97
16.	Manipur	0	105.63	0	2	0.39
17.	Meghalaya	0	181.50	0	2	0.24
18.	Mizoram	0	190.32	0	2	0.03
19.	Nagaland	0	181.39	0	0	0.07
20.	Orissa	1700	156.76	0	22	6.05
21.	Punjab	0	65.26	150	45	4.12
22.	Rajasthan	5400	27.26	0	62	9.15
23.	Sikkim	0	202.75	0	0-	0.07
24.	Tamil Nadu	3050	338.92	350	151	6.16
25.	Tripura	0	9.85	0	2	0.29
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	267.06	1000	176	20.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27.	Uttaranchal	0	1478.24	0	5	
28.	West Bengal	450	182.62	0	147	6.95
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	6.40	0	0	0.02
30.	Chandigarh	0	0.00	0	6	0.14
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0	0	0.02
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
33.	Delhi	0	0.00	0	131	0.13
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0	0.00	0	3	0.04
36.	Common for all States**			100	1020	
Total		45195	10324.37	3500	2700	120.63

MW=Mega Watt, SHP=Small Hydro Power MSW = Municipal Solid Waste

* the potential of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal, included in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively.

**For industrial waste under energy from waste programme

*** Sites identified

Statement-III

State-wise achievements made under various programmes as on 31.03.2003

S.No.	States/UTs	Solar Power (kWp)	Wind Power (MW)	SHP (MW)	Biomass Power (MW)	Biomass Gasifier (kW)	Energy from Wastes (MW)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	275	92.60	155.61	160.05	15384	11.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.00	32.10	0.00	180	
3.	Assam	0	0.00	2.00	0.00	123	
4.	Bihar	0	0.00	44.90	0.00	20	
5.	Chhattisgarh			1.00	11.00	500	
6.	Goa	0	0.00	0.05	0.00	22	
7.	Gujarat	0	173.10	7.00	0.50	11361	2.45
8.	Haryana	0	0.00	48.30	4.00	964	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00	93.24	0.00	7	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0.00	102.24	0.00	120	
11.	Jharkhand			4.05	0.00	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Karnataka	30	124.30	182.38	109.38	4499	1.00
13.	Kerala	25	2.00	69.52	0.00	725	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	339	22.60	38.96	0.00	4529	2.70
15.	Maharashtra	185	401.20	206.33	24.50	3823	1.90
16.	Manipur	0	0.00	5.45	0.00	0	
17.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	30.71	0.00	0	
18.	Mizoram	0	0.00	14.76	0.00	200	
19.	Nagaland	0	0.00	20.47	0.00	0	
20.	Orissa	0	0.00	7.30	0.00	72	
21.	Punjab	250	0.00	107.40	22.00	700	0.75
22.	Rajasthan	50	60.70	23.85	0.00	218	
23.	Sikkim	0	0.00	35.60	0.00	0	
24.	Tamil Nadu	211	990.30	76.40	106.00	2653	1.96
25.	Tripura	0	0.00	16.01	0.00	1000	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	325	0.00	21.50	46.50	2746	3.00
27.	Uttaranchal			64.60		0	
28.	West Bengal	50	1.10	92.28	0.00	2965	
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	50	0.00	5.25	0.00	167	
30.	Chandigarh	50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	
33.	Delhi	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	74	
34.	Lakshadweep	650	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	
35.	Pondicherry	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	
36.	Others	0	1.60	0.00	0.00	318	
	Total	2490	1869.50	1509.24	483.93	53370	25.73

SHP = Small Hydro Power, U & I = Urban and Industrial Wastes Programme, MW=Mega Watt; kWp=kilowatt peak;

State-wise achievements made under various programmes as on 31.03.2003

S.No.	States/UTs	Boggas Plants (Nos.)	IBP/CBP NBP (Nos.)	Water Pumping Wind Mills (Nos.)	Aerogen. Hybrid System (kW)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	354334	132	5	16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1721	0	0	0
3.	Assam	53769	2	3	6
4.	Bihar	123963	40	42	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	8078	8		
6.	Goa	3428	21	0	14.7
7.	Gujarat	359047	165	432	0
8.	Haryana	45414	59	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	44194	8	0	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2013	4	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	925	4		
12.	Karnataka	365243	63	20	7.75
13.	Kerala	90823	163	79	8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	216970	120	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	687657	484	26	123.14
16.	Manipur	2026	4	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	2671	4	0	0
18.	Mizoram	3015	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	1792	7	0	0
20.	Orissa	198692	45	0	0
21.	Punjab	72279	668	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	66735	71	222	4
23.	Sikkim	4125	0	0	10
24.	Tamil Nadu	203808	289	52	24.5
25.	Tripura	2069	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Uttar Pradesh	382784	1366	0	0
27.	Uttaranchal	2912	49		
28.	West Bengal	220969	68	0	0
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	137	0	2	0
30.	Chandigarh	97	0	0	0
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	169	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	676	56	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	573	1	0	5
36.	Others	0	0	0	0
Total		3523108	3901	883	219.09

IBP/CBP/NBP=Institutional/Community/Night Soil based Biogas Plants; IREP = Integrated Rural Energy Programme; Kw = Kilowatt

State-wise achievements made under various programmes as on 31.03.2003

Sl. No.	States/UT	Solar Photovoltaic As on 31.3.2003				SPV Pumps (Nos)	Solar Cooker (Nos)
		SLS	HLS	SL	PP		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3648	1161	32152	21.656	603	11985
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	738	750	4937	7.9	0	530
3.	Assam	98	2787	541	7.5	45	80
4.	Bihar	490	679	28275	0	128	450
5.	Chhattisgarh	1237	3612	3192	0	5	37000
6.	Goa	69	51	443	1.72	15	1500
7.	Gujarat	1764	2552	31603	24.9	42	70410
8.	Haryana	612	9666	32727	24.2	270	20615
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1494	11948	20697	1.5	6	27280
10.	Jharkhand	389	15317	9202	40	18	345
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	135	102	16374	0	3	280

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Karnataka	1009	6135	7334	18.91	337	250
13.	Kerala	1090	18679	39681	44.7	749	195
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5714	159	8564	22.4	76	141600
15.	Maharashtra	3388	721	8683	6.44	189	56635
16.	Manipur	370	650	3883	11	12	365
17.	Meghalaya	593	540	4875	42	5	1165
18.	Mizoram	315	1645	5812	0	37	110
19.	Nagaland	271	143	95	6	0	0
20.	Orissa	5665	2937	8795	36.52	4	3170
21.	Punjab	1766	2870	14995	46	1580	22050
22.	Rajasthan	6473	34864	4716	25.8	268	36800
23.	Sikkim	271	143	95	6	0	20
24.	Tamil Nadu	2272	471	1281	26	760	1355
25.	Tripura	760	2238	20805	24.57	10	80
26.	Uttar Pradesh	550	50938	52815	129.2	229	45310
27.	Uttaranchal	250	32204	27027	80.03	9	7090
28.	West Bengal	1461	26890	3662	475	48	7930
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	358	405	796	167	25	60
30.	Chandigarh	0	275	1675	0	14	1525
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	1	80
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	301	0	4753	15	84	27990
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	85	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	62	13	637	0	21	90
36.	Others	0	3295	28197	0	18	16685
Total		43613	234840	440856	1396.946	5611	540830

Statement-IV

State-wise cumulative funds released under various non-conventional energy programmes commencing 7th Plan, i.e., 1985-86 up to 2002-03

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States/UT	Total Funds released up to 31.03.03
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	157.58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	62.55
3.	Assam	13.97
4.	Bihar	27.81
5.	Chhattisgarh	19.89
6.	Goa	1.98
7.	Gujarat	124.04
8.	Haryana	42.44
9.	Himachal Pradesh	66.01
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	17.47
11.	Jharkhand	2.50
12.	Karnataka	129.91
13.	Kerala	44.97
14.	Madhya Pradesh	101.47
15.	Maharashtra	217.64
16.	Manipur	15.33
17.	Meghalaya	11.93
18.	Mizoram	36.15
19.	Nagaland	10.28
20.	Orissa	77.00
21.	Punjab	76.13
22.	Rajasthan	72.38
23.	Sikkim	33.92

1	2	3
24.	Tamil Nadu	101.19
25.	Tripura	14.74
26.	Uttaranchal	8.69
27.	Uttar Pradesh	255.53
28.	West Bengal	117.81
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16.84
30.	Chandigarh	2.20
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.14
32.	Daman & Diu	0.09
33.	Delhi	14.00
34.	Lakshadweep	18.36
35.	Pondicherry	1.45
36.	Others	239.35
Total		2153.61

Gas Pipeline from Iran

*172. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has asked the Government to accept a natural gas pipeline crossing through Pakistan boundary;

(b) if so, whether Russia has also informed the Government that ONGC would get preferential treatment in an oil exploration block only if a Russian Firm was considered for bringing piped gas from Iran; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Development Schemes for Talented Children of Dalit Community

*173. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have launched certain schemes for the development of talented children belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes (Dalit Community) keeping in view the provisions of reservation becoming irrelevant in the age of disinvestment;;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance provided thereunder;

(c) the names of the States where such schemes are being run for the development of talented children of Dalit Community; and

(d) the extent to which these scheme are helpful in the upliftment of the Dalit Community?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Ambedkar National Scholarship is given to the three students scoring the highest marks in the regular Class X examination conducted by the Boards of Secondary Education in States and the Central Boards.

Under this All India Scheme, scholarships are given separately for Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In case, none of the first three eligible students are girls, the girl student scoring the highest marks will get a special award. In case more than one student get the same marks, the number of awards will be suitably increased to cover all such eligible students.

The scholarship is given as one time grant as per the following norms:-

(i) Students securing the highest marks	-	Rs. 60,000/-
(ii) Students securing the 2nd highest marks	-	Rs. 50,000/-
(iii) Students securing the 3rd highest mark	-	Rs. 40,000/-
(iv) Girls students securing the highest mark (in case she is not in the above three categories)	-	Rs. 40,000/-

Keeping in view the SC & ST population of the country as per the 1991 census, 250 special merit scholarships @ Rs. 10,000 each is given to SC/ST students securing the next highest marks, after 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions. This will be in addition to the award indicated above.

This promotional scheme seeks to prevent dropouts, reward merit and improve the academic performance of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students and help them pursue higher studies.

[English]

Channel for Redressal of Grievances

*174. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of armed forces personnel approaching the courts is on the increase year after year;

(b) if so, whether the existing channels are not sufficient for redressal of their grievances;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up more tribunals to provide alternative remedy to the armed forces personnel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these tribunals are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No uniform trend is discernible. In the Army and the Air Force the trend of approaching the courts by individual seems to be on the increase. However, in the Navy there is a substantial decrease in the personnel approaching the courts presently.

(b) The existing channels of redressal of grievances in the Armed Forces are considered by and large adequate.

(c) to (e) A proposal to establish an Armed Forces Tribunal to deal with the service matters and appeals arising out of the verdicts of the court martial concerning the three services is under active consideration of the Government and the modalities and other details are being worked out.

Implementation of DTH Service

*175. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

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

(a) whether the Government have finalized a proposal to implement the Direct-to-Home (DTH) TV access system in the country;

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

(c) whether there is still confusion over the implementation of Conditional Access System in all four metro cities;

(d) if so, whether unlike the CAS, the DTH will eliminate the need for Cable Operators and bring in substantial savings to the viewers;

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

(f) whether DTH was launched two years ago on KU-Band channel;

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of bidders who had secured licences and become operational; and

(h) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government for the implementation of DTH services in the country and the amount of fund invested/proposed to be invested for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a), (b), (f) to (h) A decision was taken on 2nd November, 2000 to permit DTH services in India and detailed guidelines for obtaining licences were issued on 15.3.2001. These are available on Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in.

The guidelines do not limit number of licence holders and therefore no action for bids is envisaged. Four applications have been received in pursuance of these guidelines and these are under process. DTH is based on broadcasting via satellite and therefore, such projects are likely to provide coverage on All India basis.

The Planning Commission has recently given 'in principle' approval for 'free-to-air' Ku Band project of Prasar Bharati to be implemented in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) No, Sir. After monitoring the preparedness of stakeholders to introduce addressability and after discussions with various stakeholders namely Broadcasters, Multi System Operators (MSOs), Cable Operators, Consumer Groups etc it has been decided to roll out the implementation of CAS, in a zone-wise manner in the metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and in the entire Chennai metropolitan area w.e.f. 1.9.2003. Notification has been issued on 10th July, 2003 and is available in Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in. The

intervening period will be utilized to step up preparedness for smooth roll out of CAS and to educate the subscribers and increase their awareness.

(d) and (e) DTH and Cable Network are two different modes of delivery of content. CAS is a more cost effective mode of delivery while DTH provides premium service and is more effective in remote areas. World-wide experience has shown that both can co-exist and infact provide consumers a wider choice.

Censor Board for Programmes on TV Channels

*176. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has recommended setting up of a separate Censor Board for programmes telecast in television networks including foreign channels; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The National Commission for Women has informed that at the meeting of Chairpersons of State Commissions for Women, organised by the National Commission for Women in March, 2003, a suggestion was made for creation of a Censor Board for advertisements, which should have at least one representative from the Commission.

(b) The Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1995 and Rules thereunder prescribes a Programme Code and an Advertising Code, which all programmes and advertisements transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable Network are required to adhere to. Authorised Officers prescribed under the Act are empowered to take action for violations of these Codes. Central Government has already set up two Inter-Ministerial Committees to look into the violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes. The Committee examining the Programme Code comprises of Joint Secretaries from Ministries of Law, Home, Defence, External Affairs and I & B. The Committee looking into violations of Advertising Code is under the Addl. Secretary, Ministry of I & B and comprises of Joint Secretaries from Ministries of Law, Health, Women and Child Development, I & B and a representative from the Advertising Standards Council of India. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, action is taken against Television Channels for violation of the two Codes from time to time. These Committees are free to obtain advice from the National Commission for Women on a case to case basis and on the merit of each case.

**Scholarship Scheme for Schedule
Castes Students**

*177. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR :

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

(a) whether the Government are considering bringing some changes in the Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes students;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed changes and the time by which these changes are likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government will revise the minimum annual income criteria for beneficiaries of scholarship for SCs students;

(d) whether there will be periodical revision of this scholarship scheme by the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of students likely to be benefited from this scheme in 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) A statement is enclosed.

(f) About 19.26 lakh Scheduled Caste students are expected to benefit from the scheme during 2003.04.

Statement

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste students the following modifications are proposed:

(1) Enhancement of Maintenance Allowance rates

(2) Enhancement of Income ceiling of parents for eligibility for scholarship.

(3) Enhancement of other allowances viz., Study Tour Charges, Thesis typing/printing Charges and Book Grant for students pursuing studies through correspondence courses.

(4) Regrouping of courses into four groups instead of the existing five groups.

The revised income ceiling is proposed to be further revised once in every two years based on the increased in the price index. The Maintenance Allowance is proposed to be revised during the first year of the successive five year Plans.

Facilities for Regional Producers

*178. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities being given by the Government to the regional producers with a view to encourage regional languages and culture through regional relay centres;

(b) whether regional producers are not able to produce quality programmes due to high transmission fee of Doordarshan; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to encourage regional talented artistes and to give them employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that they invite proposals from private producers to encourage production of programmes in regional languages and on culture, through commissioning and sponsorship, depending on the requirements of the regional channels.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the producers are required to pay a telecast fee for sponsored programmes and also that no Kendra has so far received any complaint regarding telecast fee.

(c) Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous corporation and has autonomy in programme matters. Government has no role to play.

Villages Electrified by Solar Energy

*179. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified by solar energy, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have fixed any target to electrify the villages in the Tenth Five Year Plan by the solar energy;

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

(d) whether proposals for clearance are pending with the Government;

- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (f) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The State-wise details of the remote villages electrified by solar energy during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (till 30th June, 2003) are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Tenth Plan Document indicates a target of 5,000 remote villages to be electrified during the Tenth Five Year Plan through non-conventional energy sources. However, keeping in view the announcements made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister about electrification of all villages by March, 2007, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is striving to electricity all the remote villages in the country by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

The Government has advised the States to identify remote villages for electrification through non-conventional energy sources. Several States have submitted partial or complete lists of such villages to the Ministry. The State-wise information received so far is given in Statement-II enclosed. Annual programmes for village electrification in various States are provided financial assistance on the basis of proposals received from them.

(d) to (f) As on 28th July, 2003, proposals for electrification of 845 remote villages received from various States were being considered. This is an on-going process.

Statement-I

State-wise details of the remote villages electrified through Solar Energy under the Village Electrification Programme of the Ministry during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (Till 30th June, 2003)

Sl.No.	State	No. of Villages Electrified
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
2.	Assam	36
3.	Chhattisgarh	120
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	90
5.	Uttaranchal	80
6.	West Bengal	740
Total		1,069

Statement-II

States which have submitted partial or complete lists of remote villages identified for electrification through non-conventional energy sources

Sl.No.	State	No. of Villages indicated in the lists
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	77
3.	Assam	2,800
4.	Bihar	321
5.	Chhattisgarh	1250
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	96
7.	Jharkhand	70
8.	Karnataka	255
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1226
10.	Maharashtra	307
11.	Manipur	137
12.	Meghalaya	2,332
13.	Mizoram	25
14.	Nagaland	13
15.	Orissa	200
16.	Rajasthan	565
17.	Sikkim	32
18.	Tripura	585
19.	Uttar Pradesh	100
20.	Uttaranchal	1127
21.	West Bengal	1450
Total		12,985

Inflammable Substances in Trains

*180. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of passengers are travelling in reserved and other coaches with inflammable substances without any check by the Railway staff/police.

(b) if so, whether the Railways have finalised any scheme to check travelling of unauthorised passengers with inflammable substances to prevent fire in trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether instructions have been issued to the Railway staff/police for strict compliance of these instructions; and

(e) if so, the action being taken/to be against those Railway officials/employees who flouted the safety rules?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) No, Sir. Regular checks are conducted in trains to detect persons carrying inflammable articles.

(b) and (c) Besides regular checking, special drives are conducted at stations as well as in trains against persons carrying inflammable substances. In addition, publicity campaigns are also undertaken to educate the public about the hazards of carrying such substances.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Instructions already exist for taking the above mentioned preventive steps which are also reiterated from time to time. The Zonal Railways undertake

drives adhering to such instructions. However, any dereliction of duty on the part of the staff is viewed seriously for taking suitable punitive action.

Rail Projects in Karnataka

1489. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 233 railway projects in progress all over the country;

(b) if so, the number of projects out of these projects are in the Karnataka's Southern-Western railway;

(c) if so, the present status of these projects in the State of Karnataka;

(d) the amount allocated for these projects; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (e) Details of on-going projects falling fully/partly in the State Karnataka, their present status, amount allocated and the target date for their completion, wherever fixed, is given as under :-

S.No.	Project	Cost	(Rs. in crore)		Status
			Likely Expenditure upto March 2003	Budget Outlay 2003-04	
1	2	3	4	5	6
New Lines					
1.	Munirabad-Mehbubnagar	420.12	16.43	10	Final Location Survey has been completed. State Government has been requested for reserving the land required for this new line project. Track linking between Yeramaras and Krishna has been completed. Work on Krishna Bridge is in progress.
2.	Gadwal-Raichur	108.91	4.1	5	Final Location Survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers are being submitted to State Government. Joint survey

1	2	3	4	5	6
					for 36.35 km. in Mehbubnagar District and 12 km. in Raichur District has also been completed. Rs. 1.76 crore and Rs. 1.90 crore have been deposited with Government of Karnataka with Government of Andhra Pradesh respectively for land acquisition. Construction of Foot over Bridge and platform at Gadwal is in progress. Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges from Gadwal end have been finalised for reach-I and under finalisation for two reaches.
3.	Hubli-Ankola	997.58	37.17	15	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition plans have been submitted to the State Government for Hubli-Kirvatti section and Rs. 14 crore deposited with the State Government towards land acquisition. Earthwork and minor bridges are in progress. This project has been identified as one of the four K-RIDE projects.
4.	Gulbarga-Bidar	460	5.33	15	Final location survey has been completed. The survey for change in alignment from Khanapur to Bidar has also been completed. Land acquisition papers for 5 Km has been submitted to State Government where there is no change in alignment. Rs. 5 crore has been deposited with State Government towards cost of land.
5.	Kottur-Harihar via Harappannahalli	124.03	2.17	5	Final location survey has been completed and land acquisition paper for 11 villages has been submitted to State Government and Rs. 2.08 crore deposited with them towards cost of land. Earthwork and minor bridges for 4 reaches (25km) are in progress. State Government has agreed to share 2/3rd cost of this project.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Saklesphur	157	16.77	15	220 hectare of land out of 240 hectares has been acquired. Balance is forest land for which acquisition process is on. Earthwork and minor bridges in 40 km stretch are in progress. Soil investigation for one tunnel (300m) and two viaducts has been completed.
7.	Hassan-Bangalore	412.91	82.4	26	Land is available between Hassan and Shravanabelagola (43 km) and Bangalore to Neelamangala (16 km). Rs. 35.6 crore has been deposited with State Government towards cost of land. Earthwork is in progress. Work on Hassan-Shravanabelagola is targeted for completion during 2003-04.
8.	Bangalore-Satyamanglam	225	0.45	0.1	Final Location Survey has been completed from Bangalore to Chamrajanagar (via Kanakapura-162 km) and is in progress in balance portion. Survey work has slowed down due to hostile situation in forest area.
Gauge Conversion					
9.	Solapur (Hotgi)-Gadag	276	162.78	10	The work is being done in phases. Work on Solapur-Hotgi (16 km) and Hotgi-Bijapur (94 km) has been completed. Work is in progress on rest of section from Bijapur to Gadag. State Government is participating in funding the project with a view to expedite early completion of this work.
10.	Mysore-Chamarajanagar	175	2.5	20	Earthwork, major and minor bridges are in progress.
11.	Bangalore-Hubli & Birur-Shimoga	432.08	398.41	0.01	The work on the line between Bangalore-Hubli and Birur-Shimoga has been completed and commissioned. Work is in progress on Shimoga-Talguppa section. Earthwork and bridges are in progress.
12.	Yeswantpur-Salem	178.26	175.82	0.01	Work has been completed. However, Bayappanhalli-Yeswantpur is not getting commissioned due to public agitation to get Road Over Bridge at Lingarajapuram and Bansawadi.

1	2	3	4	5	6
					Contract awarded for Road Over Bridge at Lingarajapuram and Bansawadi and work has started. Work on Yeswantpur Bye-pass line has also been taken up and the matter is being pursued with the Ministry of Defence for transfer of defence land.
13.	Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore	312.43	218.5	2	Arsikere-Hassan-Sakleshpur has been completed and commissioned. Work on Mangalore-Kabakaputtur is nearing completion and Kabakaputtur-Subramanya Road is targeted for completion during 2003-04. The work on Ghat Section between Subramanya Road and Sakleshpur is also in progress and is expected to be completed during 2004-05 subject to availability of resources. This is one of the project being implemented through K-RIDE.
	Doubling				
14.	Hospet-Guntakal	154.14	56.42	35	Final location survey has been completed. This project is proposed under K-RIDE funding with a view to expedite the progress. Earthwork and bridges in Bellary-Tornagallu section is in progress. The section is targeted for completion during 2003-04.
15.	Bangalore-Kengeri with Elect.	27.89	2.19	5	Karnataka Government has come forward to share 2/3 cost of the project. Earthwork, major and minor bridges are in progress.
16.	Kengeri-Ramanagaram	64.54	0.02	5	Karnataka Government has come forward to share 2/3 cost of the project. Final location survey has been completed. Earthwork and minor bridges between Kengeri-Bidadi section are in progress. Tenders for earthwork and bridges between Km. 33 to 45 are under finalisation.

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Yeshwantpur-Tumkur	91.82	10.15	19.56	Earthwork, minor bridges and panel interlocking works are in progress. Foundation work on major bridge on river Arkavathi has been completed.
18.	Bangalore-Whitefield-Bangalore City-Krishnarajapuram	85	0.02	0.01	Work will be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances.
19.	Whitefield-Kuppam	162.23	107.23	27	First phase from Whitefield to Bangarapet and Bangarpet Yard has been completed and commissioned. Work on Bangarpet-Bisanatham is nearing completion and Bisanantham-Kuppam is targeted for completion during 2003.04.
20.	Calicut-Mangalore	563.08	505.99	25	Work completed except Cannanore Valapattanam.

Licence for FM Radio Stations

1490. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of FM Radio stations have increased recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the spread of radio is low in India;
- (d) if so, whether Government proposes to decrease high licencing fees for FM stations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) During the current financial year, AIR has not commissioned any FM Radio Station. However, 9 Private FM Radio Stations have come up during the same period, as per the following details :-

- (i) Delhi - 3 channels
- (ii) Kolkata (WB) - 4 channels
- (iii) Chennai (TN) - 2 channels
- (c) No Sir. 99.13% of population in the country is

covered by Radio, which is expected to increase to 99.50% by the end of the 10th Five Year Plan.

(d) No Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

Unprofessional Act of HPCL

1491. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C & AG in its report no. 3 of 2003 (PSUs) on pages 90-91 has brought out the fact of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPCL) acting in an unprofessional manner against the financial interest of the company and for not adhering to establishment marketing guidelines;

(b) if so, whether the Government have looked into the matter and taken any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) mentioned that the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPC) by non-adhering to established marketing guidelines and by inadequately

supervising the activities of depot at Chandigarh, had to suffer loss due to non-realization of dues of Rs. 3.69 crore from a private party.

(b) and (c) The investigation, prima facie, revealed gross financial irregularities committed by a few employees in Marketing and Finance Wing of the Company including those at Chandigarh Depot. The Company placed 6 out of such erring officials under suspension and initiated regular Department action against all the 9 officials. HPC has reported the matter to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Chandigarh who have launched criminal proceedings against the Depot Incharge and the private party concerned. HPC has also filed legal suit against the private party which is presently sub-judice.

Construction of Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail Line

1492. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

Zone	Name of the new line work	Length (in Km)	Year of inclusion in Budget	Financial Internal Rate of Return (%) as per survey report
North West	Kolayat-Phalodi	111	2002-03	Negative
East Central	Koderma-Tilaiya	68	2001-02	14.52
Eastern	Tarakeswar-Bishnupur	85	2000-01	Negative
Eastern	Deogarh-Sultanganj	130	2000-01	Negative
Northeast Frontier	New Maynaguri-Jogighopa	245	2000-01	Negative
North West	Ajmer-Pushkar	26	2000-01	Negative
South Central	Kotipalli-Narsapur	58	2000-01	Negative
Western	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal	262	2000-01	Negative
Western	Gandhinagar-Adrej Moti-Kalol	20	2000-01	Negative

The rate of return given above are as worked out at the time of survey. The same is not updated once the project is included in the budget. Rate of return as per latest Survey report is not available.

(b) to (f) The survey has been completed and the proposal has been sent to Planning Commission for 'in principle' approval. Chief Minister/Orissa has requested for taking up the construction of this line. The project will be included in the budget after requisite approvals.

Duty Hour of Railway Engine Drivers

1493. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and length of the new rail lines taken up for construction during last three years ending March 2003 with rates of return in each case as per latest survey report;

(b) the present status of Talcher-Bimlagarh rail line;

(c) the reason for delay in implementing the project when it provides more rate of return than most of the currently taken up rail lines for construction;

(d) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Orissa for the construction of this rail line,

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) New lines taken up for construction during the last three years along with rate of return are as follows :

(a) the duty-hours of railway engine drivers perform in the long-distance trains;

(b) the pay structure of all three drivers and the special allowances are paid to them;

(c) whether regular medical check-up is done for the engine drivers before commencing duty in long distance trains; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) The duty hours of drivers are regulated in accordance with the provisions contained in Chapter 14 of the Railways Act, 1989.

The drivers are classified as continuous and they are statutorily required to work for 54 hours per week but they are rostered for 52 hours per week keeping in view crew links. Norms provide for working by the crew beyond prescribed limits in exigencies of accidents, floods, agitation, failure of equipments etc.

(b) Pay scales of Loco Running Staff are detailed as under :-

Second Firemen	Rs. 2750-70-3800-75-4400
Sr. Second Fireman	Rs. 3050-75-3950-80-4590
First Firemen/Diesel/ Electrical Assistant	Rs. 3050-75-3950-80-4590
Sr. Firemen//Sr. Diesel Asstt./Sr. Elect. Asstt.	Rs. 4000-100-6000
Shunter	Rs. 4000-100-6000
Sr. Shunter	Rs. 5000-150-8000
Goods Driver	Rs. 5000-150-8000
Sr. Goods Driver	Rs. 5500-175-9000
Passenger Driver/ Motormen (Passenger Trains and EMU Service Only)	Rs. 5500-175-9000
Sr. Passenger Driver/Sr. Motorman (Passenger Trains and EU Service Only)	Rs. 6000-190-9800
Mail Express Drivers (Mail Express/Superfast Trains)	Rs. 6000-190-9800

Regarding the special allowances payable to the Drivers, for the performance of duty directly connected with the charge of moving trains, they are allowed running and other allowances. Also, a specified percentage of their basic pay is treated to be in the nature of pay, for the specified purposes.

(c) and (d) Periodical Medical Checkups of all the drivers are conducted as per laid down schedule. On special occasions as per need and at the time of reporting for duty after sickness, the medical examination is done. However, no medical examination is conducted for commencing duty in long distance trains on every trip.

ONGC to Acquire Crude from Sudan

1494. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) received its first shipment of crude from its Greater Nile Oil project in Sudan where it acquired 25% oil equity;

(b) if so, the rate at which the crude has been purchased by the Government and the total quantity of the shipment thereof;

(c) the total quantity of crude imported during the year 2002-2003 and the foreign exchange involved therein;

(d) whether the Government have assessed the requirement of crude during the current financial year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The first shipment of ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL)'s share of crude oil from the Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP), Sudan amounting 5,99,264 barrels was purchased by Mangalore Refineries & Petrochemicals Limited at a price of US\$ 28.16 per barrel.

(c) During the year 2002-03, a quantity of about 82 million metric tonnes (MMT) of crude oil was imported at a cost US\$ 15,759 million (Rs. 76,195 crore).

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The crude oil processing for the year 2003-04 is estimated at 116.678 MT and the crude oil imports are estimated at 87.67 MT.

Construction of Rail Line without Recommendation of Planning Commission

1495. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether without the recommendation of Planning Commission and even mention in the Railway Budget, Government are laying Railway line between Neoral-Sheikhpura, showing the expense on record against the sanctioned amount on account of material modification of Fatehpur-Islampur railway line; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The work of new line from Daniawan to Biharsharif was approved as material modification of Fatuha-Islampur project basically to have connectivity between the two branch lines i.e., Fatuha-Islampur and Bakhtiarpur-Rajgir. Later on, in the year 2000-2001, the work of Biharsharif-Barbigha was approved as material modification to the project. Meanwhile, an additional traffic of about 7-8 trains per day was assessed to move via Kiul-Mugalsarai. Due to severe capacity constraints via Patna, the feasibility of providing an alternative route by construction of the missing links to the already sanctioned Daniawan-Biharsharif-Barbigha was examined. It was considered that with the construction of Barbigha-Sheikhpura and Daniawan-Neora, an alternative route from Kiul to Mugalsarai via Sheikhpura, Daniawan, Neora would get established by passing Patna. The return of this investment was assessed as 16%. Considering this, the two sections were also approved as material modifications.

Railway's finances have been kept under a separate footing in view of Railways being a fast dynamic setup as a national carrier of goods and passengers. Railways have been given financial independence to discharge its developmental functions and keeping this in view a separate Railway Budget is presented. Power for enlargement of scope of sanctioned work has also been vested in the Ministry and this does not require clearance from Planning Commission. In this case also the material modifications have been approved by the competent authority after following due procedure. The revised cost of the project has been reflected in the budget documents as per the practice being followed.

Catering Charges

1496. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of trains in which catering charges are included in the fare;
- (b) the system followed for selection of menu and cost thereof as a component of the fare; and
- (c) the annual percentage increase in the fare and the food charges respectively during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Catering charges are included in the fare of Rajdhani and Shatabadi Express trains.

- (b) Menu and tariff of catering services are selected and revised from time to time on the recommendations of the committee appointed for this purpose.

- (c) There has been no increase in the fares and charges for catering services in Rajdhani and Shatabadi Express trains during the last three years.

[Translation]

Enhancement of Power Generation Capacity of Jharkhand

1497. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of power generating capacity of each power station increased in Jharkhand during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government propose to enhance the generation capacity of these power stations in the State;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) During the last three years, there is no increase in generating capacity (thermal as well as hydro) due to commissioning of any new unit at the existing power stations in the State of Jharkhand.

(b) to (d) Following power projects are targeted to be commissioned during 10th Plan, as extension of existing units.

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
1.	Chandrapura TPP Extn. U-7 & 8 (DVC) (Central Sector)	500
2.	Tenughat TPP St.II U-3, 4 & 5 (State Sector)	630
3.	Jojobera TPP (Private Sector)	120

In addition to this, Renovation, Modernization and Life Extension is also proposed in respect of Maithon Unit 2 (20 MW), Motion Unit-1 & 3 (2x20 MW) and Panchet Unit-1 (40MW) in the Central Sector.

Opening of Divisional Office in Ahmedabad

1498. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the approval has been granted for opening of Railway Divisional office in Ahmedabad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the above mentioned office has become fully operational;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government and the success achieved in this regard?

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

(b) to (e) The new Amhedabad Division has been made fully operational w.e.f. 1.4.2003.

Power Projects in Maharashtra

1499. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the power plants in Maharashtra are running behind the schedule;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the period of delay as on last month;
- (d) the cost overrun due to unnecessary delay, plant-wise;
- (e) whether the Government have held any officer responsible and guilty for unnecessary delay caused therein; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) The following power projects in the State of Maharashtra are running behind schedule:

- Dabhol CCGT Ph. II (1444 MW)** : The project being executed by Dabhol Power Company (DPC) in the private sector was scheduled for commissioning during the year 2000-01 at a cost of US\$ 1868 M. Due to dispute between DPC and MSEB, the execution of works were stopped in June, 2001 and the project which was on advanced stage of implementation could not be commissioned.
- Ghatghar PSS (2×125MW)** : The project is being executed by Irrigation Department, Government of Maharashtra.

Original Cost (Rs. crore)	Latest cost (Rs. crore)	Cost overrun (Rs. crore)	Original commissioning schedule	Latest commissioning schedule	Time overrun (years)
620.78	1184.60	563.82	1995-96	2004-05	9

As per intimation from the State Government, the actual work on the site could not commence till 1997 due to problems related to transfer of forest land required for the project. All major civil works have been awarded and are in progress along with erection of unit.

[English]

Corruption by Railway Officials

1500. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an increase in the number of bribe cases in regard to allotment of berths in trains;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, till date; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government against those guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The number of bribe cases in regard to allotment of berths in trains are not kept separately. However, the number of train checking staff found responsible for various malpractices/irregularities including that of allotment of berths in trains during the last three years and the current year, is as follows: 2000 : 744; 2001:855;2002: 755; 2003 (January to June) : 352.

- (c) The staff found guilty have been taken up under Railway Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

Pending Hydro Power Projects

1501. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many proposed hydro-power projects

are pending for clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the government in this regard; and

(c) the details of hydro-electric projects cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) As per available information, five Hydro-electric Projects are at present pending environmental and forestry clearance.

(b) According to Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, assessment of a proposal is to be completed within 90 days of receipt of complete information and decision is communicated within 30 days thereafter.

(c) The following Hydro-electric Projects have been approved during the year 2003 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests:

- (1) Bairabi Dam & Hydro-electric Project (Mizoram)
- (2) Sewa Hydro-electric Project (Jammu & Kashmir).
- (3) Lower Subansiri Hydro-electric Project (Arunachal Pradesh)
- (4) Teesta Low Dam Stage-III (West Bengal)

Funds Allotted by Rural Electrification Corporation to Andhra Pradesh

*1502. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has agreed to provide financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 1100 crores to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the year 2003-2004;

(b) if so, the amount released so far in this regard; and

(c) other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought financial assistance of Rs. 123.46 crores for electrification of hamlets/

dalit bastis in 2003-04 which has been agreed to by the Rural Electrification Corporation.

(b) and (c) So far no fund has been released to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Strength of Employees

1503. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise number of personnel working in groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under the Ministry of Railways department/undertaking-wise;

(b) the number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately, out of total number of personnel; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to fill up the backlog, if any?

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

[English]

Rakes for Transportation of Foodgrains to Kerala

1504. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of rakes for transportation of foodgrains to Kerala to stock the required quantity of wheat and raw rice to the people through ration shops;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allot sufficient number of rakes to Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (d) The Railways provide the rakes for transportation of foodgrains for Public Distribution System, as per the programme given by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). From April 2003 to

July 2003, FCI has given a programme of 59 rakes for foodgrains loading for Kerala. The Railways have loaded 63 foodgrains rakes from 1st April, 2003 to 27th July, 2003 for Kerala. Railways coordinate with FCI to ensure availability of adequate foodgrains in Kerala.

[English]

**Construction of LC Gate/Road
Under Bridge at Selu**

1505. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request from Mumbai Council, Selu, Prabhani (Maharashtra) regarding construction of L.C. gate or road under bridge at Selu Railway Station in S.C. railway is pending with the Government for the last years;

(b) whether the Selu Municipal Council local MP and MLA have also given an undertaking to bear the cost of LC Gate/road under bridge;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in construction of L.C. Gate/RUB, which causing great inconvenience to half of the population of Selu town; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to construct LC Gate/RUB at Selu Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir. The request of President, Municipal Council, Selu for construction of L.C. gate was examined and it was found that the location falls in Selu Station Yard. Since, extant provisions regarding construction of level crossing provide that no level crossing should be provided within the Station Yard, the request could not be conceded. However, the provision of Road Under Bridge has been found feasible on deposit terms and the Collector/Parbhani has been advised of the decision.

(b) to (d) The Hon'ble Member of Parliament of the area and Councilor, Parbhani have requested the Railways to give an estimate for construction of Road Under Bridge at the location. The estimate for construction of Road Under Bridge for light vehicles only amounting to Rs. 38.66 lakhs has been sent to Collector/Parbhani on 18.2.2003. He has also been advised to deposit Rs. 77,325/- for taking up preparation of plans and detail estimate. No reply has been received from Collector/Parbhani so far.

[English]

**Free Complimentary Passes to
Missionaries/Institutions**

1506. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are provisions to provide all India or regional free complimentary passes to Christian Missionaries and/or other communities institutions;

(b) if so, the norms adopted for giving such free complimentary passes to these institutions; and

(c) the details regarding names of such missionaries/institutions who have been issued complimentary passes and the period for which these passes have been given during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) All India complimentary card passes are issued under discretionary powers of Minister of Railways as per guidelines. No regional free passes are issued.

(b) Complimentary card passes are issued as per guidelines to organizations engaged in social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities.

(c) As a measurement of austerity and economy, no Complimentary Card Passes under discretionary powers of Minister of Railways have been issued since 15.11.99.

Coaches for MMTS in Hyderabad

1507. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has expressed its annoyance with South Central Railway officials for poor finish of first rake of coaches for Multi Model Transport System in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether they have pointed out certain shortcomings in the design or colour of coaches;

(d) if so, whether changes have been made as per suggestion given in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) While inspecting the EMU Coaches supplied for Hyderabad Multi

Model Transport System, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had noticed some shortcomings in finish of the Coaches including the colour scheme, the finish of the painting, exterior of the coach, sturdiness of the grabralls, stainless steel paneling, moulding of the side walls etc. These shortcomings exists as these coaches had been supplied at a short notice. He desired that the fit and finish should be made comparable to the best in the world.

(d) and (e) Yes. Sir. Integral Coach Factory (ICF) is already implementing the suggestions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to the best extent possible and has dispatched 5 modified rakes to Secunderabad, after three Ministers of the Andhra Pradesh Govt. accompanied by General Manager, South Central Railway, the Mayor of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and Dy. Municipal Commissioner/A.P. Metro had, in May '03, inspected the improvements made in the rakes.

Setting up of Durgadwani Mini Hydel Power Plant

1508. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far for the setting up of Durgadwani mini hydel power plant in Sundarbans, West Bengal;

(b) the target fixed by the Government for the commencement of generation of electricity; and

(c) the total funds likely to be incurred on the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a 3 MW Tidal Power Project in Durgadwani, Sunderbans,, West Bengal has been completed and duly examined in the Ministry. As recommended in the DPR, environmental clearance is required for the implementation of the project. The Ministry have sanctioned Environmental Impact Assessment Study for this project to the West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency, Kolkata, in March, 2003. This study is expected to be completed in about a year. After completion of the study, and based on its results, statutory environment clearance will be sought from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The implementation targets for the project will be decided after obtaining the statutory environment clearance.

(c) The estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 33 crores.

[Translation]

Military Cooperation with Russia

1509. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia are contemplating to increase military cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which bilateral agreement is likely to be signed between the two countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) India and Russia enjoy a traditionally high level of military cooperation. This continues to grow in the light of Russia's capacity to meet our requirement. There is no specific proposal under consideration to increase this cooperation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Power Plants in Gujarat during Tenth Plan

1510. SHRI G. J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up power plants in Gujarat during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the same, location-wise; and

(c) the necessary steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The details of power projects targeted to be commissioned in 10th Plan in the State of Gujarat are given as under :

Name of the Project	Estimated completed cost (Rs. in crore)
Kutch Lignite TPP Ext. U-4 (75 MW), State Sector	304.69
Surat Lignite Power Project Expn. Phase-II (250 MW), State Sector	897.834*
Akrimota Lignite Based TPP, (250 MW)	1338.43
Dhuvran CCPP (106.617 MW) GT + ST) State Sector	310.06
Jamnagar Petcoke based TPP (500 MW), Private Sector	2550.74
Sardar Sarovar (1200 MW RBPH + 250 MW CHPH) Gujarat has 16%	3267.25

*DPR cost

Being State Sector/Private Sector projects, Central Government has not allocated funds for these projects.

(c) Government is closely monitoring the progress of all identified projects. Review meetings are held with the respective State Governments, promoters and the financial institutions with a view to remove bottlenecks and avoid slippage of these projects from 10th Plan.

Global Tenders for Ordnance Factory at Rajgir

1511. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether global tenders were invited before selection of the M/s. Somchem, South Africa, for the ordnance factory at Rajgir (Nalanda);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it was against the general policy of the Ministry of Defence to issue global tenders for the major defence requirements;

(d) whether any TOT fees have been paid to M/s. Somchem, South Africa for this project.

(e) if so, the amount thereof;

(f) whether it is against the general policy of the Ministry of Defence to obtain TOT free of charge in major defence acquisitions; and

(g) if so, the reasons for paying TOT fees?

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

(b) The Transfer of Technology (TOT) for production of 155mm Bimodular Charge System (BMCS) was negotiated along with import of BMCS for the army. Global Tender Enquiry was not issued for import of BMCS, since, in 1999 M/s. Somchem was the only source for this type of ammunition.

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The total TOT fee is USD 13.99 million, out of which an amount of USD 11.192 million has been paid after receipt of the technology documents.

(f) There is no general policy to obtain TOT free of charge.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

[Translation]

Hiring of Oil Blocks by ONGC in Libya

1512. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC propose to hire Oil blocks in Lybia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be incurred on it; and

(d) the expected profit likely to be accrued on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA

MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) ONGC - Videsh Limited (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has acquired 49% participating interest in two exploration blocks, NC-188 and NC - 189, in Libya from Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company.

Block NC - 188, measuring 6558 sq. km., falling in Ghadames Basin, is about 250 Km. south of Tirpoli, the capital of Libya and Block NC - 189, measuring 2088 sq. km. located in Sirte Basin, is about 850 km. south-east of Tripoli.

(c) OVL's share of expenditure towards fulfilling exploration work commitments in both the blocks is estimated to be around US\$ 30 million (Rs. 141 crore, approximately), likely to be incurred over a period of two years.

(d) The outcome of the exploration in these blocks is not known as of date.

[English]

Participation In Peacekeeping Operation In Congo

1513. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is taking part in its second peace keeping operation in this troubled African Republic of Congo after a gap of 33 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of armed forces personnel along with equipment being deputed Congo and their role at Congo; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for their safety and security?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes Sir. India is participating in the second peacekeeping operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(b) India has agreed to deploy an Indian Air Force Aviation Unit and an Indian Army Rifle Company, to the present UN Mission in Congo, called MONUC.

(c) The Indian contingent comprises 242 personnel of the IAF with nine helicopters and a Rifle Company of ninety personnel. The role of the Indian contingent will include cargo transport, troop movement, medical transport, armed escort, search and rescue missions and surveillance flights etc.

(d) An evaluation of the risk factors involved has been carried out. Ground assessment of the situation has been done by a team of IAF officers. Both the IAF and Army detachments are suitably equipped and trained for all contingencies. The Rifle Company is tasked for providing the security to the Aviation Unit.

Electrification of the Villages of U.P. and Delhi

1514. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of electrification work in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh State is quite unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of villages electrified in the above States during the last two years;

(d) the amount provided for this purpose; and

(e) the number of villages yet to be electrified, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) of the total number of 97,135 villages, 56,731 villages have been electrified in Uttar Pradesh (UP) at the end of March, 2003, thus leaving a balance of 40,404 unelectrified villages. All the villages in the National Capital Territory of Delhi have been reported to be electrified by Delhi Transco Limited.

(c) Details of villages electrified in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years are as under :

2001-02	1106
2002-03	1780

(d) Details of funds released to Uttar Pradesh under various rural electrification schemes viz. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) during the above mentioned years are given as under :

	(Rs. in lakhs)	
Schemes	2001-02	2002-03
PMGY	3586.65	10187
MNP	3923	15000

In 2003-04, Rs. 15000 lakhs has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh for rural electrification under MNP and a budgetary provision of Rs. 2767 crores has been kept under PMGY for all the six components including rural electrification. The State has been given the flexibility to make

an inter-se allocation amongst the components depending upon their priorities.

(e) District-wise details of un-electrified villages in Uttar Pradesh yet to be electrified are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

District-wise un-electrified villages in Uttar Pradesh as on 31.3.2003

S.No.	Mandal/District	No. inhabited villages (1991 census)	No. of un-electrified villages
1	2	3	4
1.	Saharanpur		
	Saharanpur	1278	302
	Mujaffarnagar	886	0
	Total	2164	302
2.	Meerut		
	Meerut		
	Bagpat	900	0
	Ghaziabad	685	16
	Gautam Buddha Nagar		
	Bulandshahar	1359	325
	Total	2944	341
3.	Muradabad		
	Bijnore	2132	849
	Muradabad	2475	843
	Jyotiba Phule Nagar		
	Rampur	1098	528
	Total	5705	2220
4.	Agra		
	Aligarh	1706	699
	Mahamaya Nagar (Hatras)		
	Mathura	871	70
	Agra	904	94
	Ferozabad	795	382
	Mainpuri	826	314
	Etah	1507	828
	Total	6609	2387

1	2	3	4
5.	Bareilly		
	Bareilly	1851	510
	Badaun	1780	797
	Shahjahanpur	2130	1267
	Pilibhit	1210	662
	Total	6971	3236
6.	Kanpur		
	Farukhabad	1571	672
	Kannauj		
	Etawah	1461	570
	Auriya		
	Kanpur Nagar	247	
	Kanpur Dehat	1622	730
	Total	4901	1972
7.	Jhansi		
	Jhansi	760	182
	Lalitpur	689	304
	Jalaun	942	367
	Total	2391	853
8.	Chitrakut		
	Hamirpur	926	365
	Mahoba		
	Banda	1204	415
	Chitrakut		
	Total	2130	780
9.	Allahabad		
	Allahabad	3539	1136
	Kaushambi		
	Fatehpur	1352	485
	Pratapgarh	2181	693
	Total	7072	2314
10.	Lucknow		
	Lucknow	824	20
	Raibareilly	1737	222
	Unnao	1693	675
	Sitapur	2314	1196
	Hardoi	1883	880
	Lakhimpur Khiri	1712	668
	Total	10163	3661

1	2	3	4
11.	Faizabad		
	Faizabad	2647	1477
	Ambedkar Nagar		
	Sultanpur	2495	657
	Barabanki	2050	932
	Total	7192	3066
12.	Devi Patan		
	Gonda	2818	1432
	Balrampur		
	Behraich	1890	740
	Shravasti		
	Total	4708	2172
13.	Varanasi		
	Varanasi	3702	1867
	Chandauli		
	Gazipur	2583	1660
	Jaunpur	3269	1827
	Total	9554	5363
14.	Mirzapur		
	Mirzapur	1722	667
	Sant Ravidas Nagar (Bhadohi)		
	Sonbhadra	1346	589
	Total	3068	1256
15.	Azamgarh		
	Azamgarh	3721	2243
	Mau	1472	799
	Balla	1792	571
	Total	6985	3613
16.	Gorakhpur		
	Gorakhpur	2880	1034
	Maharajganj	1207	208
	Devaria	3550	1264
	Kushinagar		
	Total	7637	2596
17.	Basti		
	Basti	4504	2844
	Sant Kabir Nagar	2437	1428
	Sidharath Nagar		
	Total	6941	4272
	Grand Total	97135	40404

Train Network in Tamil Nadu

1515. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the railways route length per thousand square km. of area in Tamil Nadu as on 31.3.2001 alongwith the comparison with other States;
- (b) the reasons for low density of rail routes in Tamil Nadu; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to bring Tamil Nadu to the level of national average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) As on 31.3.2001, the Railway route length (route kms). per thousand square kms of area in Tamil Nadu is 32.21 km. which is much higher than the national average of 19.17 km.

- (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Increase in Electricity generation in Power Station of West Bengal

1516. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the increase in power generation capacity of each power station in West Bengal during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government purpose to increase the power generation capacity of those power stations in the State; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Due to non-commissioning of any extension units in the state of West Bengal, there has been no increase in generating capacity in the last three years.

(b) and (c) The following power projects are proposed to be commissioned during Tenth Plan as expansion of existing units in the State of West Bengal.

Sl.No.	Name of Project/Capacity (MW)
1.	Bakreshwar TPS Extn. U-4 & 5 (2x210) (State Sector)
2.	Santalidih TPP U-5 (250) (State Sector)
3.	Mejia TPS Extn. U-4 (210) (Central Sector)
4.	Mejia TPS Extn. U-5&6 (2x250) (Central Sector)

Objectionable Advertisement on Hindu Deities

1517. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several Hindu Deities are being shown in disrespecting manner in advertisements telecast on various channels including the one in which Kauravs have been shown pulling the sari of Draupadi;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to ban the advertisements showing Hindu Deities and also take legal action against the advertisement company which have shown the Kaurav pulling the sari of Draupadi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The advertisements of all TV channels when transmitted/retransmitted through the cable network are required to adhere to the Advertising Code perscribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Advertising Code inter alia prohibits advertisements, which contain references which hurt religious sentiments and which offened religious susceptibilities of the subscribers. Complaints from members of the public and organisation are received from time to time regarding alleged violations of Advertising Code. The Central Government has constituted an inter-ministerial committee under Section 20 of the aforesaid Act to look into the violation of the Advertising Code. Cognizance of such violation Advertising Code is also taken suo-moto by the Committee. No complaint about any such advertisement, on any TV channel has been brought to the notice of the Government.

[English]

Track Renewal

1518. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the track renewal work has been undertaken in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Mumbai; and

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The details of execution of track renewal works are not maintained state-wise or city-wise. Instead these are maintained zonal

Railway wise. However, track renewals carried out and expenditure incurred in last three years on Indian Railways are as under :

Year	Track Renewal done in Track Km	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. in crore)
2002-03	4776	3298*
2001-02	3620	2475
2000-01	3250	2245

*Provisional

[Translation]

ROB/RUB Projects in Haryana

1519. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of on-going ROB/RUB projects in Haryana along with the target for completion of these projects; project-wise;

(b) the number of proposals of ROB/RUB projects pending with the railways for clearance along with the reasons therefor, project-wise, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) These are no firm proposals pending with railways.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of work	Rly	Year of sanction	Rly Share	State share	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	ROB at Palwal in lieu of LC No. 565 at Km 1479/21-23 on JHS-DLI section	NR	2003-04	571	365	Site survey completed. Profile sketch sent to State Govt. for signature on 19.6.03.
2.	ROB near Gannaur in lieu of LC No. 37 at Km 59/11-13 on DLI-UMB section	NR	2003-04	542	510	Site Survey completed. Profile sketch signed by State Govt. on 15.6.03 and is under approval. Detailed Estimate for approaches awaited.
3.	ROB near Rewari on Rewari-Jhajjar road in lieu of LC No. 57B at Km 81/4-5 on DLI-RE section	NWR	2003-04	873	81407	This is a new work sanctioned in W.P. 2003-04. Work is in planning stage.
4.	ROB at Sonipat in lieu of LC No. 27 B at Km 43.552 on DLI-UMB section	NR	2003-04	899	850	Site survey completed. Profile sketch sent to State Govt. for signature on 7.5.03.
5.	ROB at Hissar in lieu of LC No. A-92 at Km 142/4-5 on Rewari-Hissar section	NWR	2003-04	299.67	937.4	This is a new work sanctioned in W.P. 2003-04. Work is in planning stage.
6.	BALLABGARH - ROB in lieu of Lxing No. 575/B (SH) at Km 1502/4-5	NR	1990-91	216	247	Profile sketch and Detailed Estimate under process.
7.	ROB at Faridabad in lieu of LC No. 576 at Km 1504/11-13 on JHS-DLI section	NR	2003-04	676	403	Site survey completed. Profile sketch sent to State Govt. for signature on 20.6.03.
8.	ROB near Kesri in lieu of LC No 116 at Km 72/10-11 on DLI-BTI section	NR	2003-04	483	487	Field survey completed. Profile sketch under process.
9.	ROB at Rewari in lieu of LC No. A-63 at Km 72/10-11 on DLI-BTI section	NR	2003-04	841	911	Site survey completed. Profile sketch under process.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	ROB at Rewari in lieu of LC No. 58A on Rewari-Alwar section	NWR	2003-04	299.67	937.4	This is a new work sanctioned in W.P. 2003-04. Work is in planning stage.
11.	MANDI DABWALI-ROB in lieu of LC No. 32-B on BTI-Suratgarh Sec.	NWR	1995-96	243	648	State Govt. has not started the work on approaches due to which work in Railway portion has not been started by Railway.
12.	ROB at Hissar in lieu of LC No. 89-B at Km 137/4-5 on Rewari-Hisar Section	NWR	2003-04	379.95	389.26	This is a new work sanctioned in W.P. 2003-04. Work is in planning stage.
13.	KARNAL-RUB in lieu of LC No. 71-B on Kamal-Katchua Road	NR	1999-00	104	142	Work is sanctioned as RUB which is technically not feasible. Proposal for provision of ROB in lieu of RUB is under consideration. Profile sketch sent to State Govt. for signature. Detailed Estimate for approaches yet to be received from state PWD.
14.	Kurukshetra-Widening of existing 2 lane ROB to 4 lane	NR	2003-04	269	334	Sanctioned on out of turn basis in May, 2003.

[English]

Alternate Source of Power Generation

1520. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of NOB-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scientific research for alternate sources of power generation being conducted by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Research and Development (R & D) is being conducted in renewable sources of power generation. The Ministry has so far approved 312 R & D projects in various areas of renewable sources of energy, including New Technologies, Solar Energy, Biomass including Biomass Gasifiers, Wind, Biogas and Urban & Industrial Waste etc., R & D is being carried out to reduce the cost of the systems, improves their reliability and to achieve higher levels of efficiency. R & D is conducted through Universities, National Laboratories, IITs, Research Institutions etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Rural Electrification

1521. CHOWDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the rural electrification schemes in the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch of Jammu and

Kashmir State which have been sent to REC during the last three years; and

(b) the amount of funds sanctioned/released and spent during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has sanctioned the following rural electrification schemes in the district of Rajouri in Jammu & Kashmir during the last three years (2000-01 to 2002-03). No. schemes of Poonch district have been received by REC for sanction during the period.

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme
1.	Rajouri and Manjakote Blocks of Rajouri Distt,
2.	132/33 KV Sub-station at Siot, Rajouri Distt.
3.	E & M and RE, Rajouri/Rajouri Distt.

(b) During the said period loan amount of Rs. 2264 lakhs was sanctioned for the above schemes.

The loan amount released during the said period for Rajouri and Poonch districts was Rs. 530 lakhs which included release for the schemes sanctioned prior to the said period. Releases of REC loan is primarily based on utilization and the responsibility for accounting of physical and financial progress under each scheme lies with the concerned State Electricity Board/Power Utility.

Profits/Losses of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation

1522. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the functions and objectives of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation; and

(b) the profits earned and losses suffered by the said Corporation during each of the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) has been set up to upgrade and professionalize the catering services on Indian Railways and to promote rail-based tourism, etc. through public private partnerships.

(b) Profit of IRCTC during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Rupees in Lakhs
2000-01	7.47
2001-02	83.08
2002-03	555.37

Setting up of Container Depot in Mangalore

1523. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Container Depot in Mangalore in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated amount likely to be incurred for setting up of the Container Depot there; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to set up the Container Depot?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Hike in Prices of LPG and Kerosene

1524. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

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

(a) whether the Government is going to allow Public Sector Oil Companies to raise the prices of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details with the reasons for the same;

(c) whether various organizations and political parties have opposed this move of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG which continue to be subsidized products, has been decontrolled and the oil marketing companies (OMCs) are fixing the prices after taking into account international oil prices. Even the changes in the consumer prices of PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, after providing for the flat rate of subsidy, are to be made by OMCs.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped

1525. SHRI P. R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vocational rehabilitations centres for the welfare of handicapped persons in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the number of rehabilitation centres in the country are not in proportion to the number of handicapped; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken to rationalise this ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI):

(a) 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres and 11 Rural Rehabilitation Extension Centres attached to 5 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres are run by Ministry of Labour. In addition 204 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) are supported by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons With Disabilities. Details are enclosed in the Statement.

(b) and (c) Considering the large number of persons with disabilities who are in need of vocational training to facilitate their rehabilitation, the actual availability of such centers is rather low. However, within the existing resource constraints, attempts are made to expand the network of the VTCs.

Statement

I. Vocational Rehabilitation Centres run by Director General of Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour

S.No. Location of the Centre

1 2

1. Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, A.T.I. Campus, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad. Andhra, Andhra Pradesh

1	2
2.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Old. I.T.I. Campus, Guwahati. Assam
3.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, A/84, Plot 1, Gandhi Vihar, Police Colony, Anisabad, Patna, Bihar
4.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, I.T.I. Campus, Ahmedabad. Gujarat
5.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Women, After Care Hostel Building, Pensionpura, Vadodara. Gujarat.
6.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, 22, Hosur Road, Bangalore. Karnataka
7.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Nalanchira, Trivandrum. Kerala
8.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Napier Town, Near New Motor Stand & Nav Bharat Press, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
9.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, A.T.I. Campus, Sion, Mumbai, Maharashtra
10.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, SIRD Campus, Unit VIII, Bhubaneswar Orissa
11.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, A.T.I. Campus, Near Aurora Talkies, Ludhiana. Punjab
12.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, 45-A/23, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur. Rajasthan
13.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, C.T.I. Campus, Guindy, Chennai. Tamil Nadu
14.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Abhay Nagar, Agartala. Tripura
15.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, 45-A/23, Jawahar Nagar, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
16.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, 38, Badal Roy Lane, Bellaghata, Calcutta. West Bengal
17.	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, I.T.I. Hostel Building, Pusa, New Delhi.

Rural Rehabilitation Extension Centres at :

Barasat and Uluberia, attached to VRC at Calcutta.
Trivellore and Chithamur attached to VRC at Chennai.

Mohanlaganj, Gosaiganj and Akbarpur Attached to VRC at Kanpur

Hosiarpur and Bhatinda attached to VRC at Ludhiana.

Bhiwandi and Dahanu attached to VRC at Mumbai.

II. Vocational Training Centres for the Handicapped run by the Voluntary Organisations Under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities, of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Name of State	No. of Vocational Training Centre
Andhra Pradesh	36
Assam	2
Bihar	9
Chandigarh	1
Delhi	12
Gujarat	7
Haryana	5
Himacal Pradesh	1
Jharkhand	1
Karnataka	11
Kerala	19
Madhya Pradesh	3
Maharashtra	8
Manipur	4
Meghalaya	2
Mizoram	1
Orissa	9
Punjab	3
Rajasthan	9
Tamil Nadu	18
Uttar Pradesh	29
Uttaranchal	2
West Bengal	12

The details of voluntary organization with their locations are available in the Ministry's Website www.socialjustice.nic.in.

*[English]***Adulteration in Petrol**

1526. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of motor vehicles have ceased and their engines damaged due to adulteration of petrol being supplied by oil companies to petrol pumps in the Capital Region Districts;

(b) if so, action taken against those responsible for supplying adulterated petrol there; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure supply of right quality of petrol to the filling station in Faridabad and other NCR Districts to safeguard the interest of auto/car owner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Delhi brought to the notice of the Government the premature failure of engines due to poor quality of petrol in April, 2003. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (R & D Division), Faridabad examined the matter and reported that some chlorinated solvent is being used as an adulterant in some areas, particularly in Faridabad for adulteration of motor gasoline. Such chlorine containing compounds have resulted in abnormal corrosive wear on car engines.

(b) Anti-Adulteration Cell have checked 11 retail outlets in the Capital Region Districts (other than Delhi city) during the past 6 months out of which samples of 4 retail outlets have failed to meet the specifications. Action has been recommended against such retail outlets. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have also taken action during April to June, 2003 and 329 sample of MS & 178 samples of Diesel were drawn from the various Retail Outlets of NCT Delhi and 72 MS samples and 48 Diesel samples from NCR Haryana to check the quality of product.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the OMCs to ensure supply of right quality of petrol through Retail Outlets in Faridabad and other NCR Districts:-

- (i) Regular inspections by Field Officer.
- (ii) Filter Papers are provided at Retail Outlets to carry out filter paper test for adulteration of petrol.
- (iii) Density check for petrol and diesel through Hydrometer and Thermometer.

(iv) Mobile Labs are conducting surprise checks at regular interval.

(v) Regular samples on random basis from Retail Outlets are drawn & tested.

(vi) Locking system has been introduced in Tank Trucks carrying supplies of MS/HSD to Retail Outlets to NCR area in order to prevent en-route adulteration.

(vii) Customer Right Board is displayed at prominent place at the Retail Outlets to create customer awareness for carrying out Quality and Quantity Checks at Retail Outlets.

(viii) Suggestion & Complaint books/box provided at Retail Outlets.

Construction of Towers by PGCI

1527. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation is constructing towers all over the country to transmit power;

(b) the details of the work being undertaken in 2003-2004 by Power Grid Corporation;

(c) whether too many lines are criss-crossing the same areas;

(d) if so, whether any efforts have been made in this regard;

(e) whether the power lines are likely to follow a narrow belt across the country; and

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

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

(b) A list of the projects being implemented by POWERGRID during 2003-04 is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (e) Transmission lines from power generating stations to various load centres are constructed based on the quantum of power to be transmitted across such points. These transmission lines have been planned on the basis of long-term perspective transmission plan evolved by Central Electricity Authority. Due to concentration of generating resources in particular areas or geographical constraints like chicken-neck area between Bhutan and Bangladesh, criss-

crossing and concentration of transmission lines in a particular area sometimes becomes unavoidable.

(d) and (f) Considering the limitations of Right of Way, specially in the eco-sensitive zones, long term perspective plans have been evolved for its optimal utilization through creation of high capacity transmission network using state-of-art technology like Flexible AC Transmission System (Series Compensation), Extra High Voltage at 765kV level, uprating and upgrading of existing lines in order to transfer higher quantum of power through a narrow corridor, high capacity HVDC links and multi-circuit transmission lines.

Statement

Tower Erection being undertaken during year 2003-04

Sl. No.	Name of the Trans line	Length (CKM)
1	2	3
1.	East-South Interconnector II (Talcher - II Trans. System)	
	400 KV Salem-Udumalpet S/C TL	138
2.	Augmentation of Capacity of Gajuwaka HVDC B/B Proj. (500 MW)	
	400 KV D/C Vijaywada-Sitanagaram	300
	400 KV D/C Sitanagaram-Gajuwaka	396
3.	Tehri Trans. System	
	800 KV Tehri-Meerut TL-I S/C	186
	800 KV Tehri - Meerut TL-II S/C	184
	400 KV Meerut - Muzaffarnagar Trans. Line	36
4.	Unchahar Trans, System	
	220 KV D/C Panki - Naubasta LILO Line	30
5.	400 KV D/C Agra (PG) - Agra (UPPCL) TL	60
6.	Dhauliganga Transmission System	
	400 KV D/C Dhauliganga (NHPC) - Bareilly (UPPCL) Line	481
7.	220 KV Transmission System under System Improvement Scheme in U.P.	
	220 KV S/C Allahabad - Phulpur	39
	220 KV S/C Meerut (PGCIL)-Shatabdi Nagar	8

1	2	3
8.	Chamera - II Tr. System.	
	LILO of 400 KV S/C Chamera - I- Kishenpur line at Chamera - II	70
9.	Dulhasti Combined Tr. System.	
	400KV D/C Kishenpur - Thather line	210
	400 KV DC/C Thather - Wagoora line	158
10.	Rihand - II Tr. System	
	400 KV D/C Rihand - Allahabad line	596
	400 KV D/C Allahabad-Kanpur line	406
	400 KV D/C Kanpur - Mainpuri line	404
	400 KV S/C Patiala - Malerkotla and LILO of Nalagarh - Hissar at Kaithal & Patiala	146
	Mainpuri - Ballabgarh line	460
11.	System Strengthening Scheme in Northern Region (formerly part of Tala Suppl.)	
	400 KV S/C Jalandhar - Amritsar	65
	LILO of Bawana Bhiwani 400 KV S/C Line at Bahadurgarh	18
12.	System Strengthening Scheme of Western Region	
	LILO of 400 KV D/C Itarsi - Dhule at Khandwa	115
13	Tarapur 3 & 4 Transmission System	330
	400 KV D/C Tarapur 3 & 4 - Boisor Tr. Line	24
	400 KV D/C Tarapur 3 & 4 - Padghe Tr. Line	216
	220 KV S/C Tarapur 3 & 4 - Boisor Tr. Line	12
	LILO of 400 KV S/C Gandhar - Padghe at Boisor.	68
	LILO of 400 KV S/C Gandhar - Padghe at Vapi	10
14.	Raipur - Chandrapur Trans. System	
	400 KV D/C Raipur - Palandur Section	328
	400 KV D/C Palandur - Chandrapur Section	360
15.	400 KV D/C Kaiga-Narendra TL	220
16.	Madurai - Thiruvananthapuram Trans. System	346
	Madurai - Thiruvananthapuram 400 KV D/C Line	346
17.	Ramgundam-III Transmission System	
	400 KV D/C Ramagundam - Hyderabad line	392

1	2	3
	400 KV S/C Hyderabad-Kurnool-Gooty line	307
	400 KV S/C Gooty - Neelmangla line	254
	400 KV S/C Khamam - Nagurjunsagar line	145
18.	System Strengthening - II of Southern Regional Grid	
	LILO of both Ckts of Davangere - Hoody 400 KV D/C at Hirriyur	5
19.	Purnea New Scheme	
	LILO of 400 KV D/C Bongaigaon-Malda (Ckt.-II) at Purnea (New)	122
20.	Purnea Extn. Scheme	
	LILO of 132 KV S/C Purnea BSEB-Dhalkola (WBSEB) at Purnea (Existing)	1
21.	400 KV S/C Meramundali - Jeypore	
	Meramundali - Tushara Section	227
	Tushara - 'Jeypore Section	230
22.	Bihar Grid Strengthening	
	220 KV D/C Sasaram - Arrah - Khagaul TL	380
	LILO of 220 KV S/C Dehri - Sahupuri at Sasaram	30
	LILO of 132 KV S/C Dumroan - Arrah at Arrah	5
23.	2nd 400 KV D/C Kahalgaon - Biharsharif Trans. Line	414
24.	LILO of 400 KV S/C Kolaghat-Rengali Line at Baripada (New)	38
25.	Integration of Sikkim Trans. with ER	124
	LILO of 1st Ckt of 132 KV D/C Siliguri - Rengit Line at Gangtok (New)	118
	LILO of 132 KV Siliguri-Gantok at Melli	6
26.	Tala - Siliguri Tr. System	
	400 KV Tala - Siliguri Line I	194
	400 KV Tala - Siliguri Line II	234
	LILO of 400 KV Bongaigaon-Malda at Siliguri	12
	LILO of 400 KV Bongaigaon - Malda at Purnea	124
27.	System Strengthening Scheme in Eastern Region (formerly part of Tala Suppl.)	
	400 KV D/C Bihasharif-Muzaffarpur	280
	LILO of 01 Ckt. of 400 KV Farakka - Jeerat at Subhasgram	140
28.	132 KV Ranganadi - Ziro TL	40

[Translation]

Recruitment in East Central Railways

1528. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on increasing the number of employees in East-Central Zone, Hajipur by the Railway Board since September 26, 1997;

(b) whether photocopies of the certificate were received from unemployed persons for group 'D' posts on October 14, 1997;

(c) if so, the number of appointments made at Hajipur zone despite the ban in this regard imposed on September 26, 1997 alongwith year-wise and post-wise details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to appoint the unemployed persons after scrutinizing their certificates taken from them on October 14, 1997; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir. The strength of group 'C' and 'D' staff in new zones including East Central Railway/Hajipur was frozen as on 26.9.97 to keep the barest minimum staff then till such time the geographical jurisdiction gets decided. Since the territorial jurisdictions of all the new Zones/Divisions have been notified and have become operational, there is as such no ban on increasing the number of employees in East Central Railway/Hajipur.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Purchase of Hydraulic Re-Railing Equipment

1529. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian companies were bypassed in favour of a German company LUKAS in the purchase of Hydraulic Re-Railing equipment in October 2002; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to control drug addiction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir. In the purchase of Hydraulic Re-Railing Equipment, a safety item, the lowest tenderer was M/s. HYT, Pune, an Indian firm but being a new firm, they qualified for a developmental order only. The next higher tenderer was a proven source i.e. M/s. Lukas/Germany and hence they qualified for regular orders. Accordingly, lowest tenderer, an Indian firm was considered for developmental order and the next higher tenderer, considered for regular order. Other tenderers, with still higher rates, were not considered.

(b) Does not arise.

Benefit to Military Nursing Service Personnel

1530. SHRI R. S. PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Military Nursing Service personnel are not getting the benefits as per the same rank officers availed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The terms and conditions including the pay and allowances of Military Nursing Services (MNS) personnel are different from the officers belonging to other arms and services of the Army including Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps and Remount Veterinary Corps. However, personnel of the MNS are entitled to certain benefits at par with regular Army Officers.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Amendment in NDPS Act

1531. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

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

(a) whether in spite of the operation of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act, 1985, drug addiction is on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make amendments to the said Act;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) Various surveys, studies and reports indicate an increasing incidence of alcohol and drug abuse amongst certain vulnerable sections of the society including youth students street children, sex workers, slum dwellers etc.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal. The Act has been amended in the year 2001 to strengthen the penal provisions consistent with the gravity of the offence.

(d) While the Act is responsible for regulating the availability of illicit drugs there are various other factors, which have a bearing on the consumption of illicit drugs.

(e) Recognising drug abuse as psycho-socio-medical problem, requiring community based interventions, the Government is implementing the "Scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse", wherein registered Non-Government Organisations are being provided financial support for awareness programmes, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services in varied settings such as community, workplaces, educational institutions, prisons, etc. with an objective of reducing the incidence and consumption of illicit drugs.

[Translation]

Tehlaka Scam

1532. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Enquiry Committee constituted to find the facts regarding Tehlaka Scam is yet to complete its report;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the likely date when enquiry will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A single-Member Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice K. Venkataswami, a retired Judge

of Supreme Court of India was appointed by the Central Government notified in the Gazette of India on 24.3.2001 to inquire into certain allegations made in the videotapes and transcripts released by Tehelka.com under the name of "Operation West End".

Following the registration of Justice K. Venkataswami from the Chairmanship of the Commission on 23.11.2002, the Government vide Notification dated 4.1.2003, appointed Justice S.N. Phukan, as Chairman of the Commission, who has assumed charge on 20th January 2003.

The terms of reference of the Commission are wide ranging in scope. The work of the Commission is in progress and the term of the Commission was last extended by six months i.e. from, 4th July 2003 to 3rd January 2004.

Uniformity in Age for Senior Citizen

1533. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the age of 55 years has been fixed for joining senior citizen insurance scheme as announced in the budget;

(b) if so, whether the Railways provide concession

to the citizens of 60 years age by considering them as senior citizens;

(c) if so, whether other departments are providing concession to senior citizens who are 65 years of age;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to bring uniformity in matter of age for senior citizen;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of concessions/benefits given to Senior Citizens aged 65 years and above by the various Ministries/Departments concerned are at statement enclosed.

(d) The Government in its National Policy on Older Persons recognizes the demographic trend of enhanced life expectancy at the age of 60 at which age all persons are distinguished from other age groups as Senior Citizens.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Ministry/ Department	Facilities/Benefits given to Senior Citizens	Minimum Age
1	2	3	4
1.	Ministry of Rural Development	(1) National Old Age Pension Scheme (Scheme has been transferred to the State Sectors w.e.f. 2002-03)	65 years
		(2) Annapurna Scheme, (Scheme has been transferred to the State Sectors w.e.f. 2002-03)	65 years
2.	Ministry of Finance	1. Section of 88 of Finance Act, 1992, providing income tax rebate.	65 years
		2. Exclusion from "One by Six" scheme for filing the Income Tax Return under provisio Section 139 (1).	65 years
		3. Deduction in respect of medical insurance premia under section 80 D	65 years
		4. Higher rates of interest on saving schemes of Senior Citizens.	65 years
		5. Varishta Pension Bima Yojana	65 years

1	2	3	4
3.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	1. Indian Airlines/Jet Airways providing 50 per cent discount on basic fare for all domestic flights in Economy Class.	65 years
4.	Ministry of Communications	1. Telephone connection given on priority to senior citizens	65 years

[English]

**Allotment/Extension of
Time for Serials**

1534. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of complaints have been received by the Government about the allotment of time and extension of time to the producers for their serials on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof during last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Loan to Andhra Pradesh Vikalangula
Cooperative Corporation**

1535. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have assured Andhra Pradesh Vikalangula Cooperative Cooperation of sanctioning Rs. 15 crores for providing loans towards self employment of handicapped persons in the State;

(b) if so, whether the amount has since been released;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the said loan is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Gas to Pipavav Power Project

1536. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any investment decision by the Management Committee of the Tapti Field for the additional development of the field for allocation of gas to the Pipavav Power Project;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

New Rail Line from Neora to Sheikhpura

1537. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any survey report about the financial viability of Neora-Sheikhpura rail line;

(b) if so, the assessment about the financial viability of this project;

(c) the present status of the Neora-Sheikhpura rail line;

(d) the amount likely to be incurred on the said project; and

(e) the schedule fixed for completion of said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The work of new line from Daniawan to Biharsharif was approved as material modification of Fatuha-Islampur project basically to have connectivity between the two branch lines i.e. Fatuha-Islampur and Bakhtiarpur-Rajgir. Later on, in the year 2000-2001, the work of Biharsharif-Barbigha was approved as material modification to the project. Meanwhile, an additional traffic of about 7-8 trains per day was assessed to move via Kiul-Mugalsarai. Due to severe capacity constraints via Patna, the feasibility of providing an alternative route by construction of the missing links to the already sanctioned Daniawan-Biharsharif-Barbigha was examined. It was considered that with the construction of Barbigha-Sheikhpura and Daniawan-Neora, an alternative route from Kiul to Mugalsarai via Sheikhpura, Daniawan, Neora would get established by passing Patna. The return of this investment was assessed as 16%. Considering this, the two sections were also approved as material modifications.

(c) Mainly, the work is presently in progress on Daniawan-Biharsharif section where land acquisition has almost been completed and earthwork and bridge works are in progress. Final location survey has been completed in other sections and land acquisition papers have been processed.

(d) About Rs. 400 crore.

(e) No target date has yet been fixed.

Production Units of Railways

1538. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production/manufacturing units under the Ministry of Railways, location-wise along with returns thereof during the last three years;

(b) the number of employees working in these production/manufacturing units, unit-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide more autonomy to these production/manufacturing units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) There are six Production Units under the Ministry of Railways. These are in-house production units, operating on a "no-profit no-loss" basis. The full cost of production is transferred to the consuming units by way of approximately fixed transfer prices for the various items that are manufactured. The turn over for each of the six units for the last three years (in crore of Rs.) and the number of employees working in each production unit as on 1.1.2003 is given below:-

Name of the Units and Location	Turn Over (in crores of Rs.)			No. of Employees as on 1.1.2003
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	
(1) Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan	742.48	613.20	612.27	15117
(2) Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi	500.06	574.08	855.89	7057
(3) Integral Coach Factory, Chennai	581.75	547.29	652.86	13468
(4) Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala	523.05	525.59	474.23	6986
(5) Rail Wheel Factory, Bangalore	301.84	284.49	301.76	2369
(6) Diesel Loco Modernisation Works, Patiala	250.67	267.83	296.96	3868

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to give more autonomy to the General Managers of Production Units (PUs) to make

investment decisions, freedom to adopt more competitive pricing & powers for marketing both in the domestic and international markets, to enable the PUs to function more efficiently.

Opening of New Level Crossings

1539. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms adopted for opening of a level crossing on a railway line;
- (b) whether the Government propose to open new manned/unmanned railway crossings in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (a) to (c) Provision of level crossings, as a part of accommodation work, is made by Railways at its own cost at the time of laying a new line or within a period of 10 years from the date of opening of such lines to traffic, in consultation with State Govt. Any accommodation work thereafter such as level crossing, if required to be provided, has to be at the cost of party demanding such work, i.e. on 'deposit' terms. New unmanned level crossings are not permitted on existing lines for safety reasons.

[English]

Dissemination of Government's Policies

1540. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the projects/schemes implemented by the Government for providing necessary information in respect of Government policies and schemes;
- (b) the modalities used for reaching such information to the rural people in far-flung areas, particularly the illiterates;
- (c) whether the Government have any proposal to expand the information base to be disseminated for the benefit of the people; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) This Ministry carries out the publicity work through its Media Units viz. All India Radio, Doordarshan, Song & Drama Division, Directorate of Field Publicity, Press Information Bureau, Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity and Films Division.

(b) The Media Units use different methods to transmit the message to the people. All India Radio and

Doordarshan, with network spread throughout the country, are the medium to disseminate information on various programmes of the Government through talks, discussions, documentaries, jingles, news capsules, docu-dramas etc.

Song & Drama Division (S & DD) and Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) are the large inter-personal communication medium having access to far-flung areas of the country. DFP has been using various communication formats such as film shows, photo exhibitions, seminars, symposia, group discussions etc to reach the people in the most interior parts. S & DD utilizes a wide range of performing arts such as dramas, folk dance-dramas, puppet shows etc to convey their messages. Both these organizations utilize the services of local people and transmit the information in local dialects, which is easy for the rural people and illiterates to understand.

Similarly the Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP) is a multi-media agency of the Central Government to advertise the policies and programmes of the Government and other important social issues with social commitment. It uses various forms of mass media like distribution of printed material, out-door publicity, exhibition, audio-visual communication, press advertising etc. to communicate at grass root level.

Film Division produce documentary films on Government schemes and policies and various social issues for screening in the theatres throughout the country, for field units of DFP, mobile units of State Governments, Doordarshan etc.

(c) and (d) For expansion of information base, the Ministry of endeavors constantly to expand its reach to as many people as possible. The coverage of Doordarshan and All India Radio has been expanded and newer technology is being inducted. A wide range of newspapers are utilized for dissemination of information. Film Division productions are released through cinema halls. Commensurate with budget provisions, the other media units viz., DFP, S & DD, DAVP and Films Division undertake field activities to communicate with the grass root level.

Import of Gas Turbines

1541. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand has been made to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises that orders for supply of gas turbines should be placed with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Hyderabad and this item should not be imported from foreign countries, as BHEL is capable to supply the same; and

(b) if so, the Government's response on this demand?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) Neither the Government nor the BHEL has received such a demand. However, certain enquiries in respect of gas turbine have been received by BHEL.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Heavy Industries by MNCs

1542. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Heavy Industries that have been set up by multinational companies either independently or jointly, State-wise showing the investment in each industry;

(b) the steps taken to attract more foreign investment in setting up Heavy Industries in the country; and

(c) the areas where more such industries are required to be set up as perceived by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) There is no formal classification of industries as "Heavy". However, with the delicensing of the Industry in almost all sectors, from August, 1991 to April, 2003, 23,721 foreign direct investment proposals amounting to Rs. 285921 crore have been approved for setting up of various Industries in different states of the country. The details of such proposals including items of manufacture/activity are published in the monthly News Letter of the Secretariat for Industrial Assistance (SIA) which is widely circulated, including to the Parliament Library.

(b) Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) being a critical input for accelerated economic growth, is now welcome in most Sectors through automatic route.

(c) Promoters are free to decide the location of the Industry they want to set up in the country.

Washing Line at Barmer Railway Yard

1543. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for provision of Washing Line at Barmer Railway Yard of North-Western Railway-zone;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accepted this proposal in principle considering strategic importance of this Railways station, especially after completion of conversion of Meter gauge to Broad gauge on Luni-Barmer-Munabao railway line; and

(c) if so, the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Onshore-Offshore Areas Operated by ONGC

1544. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

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

(a) the details of offshore and onshore areas where ONGC is undertaking their exploration activities in the country;

(b) the total quantum of crude oil and natural gas produced by ONGC from those areas during 2001-02 and 2002-03; and

(c) the target set by ONGC for crude oil and natural gas production during 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is exploring for oil and natural gas in the following offshore areas:-

- (i) Bengal offshore basin
- (ii) Cauvery offshore basin
- (iii) Kerala-Konkan offshore basin
- (iv) Krishna Godavari offshore basin
- (v) Kutch-Saurashtra offshore basin
- (vi) Mahanadi offshore basin
- (vii) Mumbai offshore basin

For on-land areas, ONGC is exploring for oil and natural gas in the following States :-

- (i) Andhra Pradesh
- (ii) Assam
- (iii) Gujarat
- (iv) Himachal Pradesh
- (v) Jammu & Kashmir
- (vi) Madhya Pradesh
- (vii) Meghalaya
- (viii) Mizoram
- (ix) Rajasthan
- (x) Tamil Nadu
- (xi) Tripura
- (xii) Uttar Pradesh
- (xiii) West Bengal

In addition, ONGC is the minority partner in one of the exploration block in the State of Orissa, where Oil India Ltd. (OIL) is the operator. Efforts are also being made by ONGC to resume exploration activities in Nagaland.

(b) The details of crude oil, including condensate, and natural gas produced by ONGC from domestic fields operated by it, during 2001-02 and 2002-03 are as follows:-

Year	Crude oil (MMT)* Including condensate	Natural Gas (BCM)**
2001-2002	24.71	24.04
2002-2003	26.01	24.24
Total	50.71	48.29

*MMT : Million Metric Tonne

**BCM : Billion Cubic Meter

(c) During the year 2003-04, ONGC envisages to produce 26.39 MMT of crude oil, including condensate, and 23.32 BCM of natural gas from its domestic operations.

Vendors/Hawkers and Beggars in Trains/Running Trains

1545. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on-board vendors/hawkers and beggars in trains including running trains like Ratnachel in South Central Railway disturb passengers frequently;

(b) whether the Railways are considering to introduce a better system of on-board sales in trains including running trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps being taken/to be taken by the Railways to check the problems of vendors/hawkers and beggars in trains including running trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Some cases of passengers facing problems due to activities of unauthorised vendors/hawkers and beggars have come to notice.

(b) The existing system of providing on-board catering service on Indian Railways is considered adequate and working satisfactorily.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Regular drives are being conducted to apprehend the unauthorized hawkers and beggars in association with Police and action is taken against them as per the relevant provisions of law.

[Translation]

Achievement of Various Institutions

1546. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major achievements of Maulana Azad Foundation, Central Wakf Council, Backward Class Financial Development Corporation, National Commission for Safai Karamcharies, Minorities Commission and other departmental institutions during each of the last three years, till date; and

(b) the details of the beneficiaries of the said schemes, during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI) : (a) and (b) A note giving details of major achievements of various institutions is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Maulana Azad Educational Foundation

Maulana Azad Educational Foundation has been set up as a registered society with the objective of promoting the educational development of the backward sections of the society in particular the minorities. The Government of India has contributed Rs. 70 crore to the corpus fund to the Foundation. During last three years, the Foundation has supported a number of voluntary organizations for running programmes for residential schools, construction of hostel buildings, establishing/expansion of schools/colleges, technical education and remedial coaching. Numbers of

NGOs assisted were 60 in 2000-01, 69 in 2001-02 and 50 in 2002-03. Annexure I showing number of NGOs assisted. State-wise in last three years is attached.

Central Wakf Council

The Central Wakf Council is a statutory body established by the Central Government under Section 8 (A) of the Wakf Act, 1954 (now read as Sub-Section (1) of the Section of the 9 of the Wakf Act, 1955) for the purpose of advising it on matters relating to working of the Wakf boards and the proper administrations of the Wakf in the country.

The Council has also been entrusted the work of the development of urban wakf properties and educational advancement programme for the community.

(i) Scheme for development of urban wakf properties.

With a view to protect vacant wakf land from encroachers and to develop on commercial lands for generating more income in order to widen the resource base for welfare activities, the Central Wakf Council has been implementing this scheme since 1974-75. Under this scheme, loan is extended to wakf institutions in the country for taking up economically viable projects on wakf lands such as the development of commercial complexes, marriage halls, hospitals, cold storages etc. Annexure II showing State-wise number of projects sanctioned in last three years is enclosed.

(ii) Educational schemes

The Central Wakf Council releases grant-in-aid to the wakf institutions in the form of interest free loan for the Development of Urban Wakf Properties. The loanees are required to pay 6% of outstanding loan as donation to the education fund for the educational scheme of the Central Wakf Council. After the repayment of the loan, they must spent atleast 40% from their enhanced income on the education of muslims with special focus on technical education. Annexure-III showing number of beneficiaries under different educational programmes in last three years is enclosed.

National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation

The National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation provides financial assistance through SCAs to persons belonging to backward classes living below the poverty line i.e. Annual family income of Rs. 40000 in rural areas and Rs. 55000 in urban areas for undertaking a wide range of income generating activities.

The number of beneficiaries for the last three years is as follows :

2000-01	21,518
2001-02	45,927
2002-03	84,682
2003-04	47,158 (till date)

State-wise details of beneficiaries for last three years and current year till date is given in Annexure - IV.

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was established under the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993 to promote and safeguard the interest and right of safai karamcharis. The Commission has been empowered to investigate specific grievances and matters relating to implementation of programmes and schemes for welfare of safai karamcharis.

The Commission has so far submitted 5 Annual Reports to Government of India giving recommendations for ameliorating the lot of Safai Karamcharis.

National Commission for Minorities

The National Commission for Minorities was set up under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. The Commission performs a number of functions for the effective implementation on safeguards provided under the Constitution, for protection of the interest of Minorities and make recommendations in this regard to the Central Government or State Government. The Commission has submitted its 7th Annual Report for the period 1999-2000 and 8th Annual Report for the period 2000-01.

Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities

In accordance with the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution, the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities investigate all matters relating to safeguards provided for linguistic Minorities under the Constitution and to report to the President upon those matters at such intervals as the President may direct, and the President shall cause all such Reports to be laid before each House of Parliament. The Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities has submitted its 36th annual Report for period 1995-98, 37th Annual Report for 1998-99 and 38th Annual Report for 1999-2000.

National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes has been set up under Article 338 of the Constitution as a high level independent Constitutional body to monitor the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and also review issues concerning their welfare. As per clause (5) of Article 338 of the Constitution of India, the Commission has wide powers to protect, safeguard and to promote the interests of the SCs and STs.

The Commission has submitted Annual Reports for the period 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 to the President of India and also two special reports on the evaluation of working of SCs and STs (POA) Act and functioning of Special Courts in the States of UP and Madhya Pradesh.

National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation

The National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation was set up as a Company 'not for profit', under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 with the objective of financing income generating activities of SC beneficiaries living below double the poverty line. The

Corporation has provided assistance to 52861 persons in 2000-01, 94845 in 2001-02 and 79986 in 2002-03 under various income generating activities.

National Commission for Backward Classes

The National Commission for Backward Classes was set up under NCBC Act, 1993 to examine request for inclusion and complaints of over-inclusion and under-inclusion in the Central List of Other Backward Classes. The Commission has tendered 56 advices to the Central Government during 2002-03.

National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation

National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation was incorporated on 30th September 1994 with the objective of promoting economic and developmental activities among weaker sections of minorities. The NMDFC provides concessional finance for self-employment activities to eligible beneficiaries belonging to minority communities having family income below double the poverty line. The Corporation has benefited belonging 20274 persons in 2000-01, 21489 in 2001-02 and 16492 in 2002-03 under Term loan and 11418 in 2000-01, 24529 in 2001-02 and 7386 in 2002-03 under Micro Finance Scheme.

National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation

The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation was set up in 1997 under Section 25 of the Company Act with the objective of promoting economic empowerment of the persons with disabilities to financing

self-employment ventures and assisting beneficiaries in the upgradation of technical and entrepreneurship skills for effective management of their self employment ventures. In last three years, the Corporation has benefited 2448 disabled persons in 2000-01, 2375 in 2001-02 and 3824 in 2002-03 and 795 in 2003-04 (till date) under general scheme. Number of beneficiaries provided assistance under micro-credit scheme for the same period is as follows : 178 in 2000-01, 538 in 2001-02 and 640 in 2002-03 and 296 in 2003-04 (till date).

National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities

The National Trust is a statutory body set up under "The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999". The objectives of the Trust are to enable and empower persons with disability to lead their lives as independently and as fully as possible within or close to their own communities. The Trust also extends support to registered organizations to provide need based services during periods of crisis in the family of the persons with disability and also promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians.

In last three years, the Trust has registered 324 NGOs in 26 States and 2 UTs, trained 1478 home based care-givers, formed Local Level Committees in 369 districts in 25 States and 4 UTs, conducted 115 awareness programmes in 25 districts and 2 UTs. Number of persons benefited under the programme of "Establishment of Relief Institution" Scheme was 1624 in 2001-02 and 1918 in 2002-03.

Annexure-I

Maulana Azad Education Foundation

Details of NGOs assisted (State-wise) during the last three years

Sl.No.	Name of State/U.T.	2000-2001 NGOs Assisted	2001-2002 NGOs Assisted	2002-2003 NGOs Assisted	Total No. of NGOs Assisted
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	3	1	7
2.	Assam	0	2	0	2
3.	Bihar	4	1	2	7
4.	Delhi	2	3	2	7
5.	Goa	1	0	0	1
6.	Gujarat	2	11	1	14
7.	Haryana	1	0	0	1
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	0	0	2
9.	Jharkhand	1	0	0	1
10.	Karnataka	7	5	5	17

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Kerala	4	5	3	12
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0	2	3	5
13.	Maharashtra	3	5	4	12
14.	Manipur	0	1	1	2
15.	Rajasthan	0	2	1	3
16.	Tamil Nadu	0	2	2	4
17.	Uttaranchal	0	1	4	5
18.	Uttar Pradesh	23	24	21	68
19.	West Bengal	7	2	0	9
Total		60	69	50	179

Annexure-II*Development of Urban Wakf Properties Scheme*

Amount in lakhs (Rupees)

Sl.No.	Name of the States	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
		Amount	No. of projects	Amount	No. of projects	Amount	No. of projects
1.	Uttar Pradesh	41.00	1	-	-	-	-
2.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Punjab	20.00	1	23.38	1	35.70	1
4.	Manipur	-	-	20.00	1	11.30	1
5.	Maharashtra	25.00	1	-	-	25.00	1
6.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	20.00	1	-	-
7.	Kerala	30.00	1	20.00	1	5.00	1
8.	Karnataka	64.00	3	56.62	4	41.00	2
9.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	25.00	1
10.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	15.00	1
Total		180.00	7	140.00	8	158.00	8

Annexure-III*The disbursement of Fund under Educational Scheme during last 3 years*

Amount in Rupees

Name of the Educational Programme	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
	No. of beneficiaries	Amount	No. of beneficiaries	Amount	No. of beneficiaries	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Scholarship for Technical Education	741	44,29,120	777	46,15,441	757	44,93,643
2. Ad-hoc grant to poor and needy students	159	4,76,200	187	5,57,085	196	5,87,520

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. Scholarship through State Wakf Board to the students of Diploma courses in Technical Diploma courses, Secondary/Higher Secondary and Madarsa Education	12	4,55,000	-	-	-	-
4. Financial assistance to Vocational Training Centre	18	18,05,000	8	13,77,000	2	7,22,000
5. 50% Matching grants to Technical Institutions	1	1,00,000	-	-	-	-
6. Financial assistance to R.R./Library/Book Bank	36	3,45,000	10	3,45,000	11	1,95,000
7. Financial assistance to I.T.I.s	4	43,00,000	7	87,03,000	-	-
Total	971	1,19,10,320	989	1,55,97,526	966	59,98,163

Annexure-IV*National Backward Finance & Development Corporation State-wise details of beneficiaries*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Years			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1620	7784	13584	3000
2.	Assam	86	85	241	60
3.	Bihar	1145	680	180	0
4.	Chandigarh	4	21	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	203	0
6.	Delhi	0	0	200	0
7.	Gujarat	515	2075	3136	440
8.	Goa	45	57	72	10
9.	Haryana	1037	470	0	940
10.	Himachal Pradesh	336	282	176	83
11.	Karnataka	1100	7350	9276	2530
12.	Kerala	5273	5696	16350	2049
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2694	2358	794	614
14.	Maharashtra	1025	886	1333	1885
15.	Sikkim	131	170	230	95
16.	Orissa	0	738	0	0
17.	Punjab	341	0	196	0
18.	Pondicherry	288	196	130	0
19.	Rajasthan	170	190	397	278
20.	Tamil Nadu	837	965	396	1200
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1388	1732	894	0
22.	West Bengal	835	1250	2067	700

**Rest Room Facilities for
Train Drivers**

1547. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drivers of passenger trains as well as goods train throughout the country stays in the railway running rooms and retiring rooms for 8 to 12 hours after taking trains from Head Office to its destination;

(b) if so, whether sufficient number of rest rooms are available for the drivers in all the running rooms in the country, as the same sort of facility is provided to the pilots of Air India or Indian Airlines;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to upgrade the running rooms in the entire country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Adequate running room facilities are available all over Zonal Railways for giving rest to drivers.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) There is continuous and continuing effort to upgrade and improve facilities in the running rooms located all over the country.

[English]

Bateshwar-Agra Rail Line Project

1548. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rail line connecting Bateshwar with Agra with a project cost of Rs. 217 crore was inaugurated in the year 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the land has been acquired for the said project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether soil preparation had been completed on just 18 km of the 114 km long railway line;

(f) if so, the reasons for the delay in land acquisition and the mounting per km cost of new railway line;

(g) whether the farmers are against the land acquisition; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The foundation stone of this project was laid by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 6th April 1999. The estimated cost of construction of 114 km. long line is Rs. 214 crore.

(c) and (d) Proposals for land acquisition for all the 92 villages have been submitted to State Government. Out of this, land has been acquired in 14 villages.

(e) Earthwork is in progress in 18 km length. Further work will be taken up after land is made available.

(f) The land acquisition is being done by State Govt. as per their rules and procedure. The increase in cost has not been assessed at this stage.

(g) No such case of protest from farmers against the land acquisition has been received by Railways.

(h) Does not arise.

Increase in Hydro Electric Projects

1549. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken initiative to increase the share of hydropower from present level of 24.9% to 40% by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan in total power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether delay in clearance of hydro projects by the Government has adversely affected the increase of share of hydropower in total power generation in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reason of delay of clearance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Realizing the need to improve share of hydro in the system, it has proposed to add 14,393 MW of hydro power in the 10th Plan, which constitutes about 35% of the planned capacity addition during this Plan. With the realization of the proposed capacity addition, the share of hydro in the system is likely to improve to about 27.8% by the end of the 10th Plan.

(c) and (d) The time taken for accord of Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) to Hydro projects depend upon completeness of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) by the project developer and tying up of all essential inputs/clearances required. The constraints affecting hydro development are :

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- Inadequate survey and investigation.
- Lack of infrastructure.
- Geological surprises.
- Resettlement & Rehabilitation problems.
- Inter-State aspects.
- Environment and forest clearance problems.
- Law and order problems.
- Land acquisition problems.

In order to expedite the techno-economic appraisal and clearance of hydro projects, guidelines were prepared by CEA in December, 2002 for formulation of project report. According to the time bound procedure, CEA will complete the examination of DPR within 3 months.

According to Environment Impact Assessment Notification, assessment of a proposal is to be completed by the Ministry of Environment & Forest within 90 days of receipt of complete information and decision is communicated within 30 days thereafter.

(e) Government have streamlined the procedure of according clearances within the agencies of Government of India and have also set up a crisis Resolution Group for resolution of last mile problems for IPPs. Three-stage clearance for hydro-electric projects under Central Sector has also been introduced in order to allow development of roads and infrastructure in parallel while statutory clearances are being obtained.

Channel for Farmers

1550. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering to start an exclusive channel for the welfare of farmers; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that a proposal to start an exclusive channel for the welfare of the farmers is under consideration.

- (b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the details

are being worked out in consultation with Department of Agriculture and it is too early to give a time frame for it now.

Gauge Conversion of Patan-Mehsana and Dahej-Bharuch

1551. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of gauge conversion work between Patan-Mehsana and Dahej-Bharuch;
- (b) the target set for completion of the said projects;
- (c) whether the projects are running behind their schedule;
- (d) if so, the reason therefore; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (e) Mahesana-Patan Gauge conversion work is a sanctioned work under Bhildi-Viramgam gauge conversion-cum-new line project. Tenders for collection of soil details, design and drawing of minor & major bridges awarded and work is in progress. No target date for completion of this work has yet been fixed. This work will be completed in the coming year as per availability of resources. An amount of Rs. 31 crore (Rs. 30 crore under BOT) has been provided for Bhildi-Viramgam gauge conversion-cum-new line project during 2003-04.

Gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej narrow gauge line is one of the identified projects under National Rail Vikas Yojana. Further processing of sanction and funding will be done as per extant procedure.

Earnings from Shooting of Feature and Documentary Films

1552. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to liberalise issue of visas to foreign film makers and their team; and
- (b) if so, the foreign exchange earning from foreign

film makers visits and visits of their teams to India for shooting of feature and documentary films during 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The Government has recently liberalised the guidelines for shooting of foreign feature films and co-productions in India to make them more facilitative. Under the revised guidelines, proposals to shoot foreign feature films and co-productions in India will be cleared within a maximum of three weeks as against the twelve weeks taken earlier. For specified areas like border belts, J & K and the North-East, however, more time may be required. Procedures regarding scrutiny of scripts, attachment of liaison officer with the shooting team and preview of film before its release anywhere in the world have been rationalized.

(b) No data are maintained in this regard by the Government.

[Translation]

War Exercises by Pakistan

1553. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Army is conducting war exercises on Rajasthan border despite withdrawal of troops by India and Pakistan from the borders;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action in this regard so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There are no intelligence inputs to suggest that Pakistan Army is conducting war exercises on Rajasthan border. Pakistan Army is reported to be carrying out routine training activities in their respective training areas.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Training for Eligible Scavengers

1554. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had fixed target of

training for eligible scavengers and their dependents under liberation and rehabilitation scheme during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and success achieved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) Under the National Scheme of Liberalisation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS), the training of scavengers is arranged on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments, in various trades, keeping in view of the ability of the scavengers.

(b) 45,875 scavengers were trained under the NSLRS during the Ninth Five Year Plan and Rs. 3394.75 lakhs have been spent for the purpose.

Invitation for Alaska Military Exercise

1555. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been invited by the US for multinational Alaska Military exercise;

(b) if so, the fields of joint exercise undertaken; and

(c) the view of the Government in regard to technical cooperation in Defence research, development and production jointly?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. India participated in Exercise Cooperative Cope Thunder-03, a multilateral exercise conducted in Alaska during June 5-20, 2003.

(b) The Indian Air Force took part in the air transport operations with an IL-76 aircraft.

(c) As a part of the on-going interaction between Ministry of Defence, Government of India and Department of Defence, United States, possibility of cooperation in R & D is being discussed by the two countries as a part of deliberations in Defence Policy Group (DPG) and Joint Technical Group (JTG) meetings.

Investment in NHPC during Tenth Plan

1556. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed the NHPC for investment of Rs. 32,223 crores during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the arrangement of this investment and their sources; and

(c) the details of the projects which have been taken under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has approved a total outlay of

Rs. 32,226 crores for National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), during the Tenth Plan period. This total amount includes Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs. 14,200 crores and Internal & Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) of Rs. 18,026 crores.

(c) The Tenth Plan capacity addition target fixed for NHPC is 4357 MW. The details of projects to be added during the Tenth Plan by NHPC along with their cost, commissioning schedules and location, are given in Statement enclosed. The capacity addition has been planned, keeping in view the projected availability of funds.

Statement

Details of Projects under execution and proposed to be taken up by NHPC during 10th Plan

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	State	Approved/revised cost estimate (Rs. in crores)	Price level	Scheduled/expected commissioning
A. On-Going Scheme						
1.	Dulhasti	390	J & K	4227.02	Nov-01	Dec-03
2.	Chamera-II	300	H.P.	1684.02	Aug-98	May-04
3.	Dhauliganga-I	280	Uttaranchal	1578.31	Aug-99	Mar-05
4.	Teesta-V	510	Sikkim	2196.04	Apr-99	Feb-07
B. New Projects						
5.	Teesta Low Dam St. III	132	W.Bengal	805.26	Dec-02	Mar-07
6.	Teesta Low Dam St. IV	168	W. Bengal	-	-	Mar-07
7.	Sewa - II	120	J & K	665.46	Sep-02	Feb-07
8.	Bav-II	37	Maharashtra	-	-	Mar. 07
C. Joint Venture Projects						
9.	Indira Sagar	1000	M.P.	4355.57	Sep-00	May-05
10.	Omkareshwar	520	M.P.	2224.32	Sep-01	Mar-07
11.	Purulia Pumped Storage	900	W.Bengal	-	-	Mar-07

Power for Railway Protection Force

1557. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the

number of train accidents have increased in current years due to criminal activities and sabotage;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government of confer more powers on the Railways Protection Force;

(c) whether there is any proposal to impact training in IPC and CRPC to RPF personnel to check Railway accidents and crimes in trains and railway premises; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Railway accidents are caused by a variety of factors, including sabotage. The broad cause-wise break-up of the consequential train accidents in the last three years is as under :-

Causes	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003*
Failure of Railway Staff	293	248	198
Failure of Persons other than Railway Staff	109	103	104
Failure of Equipment	33	24	12
Sabotage	19	14	18
Combination of Factors	04	-	-
Incidental	11	20	17
Could not be established conclusively	04	05	02
Under Investigation	-	-	-
Grand Total	473	414	351

*Figures are provisional

Note : Incidental causes include acts of nature like falling of boulders, sinkage of tracks due to heavy rain and cattle getting run over etc.

(b) Government Railway Police is the statutory agency to deal with crime on Railways and is discharging its functions. RPF is, however, deployed to augment GRP whenever there is a spate of crimes or the situation so warrants. As per the recommendations of the High Level Committee on Security of Railways, the proposal to empower the Railway Protection Force for providing better security to passengers, the passengers area, in addition to Railway property, is under examination. For this purpose amendments to RPF Act, 1957 and Railways Act, 1989 are under consideration.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal to give powers under Indian Penal Code (IPC) or Training for dealing with crimes under the IPC to RPF with a view to check Railway accident and crime in train and Railway premises. However, proposal to give some powers under the Railways Act, 1989 is under consideration. These powers deal with minor offences, so that GRP (State Police) can concentrate on serious crimes on Railways. For enquiries into these offences under the Railway Act, RPF will be guided by the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) for which the RPF is already trained. More refresher type training programmes to handle the additional proposed responsibilities are being formulated.

Setting up of Power Projects

1558. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the power projects set up in various States during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the proposal to set up some power projects in some States are still pending with the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details of such pending power projects, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to early clearance of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) A capacity of 19015 MW has been added during 9th Plan comprising of 4504 MW in the Central Sector, 5061 MW in the Private Sector and 9450 in the State Sector. Details are at Statements enclosed

(b) to (d) According to information received from Capital Electricity Authority (CEA) no complete Detailed Project Report (DPR) for setting up of power stations in any of the States is pending in CEA for grant of Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC).

Statement*IXth Plan—Year wise list of projects commissioned**(All figs. in MW)*

	'97-'98	'98-'99	'99-'00	2000-01	2001-02
	1	2	3	4	5
Central Sector					
i. Unchahar, NTPC		210	210		
ii. Kayamkulam, NTPC		230.6	119.4		
iii. Vindhyachal, NTPC		500	500		
iv. Faridabad, NTPC			286		
v. Kathalguri, NEEPCO	60	30			
vi. Agartala, NEEPCO	63	21			
vii. Mejla, DVC	210				
viii. Rangit - III, NHPC				60	
ix. RAPP, NPC			220	220	
x. Kalga, NPC			220	220	
xi. Faridabad, NTPC				144	
xii. Simhadri, NTPC					500
xiii. Doyang, NEEPCO				75	
xiv. Ranganadi, NEEPCO					405
Overall Central Sector	333	991.6	1615.4	659	905
Private Sector					
Northern Region					
i. Magnum Power FO (Hary.) (Liquid Fuel)			25		
ii. Malana HEP. H.P.					86
Western Region					
i. Hazira CCGT (Gujarat)	185				
ii. Paguthan CCGT (Gujarat)	405	250			
iii. Surat Lignite (Gujarat)				250	

	1	2	3	4	5
iv. GIPCL Baroda (Guj.)	167				
v. Dabhol-I (Maha.)		740			
vi. Salgaocar CCGT (Goa) (Liquid Fuel)			48		
Southern Region					
i. Godavari (A.P.)	114				
ii. Jegrupadu (A.P.)	77				
iii. Torangallu (Karnataka)		130	130		
iv. Eloor (BSES) (Kerala) (Liquid Fuel)			135		
v. Basin Bridge DG (T.N.) (Liquid Fuel)		200			
vi. Kondapalli (A.P.) (Liquid Fuel)				350	
vii. BSES (Pedapuram) (A.P.)					142
viii. Bellary - DG (Kar.) (Liquid Fuel)				25.2	
ix. Tanir Bavi - Barage mounted (Karn.)					220
x. Eloor (BSES) (Kerala) (Liquid Fuel)				39	
xi. Samaynallur DG (T.N.) (Liquid Fuel)					106
xii. Pillariermalanallur (T.N.) (Liquid Fuel)				GT-225	105.5
xiii. Samallapati DG (T.N.)				105	
xiv. LVS DGPP (A.P.)					36.8
Eastern Region					
i. Budge Budge (W. Bengal)	250	250			
ii. Jojobera (Bihar)				120	120
North Eastern Region					
i. Adamtilla (Assam)	9				
ii. Banaskandi (Assam)	10.5	5			
Overall Private Sector	1217.50	1575	588.00	846.2	816.3
State Sector					
Northern Region					
i. Bhatinda (Punjab)	210	210			

	1	2	3	4	5
ii. Suratgarh (Rajasthan)		250	250		
iii. Tanda (U.P.)	110				
iv. Upper Sindh (J.K.)			35		
v. Sobla (U.P.)		6		210	
vi. Panipat (Haryana)				22.5	
vii. Ghanvi (H.P.)				600	
viii. Thein Dam (Punjab)					104.6
ix. Pragati CCPP (Delhi)				7.5	
x. Chennai III (J & K)					70
xi. Upper Sindh (J & K)					9
xii. Sewa - III (J & K)					500
xiii. Suratgarh (Raj)					
Western Region					
i. Kutch Lignite (Gujarat)	75				
ii. Gandhinagar (Gujarat)	210				
iii. Wanakbori (Gujarat)		210			
iv. Sanjay Gandhi Extn. (M.P.)		210	210		
v. Chandrapur (Maha.)	500				
vi. Kadana (Guj.)		60			
vii. Rajghat (M.P.)			45		
viii. Koyna - IV (Mah.)		250	750		
ix. Warna (Maha)	8	8			
x. Dudhaganga (Maha.)			24		
xi. Khaperkheda (Mah.)				420	
xii. Bansagar Ton (M.P.)				20	35
xiii. Hazira					156.1
Southern Region & Island					
i. Kothagudem - IV (A.P.)	250				
ii. Raichur (Karnataka)		210	210		

	1	2	3	4	5
iii. Barhampuram (Kerala)	80	20			
iv. Kozhikode (Kerala)			128		
v. Karikal (Pondicherry)		22.9	9.6		
vi. Singur (A.P.)			15		
vii. Kalinadi - Kodalalli (Karnataka)	50	180	40		
viii. Bhadra (Karnataka)	6				
ix. Lower Periyar (Kerala)	120				
x. Kokkad (Kerala)			50		
xi. Poringal Kuthu Kerala)		16			
xii. Lower Bhawani (T.N.)	8				
xiii. Sathnur Dam (T.N.)		7.5			
xiv. Kunda - V Extn. (T.N.)			30		
xv. Kovikalappal (T.N.)				107	
xvi. Srisailam (A.P.)				150	300
xvii. Sharavati (Karnataka)				60	180
xviii. Kuttlyadi Extn. (Kerala)				50	
xix. Kolpaong (A & N Island)					5.2
xx. DG (A & N Island)				5.72	
xxi. DG (Lakshadweep)				3.05	
Eastern Region					
i. Bakreshwar (W.B.)			210		
ii. Eastern Gandak (Bihar)	5				
iii. Upper Indravati (Orissa)			300		
iv. Teesta Canal (Orissa)	30	15	22.5		
v. Bakreshwar (W.B.)				420	
vi. Upper Indravati (Orissa)				300	
North Eastern Region					
i. Rokhla (Tripura)	8				

	1	2	3	4	5
ii. Nuranang (Ar. Pradesh)	6				
iii. Leimkhong DG (Manipur)					18
iv. Likim Ro (Nagaland)					16
Overall State Sector	1676	1675.4	2329.10	2375.77	1393.9
Cumulative achieved	3226.50	4242	4532.50	3898.97	3115.2

[Translation]

Replacement of Old Assets

1559. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided during Tenth Five Year Plan for replacement of the old assets; and

(b) the details of the amount spent out of this fund and the heads and areas of such expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) The replacement of the old assets is normally financed through the Depreciation Reserve Fund of the Indian Railways. The allocation to this Depreciation Reserve Fund is made from the Resources generated by the Railways internally on a year to year basis. Based on the Khanna Committee's recommendations, a Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 crores was set up, in order to wipe out the arrears of asset replacement/renewal of safety related assets as on 01.04.2001, within a time frame of 6 years from 2001-02 to 2006-07. Of this fund, the proposed allocation for the Xth Five Year Plan is Rs. 15,566 crores. This also includes a certain provision for safety enhancement.

(b) During the year 2002-03, the first year of the Xth Plan, the net expenditure incurred was Rs. 1,464.73 crores under Depreciation Reserve Fund and Rs. 2,486.32 crores under Special Railway Safety Fund. This expenditure has been incurred on Track Renewals, Rolling Stock, Bridge Works and Signalling & Telecommunication Works etc. The expenditure under Special Railway Safety Fund also includes some expenditure on safety enhancement.

[English]

Track for Fast Train

1560. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether speed limit of some super fast trains is going to be increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways has conducted any track survey to ascertain whether the tracks are fit to increase the speed limit of super fast trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether in some track conversion projects, the Safety Commissioner had pointed out that the tracks were not upto the mark;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Inspections are carried out for track and bridges to assess suitability for increasing the speed. Joint safety certificate is thereafter signed by concerned departments and submitted to competent authority for permission to increase the speed.

(e) to (g) Information is being collected.

Violation of Norms in Granting Broadcasting Rights

1561. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati has given broadcasting rights for the social "Akhir Kaun" to M/s United Television in violation of prescribed norms;

(b) if so, whether this decision has resulted in loss of approximately rupees one crore to Prasar Bharati;

(c) if so, whether Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its report for the year, 2002 had raised certain objections to it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken by the Government against the officers found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) The Audit in C & AG Paragraph No. 5.6 of Report No. 4 of 2003 (Civil) has pointed out that Doordarshan gave undue benefit to the sponsor of the commissioned programme 'Akhir Kaun' by granting benefit in terms of higher Free Commercial Time (FCT) and lower Spot Buy Rate (SBR).

The C & AG Para is under examination in consultation with Prasar Bharati.

Hostels for SCs/OBCs

1562. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for amendment of the centrally sponsored schemes for Boys and Girls hostels for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes students is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of students benefited under the scheme, yearly;

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the proper usage of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) and (b) The matter is under the consideration of the Govt.

(c) and (d) Funds are not allocated State-wise under the existing schemes, but are released as and when claims are received. The funds allocated and the number of students benefited during the last three years and the current financial year, are as under :-

Year	Funds allocated (Rs/ in Crores)		No. of Beneficiaries	
	SCs	OBCs	SCs	OBCs
2000-01	25.00	4.50	4176	2410
2001-02	39.28	13.50	10654	5600
2002-03	41.99	14.85	23066	5808
2003-04 (as on 28.7.2003)	2.68	11.70	100	300

(e) The performance of the schemes are monitored by obtaining progress reports, utilization certificates and by visits of officers of the Ministry.

Potential Sites for Wind Power Stations

1563. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified potential (wind) sites for development and installation of wind power stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of sites identified;

(c) whether third party sales of power is not allowed in some States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to have unified rules and regulations for sale and distribution of wind power all over the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) 208 potential sites have been identified in 13 States/UTs which could be considered suitable for installation of wind power projects, as per the details given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Third party sale of power from non-conventional energy projects is not allowed in certain States

as the State Electricity Boards fear loss of revenue from their High Tension industrial and other large consumers.

(e) to (g) Guidelines were circulated by the Central Government to various States on introduction of uniform policies for power generation from non-conventional energy sources, including wind power generation. Policies for buy-back, wheeling, banking and third party sale have been announced in 17 States in varying measure.

Statement

State-wise Potential Sites Identified for Wind Power Projects

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Potential Sites
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31
2.	Gujarat	38
3.	Karnataka	26
4.	Kerala	16
5.	Madhya Pradesh	7
6.	Maharashtra	26
7.	Orissa	6
8.	Rajasthan	7
9.	Tamil Nadu	40
10.	Uttaranchal	1
11.	West Bengal	1
12.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
13.	Lakshadweep	8
Total		208

[Translation]

Dead Stock in Railways

1564. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of different material lying as dead stock with the Railways as on March 2003 along with the details thereof;

(b) the details of the oldest dead stock material

out of this stock along with year and value of the stock;

(c) the total loss being suffered each year by Railways as a result of the said dead stock; and

(d) the reasons for keeping the disposal of this stock pending for such a long time by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Adulteration in Fuel

1565. SHRI K. A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are losing crores of rupees every year due to fuel adulteration;

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

(c) whether the Government have drawn any comprehensive plan to train the officers of the Regional Anti-Adulteration Cell;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) other steps being taken to check and avert such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) No scientific study has been conducted to assess the loss to the economy of the country due to adulteration in diesel, petrol and other energy sources. However, substantial loss is suffered by the economy due to adulteration of diesel, petrol and other petroleum products.

(c) and (d) The Officers of Anti-Adulteration Cell are being drawn from Departments such as Police, Customs and Central Excise, Income Tax etc. Trained and experienced officers from Oil Marketing Companies are also appointed in the Cell. Also, newly recruited officers are given on the job training under the experienced officers of the Cell. However, Two such training programmes were conducted in the past.

(e) Besides the setting up of Anti Adulteration Cell, steps such as blue dyeing of Kerosene meant for Public Distribution System (PDS), regular/surprise inspection of the retail outlets, introduction of tamper proof locking system for

tanker-trucks, special vigilance drives, etc., are taken by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). Action is taken by the OMCs against erring dealers under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreement. The State Governments also initiate action against any dealer indulging in adulteration of petroleum products and violation of any Control Order issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Translation]

Construction of Guest Houses/Yatri Niwas/Budget Hostel

1566. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railways Guest Houses/Yatri Niwas and Budget Hotels functioning presently in the country, particularly in Rajasthan, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the profits earned and losses suffered by them during each of the last three years, till date, separately;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct more Railway Guest Houses/Yatri Niwas and Budget Hotels in order to promote tourism in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) There are three Rail Yatri Niwases presently functioning at (i) Howrah, West Bengal, (ii) New Delhi, Delhi, and (iii) Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Profits of the Rail Yatri Niwases on Indian Railways :

Year	New Delhi (Rs.)	Howrah (Rs.)	Ballia (Rs.)
2000-01	33,83,717	9,74,207	12,900
2001-02	21,79,575	12,30,330	13,700
2002-03	13,06,450	11,56,778	12,100

(c) and (d) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. has been mandated to construct Budget Hotels at locations subject to availability of land and private sector participation.

[English]

Expenditure on Additional Troops

1567. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on additional troops built upon International Border during Operation Parakram between India and Pakistan;

(b) the number of Army personnel were deployed along borders in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab during this conflict; and

(c) the number of Army personnel lost their lives from these additional troops during this period?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) In December, 2001 the offensive and defensive formations of the Indian Army were mobilised under Operation Parakram, along the International Border with Pakistan. The Government later decided in October 2002, to strategically redeploy the troops under Operation Parakram with the objective to respond aggressively and decisively to any emergency on the International Border. Therefore, the expenditure incurred on mobilisation and present redeployment of troops under Operation Parakram can be assessed only after the redeployment is complete.

(c) During Operation Parakram up to July 2003, a total number of 798 Army personnel suffered fatal casualties. However, no separate record of casualties to additional troops is maintained.

Funds Allocated Under Special Component Plan

1568. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated under Special Component Plan by the Planning Commission and Finance Commission during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the share of the Union Government and respective State Governments in it; and

(c) the details regarding monitoring of the allocation and expenditure of the Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) Funds allocated under the Special Component Plan by each State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration out of their Annual Plan funds. The details of state-wise allocation of the funds during the last three years are given in the statement. As regards the current year, the

State Governments will finalize their plan outlays in consultation with the Planning Commission.

(b) The Special Component Plan is funded by the State/UT Governments from their respective plan funds. However, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment releases Special Central Assistance to the Special Component Plan as an additive.

(c) The Special Component Plan is part of the State Government Plan. The allocation and expenditure under Special Component Plan is monitored by the State Governments through monitoring committees set up at different levels. On its part, the Union Government issue guidelines and take review meetings with States/Union Territories from time to time to impress upon them to strengthen the process for formulation and implementation of Special Component Plan.

Statement

Special Component Plan outlay 2000 to 2002

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	States/UT	Special Component Plan outlay		
		2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	450.51	424.52	870.00
2.	Assam	93.31	84.42	69.48
3.	Bihar	386.13	394.13	572.48
4.	Gujarat	309.76	211.40	421.42
5.	Goa	3.76	0	0
6.	Haryana	412.94	447.29	404.82
7.	Himachal Pradesh	190.08	174.00	187.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	39.66	44.08	0
9.	Karnataka	445.26	606.58	667.40
10.	Kerala	319.41	228.61	402.55
11.	Madhya Pradesh	432.73	426.94	611.79
12.	Maharashtra	508.55	550.00	530.27
13.	Manipur	0	0	0
14.	Orissa	357.99	243.52	276.25
15.	Punjab	312.00	472.00	392.33
16.	Rajasthan	673.92	737.84	895.73
17.	Sikkim	7.08	26.57	9.49
18.	Tamil Nadu	1013.37	987.78	1103.73

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Tripura	66.1	61.01	65.36
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1889.53	1764	1540.00
21.	West Bengal	1564.04	1717.39	586.89
22.	Chandigarh	10.32	9.24	10.07
23.	Delhi	256.64	257.00	250.67
24.	Pondicherry	42.00	40.24	43.47
25.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	150.99
26.	Jharkhand	0	0	0
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	255.89

Note : 0 indicates data not reported by State/UT.

[Translation]

Rail Connectivity in Himachal Pradesh

1569. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a package to provide various amenities and link all the districts, with rail routes especially the tourist centres of Himachal Pradesh and J & K;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir. However, provision of amenities at various stations and development of rail network is a continuous process keeping in view the requirement, various considerations and availability of resources.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Condition of Rail Line between Azamgarh-Lucknow

1570. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway line between Azamgarh to Lucknow and Jaunpur to Lucknow is in a very bad shape and ill-maintained;

(b) if so, the details of the fractures detected, repaired and portions, if any, replaced and renewed during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and

(c) the cost of maintenance and repairs incurred in respect of this line during these years?

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

(b) During the years 2001-02 and 2002-03, there were 40 fractures and a total of 113.34 km of sleepers and 90.99 km of rails were renewed costing Rs. 76.56 Crore, in these sections.

(c) The cost of maintenance of these sections during 2001-02 and 2002-03 was about Rs. 1414 lakh and Rs. 1452 lakh respectively.

Sub-way at Kumedpur Junction

1571. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received representation to have sub-way at Kumedpur Junction of Northeast Frontier Railway under Katihar Division for the people and the road traffic during Monsoon to cross from one end to another end and to connect the main road;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) Representation has been received at local level as also from Hon'ble M.P. to have a subway at Kumedpur for the people to cross the Railway line No. 8 & 9 which is on high embankment.

(c) The work for construction of Road under bridge at Kumedpur has been sanctioned in 2003-04.

Construction of Terminal at Kochuvell

1572. SHRI V. S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the work of terminal at Kochuvelli in Trivandrum Division has been started;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) if not, the reasons for the delay in starting the work;
 (d) whether the Railways has awarded the contract of new crossing station at Nemom in Trivandrum Division;
 (e) if so, the details thereof;
 (f) the estimated cost thereof; and
 (g) the time by which the work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) Preliminary works like preparation of detailed plans and estimate have been taken up.

- (d) No, Sir.
 (e) Does not arise.
 (f) Rs. 2.25 crore.

(g) The work is likely to be started by December, 2003 and planned for completion during 2004-05 as per the availability of resources.

Passenger Amenities

1573. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for providing facilities at railway stations and in trains;

(b) the system of monitoring the passenger facilities/amenities at railway stations/trains;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the lack of passenger amenities in various railway stations and in trains;

(d) if so, the number of complaints/requests received by the Government for the provision of passenger facilities at various stations and in trains during the last one year;

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

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Railway stations have been classified into six categories ('A' to 'F') based on earnings from passenger traffic and facilities at stations are provided as per norms laid down for each category of station.

Railway Board has issued standard guidelines for provision of facilities in various classes of coaches of trains and the facilities are provided accordingly.

(b) Monitoring of provision and maintenance of amenities at stations and trains is done by Additional General Managers (Zonal Level) and Additional Divisional Managers (Divisional Level). Service Improvement Groups at various levels have also been formed to inspect amenities and monitor remedial measures for rectifying deficiencies/short comings in passenger amenities. Moreover, review of existing passenger amenities at stations is done annually over all Zonal Railways.

(c) Railways have been able to provide minimum essential amenities in qualitative terms, as per laid down norms, at all stations. Railways are endeavouring to eliminate deficiencies in quantitative terms, wherever existing.

In trains, the new coaches are put in service with all amenities as per laid down standards. However, while in services, some shortcomings may arise due to usage and vandalism and the same are rectified during Primary/Secondary/Maintenance, Periodical Overhauls etc.

(d) to (f) A large number of requests/suggestions/complaints are received at various levels from the general public and people's representatives for provision of additional facilities at different stations and in trains. The details of all such requests are not complied. However, the details of

complaints relating to some of the passenger facilities like Working of Enquiry Offices, Non-availability of water, Maintenance/cleanliness of coaches and Mal-functioning of electrical equipment are maintained. The total number of complaints received regarding these areas during 2002-2003., Railway-wise are as under :-

Railway	No. of Complaints
Central	456
Eastern	225
Northern	377
North Eastern	187
Northeast Frontier	83
Southern	324
South Central	161
South Eastern	307
Western	467

Although it is Railways' endeavour to accommodate as many suggestions as possible, the works are undertaken considering the volume of traffic handled, relative importance of the station and the availability of resources. Zonal Railways have been instructed to take into account all such suggestions while formulating their Annual Works Programme & Rolling Stock proposals.

[Translation]

Public Sector Undertakings in Uttar Pradesh

1574. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Central Public Sector Undertakings in Uttar Pradesh are closed down and the case for the revival are lying pending with the B.I.F.R.;

(b) if so, the details and present status thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government for revival of sick/loss making CPSUs in U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) and (b) As on 31.3.2003, for which period information is available from the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (B.I.F.R.),

3 Central Public Sector Undertakings with their registered office in the State of Uttar Pradesh namely Tannery & Footwear Corporation Ltd., Cawnpore Textile Ltd. and Elgin Mills Company Ltd. have been recommended for winding up.

(c) Enterprise specific measures are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments in consultation with the management of the PSUs and other stakeholders including workers for revival/rehabilitation of sick/loss making PSUs. Some of the common steps taken in this regard include referring continuously loss making PSUs whose net worth has become negative to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for formulation of rehabilitation/revival scheme, periodical review of the performance of the PSUs by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments, business and financial restructuring infusion of fresh funds, upgradation of technology, improved marketing strategies, purchase preference policy, cost control measures, manpower rationalization etc.

[English]

Polymer Production by GAIL

1575. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) propose to expand its project to increase the polymer production as its Pata Plant;

(b) if so, the proposed increase in capacity and to what extent this would meet the demand in the country;

(c) the amount to be invested in its expansion programme and the time by which the expansion programme is likely to be completed.

(d) whether the Government is also contemplating to market its products outside India and whether any negotiations have been held with the outside agencies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The polymer production is being increased to 310,000 Tonnes Per Annum (TPA) from 260,000 TPA through de-bottlenecking of the existing polymer plant (Swing unit) of GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL)'s Petrochemical Plant at Pata, U.P. The capacity will be further increased to 430,000 TPA by

setting up a new polymer plant (Swing unit) under expansion project. The enhanced capacity would enable GAIL to satisfy the demand growth of polyethylene which is expected to outstrip the supply in 2005-06.

(c) The investment for the de-bottlenecking project is Rs. 76 crore and it is expected to be completed by November, 2003. The investment for the expansion project is Rs. 647 crore and it is scheduled for completion by December, 2005.

(d) Export shall depend on the market situation. At present, GAIL is not in negotiations with any foreign agency/customer in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.

VRS in BSCL

1576. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSCL's Management released a good number of employees under Voluntary Retirement Scheme during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, whether the employees under VRS were paid 100% benefit;

(c) whether this 100% benefit covered the benefit of Charter of Demands due since 1995;

(d) if not, clarify how this 100% benefit under VRS was arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The VRS benefits were paid to the employees in accordance with the extant instructions of the Government.

Railway Reform Committee

1577. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up a new Railway Reform Committee for total revamp restructuring of the functioning of Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SC/ST/OBC Employees

1578. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the group-wise number of personnel working in groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) the number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately, out of total number of personnel, Group-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the backlog if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The number of persons working in Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' and persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes working in these Groups in the Ministry of Power and various Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of this Ministry are given in the table below :-

Group	Total number of employees	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Other Backward Classes
A	17694	1666	372	882
B	15185	1774	684	660
C	30186	5500	1971	1120
D	13941	3299	734	379
Total	77006	12239	3761	3041

(c) The backlog of vacancies are filled in accordance with the recruitment policies which provide for

reservation. Apart from the normal recruitment process, special recruitment drives are also undertaken from time to time to fill up the backlog vacancies.

Modernisation/Digitalisation of DD in M.P.

1579. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

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

(a) the details of Doordarshan Kendras in Madhya Pradesh proposed to be modernised and digitalized during the Tenth Plan;

(b) the time by which the modernisation and digitalisation work of these kendras is likely to be completed; and

(c) the total amount likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Doordarshan Kendras at Bhopal, Gwalior and Indore in Madhya Pradesh are proposed to be digitalized and modernized, in phases during 10th Plan period.

(c) An amount of Rs. 319 crores has been provided in 10th Plan of Doordarshan, for modernization and digitalization of various Doordarshan Kendras in the country, including those in Madhya Pradesh.

*[English]***Shifting of Udgir-Parli Section from Secunderabad to Nanded**

1580. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any

request for transfer of Udgir-Parli Section from Secunderabad to Nanded Division in South Central Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav and Shri Chandrakant Khaire, Hon'ble Members of Parliament and Parli City Rail Commuters Association.

(c) The issue has been examined and it has been decided to retain Udgir-Parli section with Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway.

Rail Project in West Bengal

1581. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the ongoing rail projects in West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the existing track conditions in the State to ensure the passenger's safety; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) The present status of the ongoing rail projects in West Bengal is given as under :-

S.No.	Name of project	Anticipated cost (Rs. in cr.)	Anticipated Expenditure upto 31.3.2003 (Rs. in cr.)	Outlay 2003-2004 (Rs. in cr.)	Current Status
1	2	3	4	5	6

New Lines

1.	Laxmikantapur-Namkhana	100.88	93.88	7	Laxmikantapur-Kakdweep commissioned. Earthwork and bridges are in progress on Kakdweep-Namkhana section which is targeted for completion during 2003-04.
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1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur with ext up to Kumarkundu bypass connecting Howrah-Bardhaman Chord	276	16.56	1	Land acquisition proceeding are in progress between Tarakeshwar-Arambagh. Work will be commenced once the land becomes available.
3.	Azimganj (Nasirpur)-Jiaganj up to the Ghats	22.78	0.01	2	Work would be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances for which action has been initiated.
4.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	254.06	29.56	10	Final Location Survey has been completed. Land acquisition proceedings are in progress. Work of earthwork, bridges and Dumka station building are in progress.
5.	New Maynaguri-Jogighopa	733	9.18	25	Final Location Survey completed. From New Maynaguri to Mathabhanga, land acquisition has been processed. Rs. 6.22 cr. paid to West Bengal Govt. towards cost of land. Earthwork for widening of bank in Maynaguri Road-Chandrabhanga section taken up.
6.	Eklakhi-Balurghat	274.41	169.7	15	Eklakhi-Gazol-Daulatpur has been completed. Work in balance portion upto Balurghat is in progress and line upto Balurghat is targeted for completion during 2003-04.
7.	Tamluk-Digha	293.97	235.09	15	Tamluk-Deshpran section has been completed. 18 km from Deshpran to Nachanda has been completed during 2002-2003. Work is in progress on rest of the section.
8.	Howrah-Amta	154.3	62.24	5	Howrah-Mahendralainagar section completed. 334 acres out of 380 acres of land between Mahendralainagar-Amta handed over. Earthwork and bridgework in progress.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gauge Conversion					
1.	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri- New Bongaigaon	523.17	397.14	65	Earthwork, minor and major bridges are in progress in full length. New Jalpaigui-Samuktala Road is targeted for completion in 2003-2004. Work of conversion of branch line from Alipurduar to Bamanhat has also been taken up.
2.	Bankura-Damodar river project including MM for extension of new line from Bowaichandi to Khana	174.73	32.85	25	Earthwork and bridgework on BDR line is in progress.
3.	Katihar-Jogbani (including Katihar-Radhikapur) (Suppl.)	403.38	35.34	21.00	Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress.
Doubling					
1.	Tarakeshwar-Sheoraphulli Ph.-I (Sheoraphulli-Nalkul)	38.88	11.7	1.34	Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress in first block section between Sheoraphulli-Diara which is targeted for completion during 2003-2004.
2.	Gurup-Shaktigarh 3rd line	52.39	28.96	20	Earthwork and bridges are in progress on Gurup-Pallaroad which is targeted for completion during 2003-2004.
3.	Habra-Chandpara	40.81	0.21	2	Final Location Survey completed.
4.	Sonarpur Canning Ph.I (Sonarpur-Ghutiarl Shariff)	30.47	11.14	1	Earth work and bridge works are in progress.
5.	Baruipur-Lakshmikantapur Ph.I (Baruipur-Dakshin Barasat)	31.82	7.08	1.00	Earth work and bridgeworks are in progress.
6.	Bolpur-Ahmedpur	54.8	6.59	5	Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress. Work is targeted for completion during 2003-2004.
7.	Kalinarayanpur-Krishnanagar including ext. as GC from Krishnanagar-Shantipur and new line Krishnanagar to Chartala	102.5	11.75	1.00	Earthwork is in progress.

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Barasat-Hasanabad doubling with electrification Ph.I (Barasat - Sondalia)	23.65	4.34	1.00	Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress.
9.	Bandel-Jirat	50.68	0.61	1	Earth work and bridge works are in progress.
10.	Baruipur-Magrahat	30.09	0.24	1	Tenders have been processed.
11.	Ahmedpur-Sainthia	31.61	0.16	0.01	Detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Work targeted for completion during 2004-2005.
12.	Kumarganj-Eklakhi	17.06	0.5	6	Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress.
13.	Harishchandrapur-Kumarganj	63.22	14.61	10.01	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress.
14.	Tikiapara-Santragachi IV line	22.5	1	10	Work in planning stage.
15.	Panskura-Haldia Ph.I	26.02	0.64	20	Earthwork and minor bridges in progress in part length.
16.	Barharwa-Tinpahar	40	-	2	New work included in Budget 2003-2004. Detailed estimate is under preparation.
17.	Chandpara-Bongaon	27.48	-	1	New work included in Budget 2003-2004. Preliminary works being taken up.
Metropolitan Transport					
1.	Dum-Dum-Garia, Design and construction of Rapid Transit system	2678.7	1954.50	50	Work for construction of foundation, sub-structure and super-structure for the elevated track are in progress. Targetted for completion by March, 2007.
2.	Circular Railway including Dum-Dum-Tala electrification	252.4	78.46	35	Work of Princepghat to Majarhat is progressing satisfactorily. Construction of line from Dum-Dum Cantt.-NSCB Airport is in progress but progress is slow due to land acquisition problems from various authorities. For Ultadanga to Rajarhat (Ph. I upto Lake Town only)-Final location survey is in progress.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Railway Electrification					
1.	Krishnanagar-Lalgola	72.12	0.1	15.40	Proposal for execution in hand. Targeted for completion by March, 2005.
2.	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep	317.36	232.82	40	247 RKM energized till Mar, 2003. Targeted for completion by March, 2004.

The projects physically completed have not been indicated above.

(b) and (c) Repair and maintenance of Railway track is an ongoing process. Maintenance works are carried out regularly depending upon the need. For ensuring safety of traffic, track is inspected regularly and corrective action taken promptly wherever required. However, safety is ensured at all levels and at all times and the P.Way Supervisors are authorized to impose speed restriction as warranted, without making any reference to their superiors.

Renewal of track is also carried out on age-cum-condition basis, depending upon availability of funds. In certain cases, the maximum permissible speed of a section is also reduced if the condition so warrant for ensuring safety.

[Translation]

Production of Crude Oil

1582. SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN :

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

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

(a) the details of the production of crude oil in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the production of crude oil has declined during the current year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to boost production of crude oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Production of crude oil in the country during the last three years was as follows :-

Year	Production in million metric tonne (MMT)
2000-01	32.42
2001-02	32.03
2002-03	33.05

(b) and (c) As compared to the production of oil during the 1st quarter of 2002-03, there has been a shortfall of about 2% in production during the 1st quarter of the current financial year, 2003-04, which was mainly due to the planned shut down in the Mumbai high is connection with Redevelopment of Mumbai High field of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).

(d) Several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production, which include the following:

- (i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.
- (ii) to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); Under the three rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 70 blocks.
- (iii) to explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

- (iv) to develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.
- (v) to acquire acreages abroad.

[English]

Extension of Tickets

1583. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have abandoned the system of extending tickets for passengers already travelling on a train;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Railways propose to re-introduce the system of giving onward journey tickets in the train; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir. The system of extending tickets for passengers already travelling on a train continues.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Storage Licence for Petroleum Products

1584. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the storage licence issued for storing for Kerosene 'B' class petroleum by the oil companies/firms can be allowed to convert for storing the high speed diesel i.e. 'B' class petroleum (the same category of petroleum) after changing the required licence fees;
- (b) if so, whether the said permission had ever been granted to any oil companies/firm in the past;
- (c) if so, whether the storage licence for storing A and B class petroleum can be transferred in other names or other parties/firms/companies; and
- (d) if so, the procedure and the details of competent authority for the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes Sir. There is provision under Petroleum Rules, 2002 for transfer of licence from one name to another.

(d) Such transfer can be done by the licensing authority and the applicant is required to submit under mentioned documents :-

- (i) A constant letter signed by the licensee indicating the full name and address of the person to whom he wishes to transfer the licence and give complete possession of the licensed premises.
- (ii) Original licence sought to be transferred.
- (iii) An application in form IX filled in and signed by the person to whom the licence is to be transferred.
- (iv) A transfer fee of Rs. 500/- paid by Bank draft in the name of licensing authority.

Powers of Oil Companies

1585. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the powers to inspect, verify and stamp the weights and measures including dispensing units installed on the Petrol Pumps vest with the officials of the department of weight and measures and cannot be delegated to any other official of other departments including official of any Oil Company;
- (b) if so, whether any official of other department/ Government Oil Company can impose any fine/penalty on the observation of any variation on minus side in the weights and measures being used by any trader/petrol pump dealer when there was of seal and stamp of the department;
- (c) if not, whether these said officials of other department can take any cognizance as per section 63 of this act of 1985 on such an observation;
- (d) if not, whether these officials have the remedy to inform the officials on weights and measures to take suitable steps for establishing the offence and to take suitable action against erring traders/petrol pump dealers; and
- (e) if so, the procedure to be adopted by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (e) Stamping of dispensing pumps installed at Retail Outlets vests only with the officials of Weight and Measure Department. The statutory power of stamping of Dispensing Units of Weight & Measure Authority under the

Weight & Measure Act can not be delegated to any official who does not belong to Weight & Measure Department. Notwithstanding the aforesaid, the dealers of the Oil Companies under the agreement entered into with them, are not permitted to sell any petroleum products, even if a calibrated and stamped weight & measure fitted in the retail outlet is giving any incorrect measurement. If any dealer is found selling the Oil Company's product by using any weight & measure which is giving incorrect measurement (short delivery), the Oil Company is entitled to take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership agreement.

Visakhapatnam Railway Station

1586. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that trains have difficult access and difficult exit from Visakhapatnam railway station;

(b) whether any effort has been made to alter the entry and exit flow so that trains need not spend long time at the platforms;

(c) whether this task has been assigned to any outside agency to solve; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to ensure that trains do not spend long time while transiting through Visakhapatnam station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Access and exit of trains do not pose a problem.

(d) Does not arise.

Performance of CPSUs

1587. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller & Auditor General of India has given a dismal picture of the performance of Central Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, whether only few PSUs have made profits during 2001-02 and number of public sector undertakings going in losses every year;

(c) if so, the main reasons of the losses suffered by these public undertakings;

(d) the details of the suggestions made by the CAG in its report of these Central PSUs; and

(e) the extent to which the Government are hopeful that all these public sector undertakings would be earning profit during 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) and (b) According to Report of the C & AG of India for the year ended March, 2002 Union Government (Commercial), Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Review of Accounts, No. 1 of 2003, which was placed in both the Houses of Parliament on 24.4.2003, 139 PSUs earned profit while 120 PSUs suffered losses during the year 2001-02. The C & AG Report pertaining to a particular year speaks of performance of PSUs during the year and is duly placed in Parliament in the Budget Session every year.

(c) Reasons for losses are enterprise specific. Generally the reasons include inherent problems of enterprises taken over from the private sector, old and obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, surplus manpower, high interest burden, severe competition, low capacity utilisation, resources crunch, etc.

(d) Various areas in which performance of PSUs is lacking have been pointed out in the C & AG Report.

(e) Enterprise specific measures are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments in consultation with the management of the PSUs and other stakeholders including workers for revival/rehabilitation of sick/loss making PSUs. Some of the common steps taken in this regard include referring continuously loss making PSUs whose networth has become negative to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for formulation of rehabilitation/revival scheme, periodical review of the performance of the PSUs by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments, business and financial restructuring, infusion of fresh funds, upgradation of technology, improved marketing strategies, purchase preference, cost control measures, manpower rationalization etc.

Renewed Interest in Small Hydro Stations

1588. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the renewed interest in small hydro stations in various countries to exploit power potential of every little discharge

and every small head available in running canals or distributors by using tabular turbines;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to exploit power potential of every little discharge and every small head available in running canals or distributors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry is giving incentives for exploiting the power potential of canal drops and small rivers for setting up small hydro power stations including those using tubular turbines, both in the Government as well as the private sectors. These include incentives for detailed survey & investigation, detailed project report preparation and subsidy to set up SHP projects. So far 469 small hydro power projects aggregating 1530 MW have been set up in the country, including those on canal drops and small rivers.

Holding of NDA Entrance Examination in Hindi

1589. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NDA entrance examinations are held only in English and not in any other Indian languages;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government would consider holding of this premier examination for armed forces at least in Hindi also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The question papers for NDA entrance examination are of objective type (multiple choice) and at present these are printed only in English.

(b) All the recruitment examinations conducted by Union Public Service Commission except the Civil Service (Main) Examination are held in English medium only.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, the issue of introduction of Hindi as a medium of NDA examination is at present under consideration of the Government.

MoU with Defence Ministry

1590. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to sign MoU with Defence Ministry for enlisting latter's help in terms of deployment of men and machinery for logistic support during post-accident relief operations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The High Level Committee's Report on Disaster Management has recommended to sign an MoU with the Ministry of Defence in order to provide logistic support for rescue/relief to the victims of rail accidents. The Ministry of Defence have been requested to nominate an Officer to work out modalities in this regard.

[Translation]

Chandil LBC Power Project

1591. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether techno-economic sanction has been granted to the Chandil LBC power project in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the manner in which the said project is likely to face power crisis; and

(c) the percentage of work completed on this project as on date and the time by which the entire project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Chandil LBC hydro power project which is under construction would have an installed capacity of 8 MW. Once commissioned, the project would augment power supply in the State.

(c) Over 85% of the work on the project is reported to have been completed. Before the bifurcation of Bihar, the project was being implemented by the Bihar State Hydro-electric Power Corporation (BHPC). The Government of

Jharkhand has, however, asked BHPC to handover the necessary papers & details regarding the project. The Government of Jharkhand indicated that the project could be completed in around six months time from the date of receipt of papers and details from BHPC.

[English]

**Generation of Power in Raichur
Thermal Power Plant**

1592. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power generation at the Raichur Thermal Power Plant Unit-2 has been stopped since long;

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

(c) the probable date of re-commencement of power generation in the Power Plant Unit-2?

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

(b) Raichur Thermal Power Stations Unit-2 (210 MW) of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) tripped on 1st June, 2003 at 22.00 hours due to the stator earth fault.

(c) As associated from KPCL, the unit is expected to be recommissioned by 2nd week of August, 2003.

Shortage of Technical Manpower

1593. SHRI V. VETRISLVAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of technical manpower and soldiers in the Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the intake of officers in the technical cadets and soldiers in the Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shortage of officers in the Technical Arms is approximately 26%. The level of deficiency in respect of Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBORs) is in the range of 5% to 6% of the authorized manpower.

(c) **Officers** : Several steps have been undertaken by the Army to fill up the vacant posts in Technical Arms. Intake into 10+2 Technical Entry Scheme, which caters to

officers in Technical Arms/Services has been enhanced. The Image Projection Campaign by the Army has been launched in 1997 and currently Phase-III of the Campaign is under way. In addition, seminars, lectures and presentations are also organized by the Recruiting Offices at Schools and Colleges in order to motivate the youth to join the Army and the training capacity of the Army has been increased to facilitate increased intake.

(PBORs) : The requisite number of personnel against the existing deficiency in the technical trades have been recruited. They would be posted to the units on the completion of their technical phase of training.

[Translation]

**Shortage of Coal for Kahalgaon Super
Thermal Power Project**

1594. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project of the National Thermal Power Corporation is facing closure due to the shortage of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-supply of coal;

(c) the reasons for non-availability of the adequate storage of coal at Kahalgaon Project; and

(d) the extent of financial loss likely to be suffered in case power generation is stopped in this project and its impact on the overall power generation capacity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Lapse of Fund

1595 SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

SHRI A. NARENDRA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the lapse of funds amounting to Rs. 24000 crores including the Kargil surcharge to be spent for purchase of equipments for the Safety and Security of Soldiers;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the step taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) In no financial year has the lapse of funds out of Defence budget been of the order of Rs. 24000 crores. For the year 2002-2003, the allocation for Defence in Budget Estimates was Rs. 65000 crores which was reduced by Rs. 9000 crores in Revised Estimates.

The amount generated through surcharges levied by the Government is a part of general revenues of the Central Government and expenditure provisions are made through the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments approved by the Parliament. Thus, the amount collected from Surcharge for national security is not available to Ministry of Defence in addition to the allocation made for Defence Budget.

In order to fully utilise the allocated funds, the progress of Defence expenditure and status of various procurement proposals is kept under constant review and follow up action, as necessary, is taken. A new procurement Organisation has also been established to deal with acquisitions on capital account for the Defence Services.

Conversion of Vikrant into Museum

1596. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Defence has decided to save Vikrant and convert the same into a museum;

(b) the details about the discussion held between Defence authorities and Government of Maharashtra during last two months in this regard;

(c) the details about the revised proposal;

(d) whether it would be a National War Museum giving inspiration to the young generation for nationalism;

(e) whether Ministry of Defence would contribute towards the capital cost;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by Government to convert Vikrant into a museum?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (g) No final decision has been taken by the Ministry of Defence for conversion of INS Vikrant into a museum. The ship had been transferred free of cost to Government of Maharashtra in October 1998 for conversion into a maritime museum. No further action has been taken by the Government of Maharashtra in this connection. A meeting was held on 20.6.2003 at Mumbai where officers of Ministry of Defence, Navy and Government of Maharashtra were present. It was decided to prepare a draft project report to identify possible options to convert Vikrant into a museum. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defence has already sanctioned Rs. 5 crore for undertaking essential repairs of the ship.

Development of National Hydrogen Energy Road Map

1597. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a National Hydrogen Energy Board for developing a National Hydrogen Energy Roadmap;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition and the purpose for setting up the Board;

(c) whether the Government have taken into confidence the State Governments also while determining the jurisdiction of this board;

(d) the time by which and the manner in which the said board is likely to start functioning; and

(e) the extent to which Hydrogen is likely to be utilised in various fields particularly in vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have decided to set up a National Hydrogen Energy Board. The objective of this Board includes preparation and guiding the implementation of a National Hydrogen Energy Roadmap and proposing policy and other related

measures for the accelerated development and promotion of Hydrogen energy in the country. The Board would consist of representatives from Government, industry, academia, research institutions and other concerned stakeholders, including State representatives. The Board is in the initial stages of its formation.

(e) Hydrogen energy is currently at the research, development and demonstration stage. Hydrogen energy utilization has been demonstrated in the country in vehicles, power generating units, fuel cells, among others. The extent to which Hydrogen is likely to be utilized would depend on various factors, including availability of Hydrogen, cost, infrastructure, etc.

Transmission Line from Bhutan to Eastern Region

1598. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Grid Corporation of India and the Tata Power Limited have decided to execute the 1200 km. long power transmission line jointly from Bhutan to the Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement in this regard between the two power companies;

(c) the expenditure involved and the time fixed for the implementation of this project; and

(d) the States likely to be benefited there from?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Transmission Line from Tala HEP to Indo-Bhutan border is being implemented by Tala HEP Authority and the transmission line from Indo-Bhutan border to Siliguri is being executed by POWERGRID. POWERGRID and Tata Power Company Limited have decided to jointly execute certain power transmission lines for transfer of Tala HEP power from Siliguri to various constituent States in Eastern Region and also for transfer of surplus power in Eastern Region to various constituent States in Northern Region by formation of a Joint Venture Company, namely, Tala-Delhi Transmission Limited.

(b) POWERGRID has signed agreements, viz., Shareholders' Agreement (SHA), Implementation Agreement (IA) and Transmission Service Agreement (TSA) on 4th July, 2003 for execution of the above mentioned transmission lines. These agreements specify the rights and responsibilities of the concerned parties and the terms & conditions for construction (including the construction period) and operation & maintenance of the project (including payment of transmission tariff to the JVC).

(c) The estimated cost of the transmission lines to be implemented by the JVC (Tala-Delhi Transmission Limited) is Rs. 1099.64 crore (2nd quarter 2002 price level). These lines are scheduled to be completed by July, 2006.

(d) The States of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Sikkim in Eastern Region and Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana in Northern Region will be benefited from this project.

[Translation]

Financial Constraints for Rural Electrification

1599. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether electrification of a number of villages in the country is yet to take place;

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

(c) whether this work is not being completed in many States due to financial constraints;

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

(e) the steps being taken to ensure electrification of villages of these States?

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

(b) Details of un-electrified villages in the country are given at Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) There are no constraints of funds for village electrification. However, there are other reasons attributable for slow progress of village electrification:

- Leftover village are generally located in remote and difficult areas
- Electrification of villages is costly and un-remunerative
- Inadequate sub-transmission and distribution system
- Non-repayment of dues of REC resulting no sanction of fresh projects.
- Lack of demand from the consumers due to general backwardness and poor economic conditions

(e) In order to accelerate the pace of rural electrification in the country, the following initiatives have been taken by the Government of India:

(i) From the year 2001-02, Rural Electrification has been treated as Basic Minimum Service under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). Under this programme funds are released for all the six components including rural electrification. During the year 2002-03, Rs. 363 crores was released under PMGY for rural electrification. In 2003-04, a budgetary provision of Rs. 2767 crores has been kept under PMGY for all the six components including rural electrification.

(ii) Under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP), Rs. 600 crores has been released to the States during 2002-03 as compared to release of Rs. 175 crores in the year 2001-02. Again during 2003-04 a budgetary provision of Rs. 600 crores has been kept under MNP.

(iii) Govt. have approved grant of interest subsidy of Rs. 563.87 crores under Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme (AREP) during the 10th Plan period for electrification of unelectrified villages, un-electrified hamlets, dalit bastis and households. Out of which an amount of Rs. 163.87 crores was provided in the budget of 2002-03. Of these, Rs. 157.87 crores has been utilized. For the year 2003-04 a budget provision of Rs. 100 crores has been provided.

(iv) Under Kutir Jyoti Programme, Government provides funds to the States as 100% grant for electrification of household below poverty line. During the year 2002-03, Rs. 138.65 crores was released to the States and 9.35 lakh single light connections were provided. In 2003-04 a budgetary provision of Rs. 100.00 crores has been provided.

(v) REC has also offered loan to State Electricity Boards/States on very low rate of interest for village electrification, electrification of hamlets and dalit bastis ranging from 3-1%. REC has earmarked Rs. 500 crores every year for village electrification for the next four year.

(vi) States can have access to funds from Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) under NABARD.

Statement

Unelectrified Villages as on 31.3.2003

Sl. No.	States/UT	Total No. of Villages as per 1991 census	No. of unelectrified villages
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	-*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	1307
3.	Assam	24685	5640
4.	Bihar	67513	17491
5.	Jharkhand		
6.	Goa	360	-
7.	Gujarat	18028	-*

1	2	3	4
8.	Haryana	6759	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	107
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6477	182
11.	Karnataka	27066	296*
12.	Kerala	1384	-
13.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	1462
14.	Chhattisgarh	19720	1399
15.	Maharashtra	40412	-*
16.	Manipur	2182	178
17.	Meghalaya	5484	2754
18.	Mizoram	698	7
19.	Nagaland	1216	-
20.	Orissa	46989	9728
21.	Punjab	12428	-
22.	Rajasthan	37889	983
23.	Sikkim	447	42
24.	Tamil Nadu	15822	-
25.	Tripura	855	38
26.	Uttar Pradesh	97122	18042
27.	Uttaranchal	15681	2785
28.	West Bengal	37910	7694
Total (States)		586165	70135
Total (UTs)		1093	-*
Total (All India)		587258	70135

* remaining not feasible

Acquisition of Land in Himachal Pradesh

1600. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2275 on March, 06, 2003 regarding Handing over of Land in Una to Western Command Headquarters and state:

(a) whether Ministry of Defence has received any action taken report from the Officers Board regarding finding out the suitability of 790 area land earmarked in Una by Himachal Pradesh Government in accordance with the order given to the said board by the Ministry;

(b) if so, the date on which it has been received and whether the above matter is being investigated any more; and

(c) if so, the the time by which the Army is likely to finally acquire the above land to set up its units and establishments?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. However, Army HQrs have reported that the area has a restricted buildability of only 30 to 40 per cent and, therefore, additional land contiguous to this land is required from the State Government.

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

Joint Naval Exercise with Russia

1601. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint naval exercise of the Indo-Russian Navy was organised recently near Socotra islands in the West Arabian sea;

(b) if so, the number of warships and personnel participated in this exercise;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) the benefits accrued therefrom;

(e) whether any proposal for joint exercises by armed forces in near future is pending before the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. The joint exercises between the navies of India and Russia were carried out on the western seaboard between Mumbai and Goa from May 23, 2003 to May 24, 2003 and on the eastern seaboard, off Visakhapatnam from June 1, 2003 to June 2, 2003.

(b) and (c) It will not be in public interest to divulge further details regarding these joint exercises.

(d) Strategic and operational benefits have accrued from these exercises.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) It will not be in public interest to disclose further details.

[English]

ONGC Investment in Sakhalin Project in USSR

1602. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh has invested a

whooping \$ 14.442 billion in Sakhalin-I Oil/Gas project in USSR and is facing time and cost over-runs;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether according to ONGC Videsh Limited's estimation the crude from Sakhalin-I is set to flow by mid-2005; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the present deadlock between ONGC Videsh and Russian firm is going to prolong the delay in the completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Revision of cost estimates in oil and gas projects is a normal industry practice as the projects progress from the initial exploration phase to the development phase. During this process, costs and schedule get refined, based on factors such as reserve estimates, technological aspects and financial & economic parameters.

ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL) has informed that in the case of Sakhalin-I Project, the current estimated reserves for oil and gas are higher as compared to the reserves estimated at the time of approval of the project, thus necessitating higher costs which are not final as of today.

(c) and (d) OVL has informed that production of oil from the Sakhalin-I Project is expected to commence by 2005 - end, and that there is no deadlock between them and any Russian firm.

Village Electrification Under PMGY

1603. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages proposed to be electrified under PMGY during the year 2003-2004 and during the Tenth Five Year Plan in all the States and particularly in Orissa and;

(b) the details of targets set for the electrification of villages under PMGY in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) From the year 2001-02, Rural Electrification including electrification of dalit bastis and hamlets has been treated as Basic Minimum Service and has been included under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). During the year 2001-02 & 2002-03 Rs. 412.23 crores and Rs. 359.58 crores respectively were released under PMGY for rural electrification as per the details given in the Statement enclosed.

In 2003-04, a budgetary provision of Rs. 2767 crores has been kept under PMGY for all the six components including rural electrification. The States have to make the inter-se allocation depending upon their priorities.

Statement

State-wise details of funds released under PMGY for the Year 2001-02 and 2002-03 for Rural Electrification.

Sl.No. States	Rs. in lakhs	
	2001-02	2002-03 (MMP)
1. Andhra Pradesh	1705.00	1705.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	684.00	2417.00
3. Assam	6011.00	515.00
4. Bihar	2457.90	6.00
5. Chhattisgarh	851.70	0.00
6. Goa	4.50	142.90
7. Gujarat	362.80	1116.90
8. Haryana	187.90	1000.00
9. Himachal Pradesh	100.00	-
10. Jammu & Kashmir	1922.00	1275.00
11. Jharkhand	379.60	1664.00
12. Karnataka	841.00	100.00
13. Kerala	594.50	444.00
14. Madhya Pradesh	1460.62	1061.00
15. Maharashtra	1901.08	1608.02
16. Manipur	600.00	10187.00
17. Meghalaya	600.00	2774.00
18. Mizoram	598.00	684.00
19. Nagaland	452.60	3000.00
20. Orissa	1703.80	110.00
21. Punjab	1488.25	800.00
22. Rajasthan	1080.00	600.00
23. Sikkim	0.00	600.00
24. Tamil Nadu	1173.60	598.00
25. Tripura	850.00	650.00
26. Uttar Pradesh	9417.00	400.00
27. Uttaranchal	976.75	500.00
28. West Bengal	2820.00	2000.00
Total	41223.60	35,958.30

Economic Development of Weaker Sections and OBCs

1604. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

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

(a) the details of each scheme being implemented/ to be implemented for social and economic development of the weaker sections of society and OBCs separately;

(b) the time by which the new schemes are likely to be implemented;

(c) the financial assistance provided there under during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise;

(d) the details of proposals received from State Governments/Union Territories and NGOs regarding development of weaker sections and OBCs during the said period, State/UT-wise and NGO-wise;

(e) the funds allocated/released under said proposals during the said period, scheme-wise;

(f) the funds actually spent/utilized by each State/ UT and NGOs, scheme-wise;

(g) whether any complaints of misutilisation of funds by States/UTs and NGOs has been received during the said period; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on those complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI):
(a) The Ministry releases financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for economic development of Scheduled Castes. Equity support is also given to Apex and State Finance Corporations to support their loaning activities. The Corporations supported in this manner are:- National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation, National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation and State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations.

The National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation is also given equity support to facilitate lending for income generating activities to OBCs through State channelising agencies (SCAs). It is expected that improvement in economic status will lead to social development.

(b) There is no new scheme for economic

development of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes.

(c) Scheme-wise financial assistance released during last three years and current year till date is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) to (f) Details of schemes under which proposals were received from State Governments/Union Territories and

NGOs during last three years and current year and funds released and utilized during this period are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received in respect of a few NGOs that received grants during former years. Action has been taken against them by way of stoppage of grant, blacklisting, issuing orders for recovery of misutilised amount.

Statement-I

Scheme-wise financial assistance during last three years and current year till date

		(Rs. in crore)			
Sl. No.	Scheme	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Scheduled Castes Development					
1.	Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan	450.14	452.51	434.05	0.00
2.	National Scheduled Castes Finance & Dev. Corp.	0.00	25.00	15.10	0.00
3.	State Scheduled Castes Development Corpn.	27.63	21.00	25.00	2.99
4.	National Safai Karamcharis Fin. & Dev. Corpn.	22.00	25.00	20.00	0.00
5.	Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers	60.92	9.20	40.95	0.00
Other Backward Classes					
5.	National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation	0.00	0.00	12	0.00

Statement - II

Name of the Scheme : Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan

		(Rs. in lakh)						
Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3720.00	3720.00	3551.51	3551.51	7216.48	6367.17	0.00
2.	Assam	1810.69	914.75	127.14	1453.00	512.76	265.98	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	1261.41	0.00	4286.00	0.00	4286.00	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	500.00	284.28	414.68	465.10	430.25	359.58	0.00
5.	Gujarat	1521.88	845.03	1227.91	446.76	559.73	200.00	0.00
6.	Goa	8.00	1.50	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Haryana	930.63	635.39	443.53	815.20	1098.19	958.66	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8.	Himachal Pradesh	444.00	431.22	368.66	378.53	447.99	428.96	0.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	218.00	238.10	201.84	200.60	122.88	208.55	0.00
10.	Jharkhand	500.00	0.00	578.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Karnataka	2643.64	2643.64	2985.43	2985.43	2386.12	970.16	0.00
12.	Kerala\$	1251.07	0.00	533.84	129.50	0.00	481.00	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh\$	1720.00	1448.64	1148.23	1737.76	2598.12	162.02	0.00
14.	Maharashtra**	2722.00	1766.09	3314.14	2384.28	1077.10	2192.46	0.00
15.	Manipur\$	38.96	8.94	2.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Orissa	1884.00	2022.03	2480.19	1898.88	1792.01	339.36	0.00
17.	Punjab	1784.00	184.29	0.00	161.14	0.00	1289.85	0.00
18.	Rajasthan	3738.96	2203.87	3005.41	2531.62	3422.9	2486.49	0.00
19.	Sikkim	23.87	23.98	16.68	16.26	42.21	0.00	0.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	3558.00	2656.93	5020.32	4598.24	4500.71	2131.02	0.00
21.	Tripura	476.48	476.48	83.45	32.05	176.91	0.00	0.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	9398.00	6525.23	11816.86	10181.17	10173.64	13417.92	0.00
23.	Uttaranchal	500.000	54.17	433.21	314.44	174.57	288.18	0.00
24.	West Bengal	5450.63	5450.63	7412.59	7178.43	6640.5	2861.25	0.00
25.	Chandigarh	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	12.50	0.00
26.	Delhi	149.91	36.71	0.00	80.97	0.00	545.23	0.00
27.	Pondicherry	25.18	34.41	50.00	27.06	5.81	7.75	0.00

Name of the Scheme : Scheduled Castes Development Corporation

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	State/UT	2000-01 Releases	2001-02 Releases	2002-03 Releases	2003-04 Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	792.65	0.00	498.00	0.00
2.	Chandigarh	38.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	503.70	299.85
4.	Gujarat	200.00	48.79	0.00	0.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	25.60	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Karnataka	727.39	391.00	160.50	0.00
7.	Kerala	33.60	0.00	437.70	0.00
8.	Maharashtra	487.96	1191.47	0.00	0.00
9.	Rajasthan	0.00	118.47	0.00	0.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00
11.	Tripura	12.69	0.00	4.00	0.00
12.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	100.50	0.00
13.	Uttar Pradesh	300.00	350.00	314.60	0.00
14.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	61.40	0.00
15.	West Bengal	169.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note : State SCDCs are released assistance only after receiving their financial commitments during the year. As such, no utilization certificate of funds is required.

National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of scavengers

Rs. in lakh

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	165.66	224.70	1328.62	2966.80	NR	0.00
2.	Assam	372.00	6.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
3.	Chhatisgarh	1500.00	0.00	0.00	70.00	0.00	NR	0.00
4.	Haryana	0.00	106.06	0.00	68.88	0.00	NR	0.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	81.30	0.00	0.00	239.96	NR	0.00
6.	Jharkhand	1085.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
7.	Karnataka	0.00	184.77	695.17	65.35	888.37	NR	0.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	309.77	0.00	473.47	0.00	NR	0.00
9.	Maharashtra	2135.00	6.64	0.00	128.48	0.00	NR	0.00
10.	Orissa	0.00	253.7	0.00	201.83	0.00	NR	0.00
11.	Punjab	0.00	7.75	0.00	8.68	0.00	NR	0.00
12.	Rajasthan	0.00	36.17	0.00	69.58	0.00	NR	0.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	474.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	993.16	0.00	66.34	0.00	NR	0.00
15.	Uttaranchal	1000.00	0.00	0.00	29.70	0.00	NR	0.00
16.	West Bengal	0.00	18.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00

Post Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3099.56	4582.29	6426.72	6213.56	5804.52	NR	0.00
2.	Assam	233.75	272.31	272.31	218.32	221.32	221.31	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	211.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	394.84	229.97	185.90	106.83	64.42	0.00
5.	Gujarat	149.39	79.80	60.14	0.00	2.70	NR	0.00
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.23	0.00	NR	0.00
7.	Haryana	126.25	123.76	275.61	234.50	180.92	NR	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	21.23	20.23	21.84	24.81	0.00	NR	0.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	36.87	85.36	85.36	19.99	NR	0.00
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	266.64	NR	0.00
11.	Karnataka	1111.61	1008.39	732.13	1806.13	984.47	810.34	0.00
12.	Kerala	301.90	438.16	938.16	0.00	674.44	NR	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	382.47	158.43	490.53	630.67	371.81	372.08	0.00
14.	Maharashtra	727.78	378.74	658.33	1778.66	1696.66	NR	0.00
15.	Manipur	43.71	41.97	48.15	64.16	71.28	NR	0.00
16.	Meghalaya	4.17	4.16	5.47	5.46	6.90	NR	0.00
17.	Orissa	196.98	140.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
18.	Punjab	0.00	171.41	239.90	0.00	60.00	NR	0.00
19.	Rajasthan	411.36	356.87	470.13	503.52	400.67	NR	0.00
20.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	1950.46	1244.51	1168.95	1566.02	1658.56	770.84	0.00
22.	Tripura	141.20	141.20	138.71	102.16	85.06	NR	0.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1383.22	5301.24	2304.94	2027.81	1994.42	2105.84	0.00
24.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	411.74	169.43	0.00	NR	0.00
25.	West Bengal	1098.42	570.37	911.06	0.00	677.37	NR	0.00
26.	Daman & Diu	1.68	0.00	2.50 ^f	1.88	0.08	NR	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.00	NR	0.00
28.	Pondicherry	30.00	30.35	35.00	36.17	20.03	NR	0.00

Note : Central assistance in a particular year is released based on the expenditure and coverage anticipated by the concerned States/UT for that year. Any unspent balance of funds or arrear due are adjusted while releasing central assistance for the year. To avoid abnormally high anticipated expenditure, an analysis of trend of expenditure from previous years is also made while considering release of central assistance.

Post Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63.90	62.55	57.94	42.34	252.60	NR	0.00
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.11	NR	0.00
3.	Bihar	20.00	11.05	15.47	84.43	20.00	NR	0.00
4.	Goa	0.34	0.51	0.72	0.72	0.02	NR	0.00
5.	Gujarat	459.25	347.07	510.07	578.81	0.00	NR	0.00
6.	Haryana	0.00	19.21	38.20	46.9	0.00	NR	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	22.05	24.27	0.00	10.26	9.74	NR	0.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.09	NR	0.00
9.	Karnataka	3.03	10.51	3.36	5.9	11.45	1.54	0.00
10.	Kerala	0.00	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	153.45	80.88	70.15	120.79	62.62	NR	0.00
12.	Maharashtra	160.96	127.21	154.41	235.23	0.00	NR	0.00
13.	Orissa	0.00	5.73	4.00	7.34	0.00	NR	0.00
14.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.31	0.00	NR	0.00
15.	Rajasthan	107.51	72.15	59.69	77.45	38.83	NR	0.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	170.25	88.64	49.72	106.11	61.50	NR	0.00
17.	Tripura	2.45	2.97	3.08	2.44	2.30	2.33	0.00
18.	West Bengal	0.00	1.84	2.81	2.89	5.60	NR	0.00
19.	Pondicherry	0.00	5.16	0.00	13.27	1.80	NR	0.00
20.	Chhatisgarh	0.00	0.00	2.24	50.02	21.80	NR	0.00
21.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	30.20	0.00	1.15	NR	0.00
22.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	2.21	0.00	7.78	NR	0.00

Note : Central assistance in a particular year is released based on the expenditure and coverage anticipated by the concerned States/UT for that year. Any unspent balance of funds or arrear due are adjusted while releasing central assistance for the year. To avoid abnormally high anticipated expenditure, an analysis of trend of expenditure from previous years is also made while considering release of central assistance.

Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63.90	62.55	57.94	42.34	252.60	NR	0.00
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.11	NR	0.00
3.	Bihar	20.00	11.05	15.47	84.43	20.00	NR	0.00
4.	Goa	0.34	0.51	0.72	0.72	0.02	NR	0.00
5.	Gujarat	459.25	347.07	510.07	578.81	0.00	NR	0.00
6.	Haryana	0.00	19.21	38.20	46.9	0.00	NR	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	22.05	24.27	0.00	10.26	9.74	NR	0.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.09	NR	0.00
9.	Karnataka	3.03	10.51	3.36	5.9	11.45	1.54	0.00
10.	Kerala	0.00	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	153.45	80.88	70.15	120.79	62.62	NR	0.00
12.	Maharashtra	160.96	127.21	154.41	235.23	0.00	NR	0.00
13.	Orissa	0.00	5.73	4.00	7.34	0.00	NR	0.00
14.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.31	0.00	NR	0.00
15.	Rajasthan	107.51	72.15	59.69	77.45	38.83	NR	0.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	170.25	88.64	49.72	106.11	61.50	NR	0.00
17.	Tripura	2.45	2.97	3.08	2.44	2.30	2.33	0.00
18.	West Bengal	0.00	1.84	2.81	2.89	5.60	NR	0.00
19.	Pondicherry	0.00	5.16	0.00	13.27	1.80	NR	0.00
20.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	2.24	50.02	21.80	NR	0.00
21.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	30.20	0.00	1.15	NR	0.00
22.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	2.21	0.00	7.78	NR	0.00

Note : Central assistance in a particular year is released based on the expenditure and coverage anticipated by the concerned States/UT for that year. Any unspent balance of funds or arrear due are adjusted while releasing central assistance for the year. To avoid abnormally high anticipated expenditure, an analysis of trend of expenditure from previous years is also made while considering release of central assistance.

Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste boys

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	462.83	462.83	42.67
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	421.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	77.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	4.50	0.00	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	60.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.97	0.00	0.00
8.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	245.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Karnataka	495.00	325.00	563.19	0.00	274.31	274.31	0.00
10.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	764.95	764.95	284.37	0.00	344.67	0.00	0.00
12.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65.75	0.00	0.00
13.	Orissa	12.75	9.96	21.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	11.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	89.41	0.00	0.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	182.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	18.58	0.00	71.08	0.00	0.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	155.64	0.00	4.48	0.00	0.00
19.	Chandigarh	45.00	45.00	50.18	0.00	50.18	0.00	0.00

Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste girls

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	505.50	456.53	0.00
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.05	0.00	0.00
5.	Haryana	140.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	67.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.64	0.00	0.00
8.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	245.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Karnataka	148.96	148.96	207.42	0.00	651.84	554.72	126.93
10.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	45.50	0.00	79.50	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11.	Madhya Pradesh	437.51	437.51	665.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Orissa	12.75	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	258.34	302.89	43.5	0.00	61.50	0.00	0.00
14.	Tripura	22.05	0.00	9.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	196.04	0.00	36.91	0.00	0.00
16.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.06	0.00	0.00
17.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.42	0.00	0.00

Books Banks for Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	116.59	116.59	0.00	0.00	76.43	0.00	0.00
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.78	0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	7.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.31	0.00	0.00
5.	Goa	0.59	0.00	0.00	1.34	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Haryana	3.27	3.27	0.00	0.00	8.47	0.00	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.45	3.45	0.00	0.00	5.99	0.00	0.00
9.	Karnataka	20.50	20.50	33.27	0.00	115.63	0.00	0.00
10.	Kerala	13.92	13.92	40.00	0.00	16.79	0.00	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	12.79	12.79	0.00	0.00	24.99	24.99	0.00
12.	Maharashtra	27.03	0.00	85.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Mizoram	1.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Orissa	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Punjab	8.28	8.28	0.00	0.00	14.51	0.00	0.00
16.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	9.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	15.21	15.21	13.38	0.00	61.86	0.00	0.00
18.	Tripura	1.68	1.68	1.86	0.00	1.18	0.00	0.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	103.16	0.00	87.85	11.42	0.00
20.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.21	0.00	0.00
21.	Chandigarh	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Delhi	5.89	4.48	12.00	4.03	12.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Scheme : Upgradation of Merit

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	37.80	0.00	26.7	0.00	0.00
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.80	0.00	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	4.20	0.00	9.23	0.00	21.52	26.54	0.00
4.	Goa	1.05	1.05	1.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Haryana	8.70	8.70	7.93	0.00	7.65	0.00	0.00
6.	Jharkhand	5.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Karnataka	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.20	337.5	0.00
8.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	4.50	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	16.80	16.80	0.00	0.00	73.50	337.5	0.00
10.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.60	0.00	0.00
11.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	8.24	0.00	7.01	0.00	0.00
12.	Sikkim	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00
13.	Tripura	1.20	1.20	1.20	0.00	3.00	1.20	0.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	30.87	0.00	36.25	30.11	0.00
15.	Uttaranchal	2.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	West Bengal	6.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.90	0.00	0.00
17.	Pondicherry	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Scheme : Coaching and Allied Scheme for Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend	Releases	Expend	Releases	Expend	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	111.80	0.00	0.00
2.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.45	0.00	0.00
4.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	2.19	2.19	24.68	0.00	0.00
5.	Kerala	8.69	8.69	20.86	20.86	22.01	0.00	0.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	44.03	44.03	0.00	0.00	19.99	0.00	0.00
7.	Meghalaya	1.79	1.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Punjab	2.39	2.39	0.00	0.00	7.76	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10.	Rajasthan	43.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	11.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	2.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Delhi	2.95	2.95	1.90	1.90	10.00	0.00	0.00

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes & the Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	208.60	213.04	165.01	268.98	328.14	0.00	0.00
2.	Assam	2.00	1.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	34.03	47.00	0.00	47.13	65.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.27	74.52	30.10
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.73
6.	Gujarat	325.79	298.53	178.20	199.85	226.62	0.00	22.23
7.	Haryana	11.53	13.53	13.78	13.76	27.28	27.14	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.72	0.00	0.00
9.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	105.98	0.00	0.00
10.	Karnataka	150.44	188.58	174.59	409.33	567.05	350.56	0.00
11.	Kerala	41.95	43.34	44.15	26.75	73.15	0.00	0.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	977.24	1027.35	812.86	788.10	435.98	613.64	1180.97
13.	Maharashtra	190.44	64.02	6.48	79.27	772.52	0.00	0.00
14.	Orissa	0.58	1.22	0.97	1.62	0.81	0.00	0.00
15.	Punjab	18.39	32.72	33.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Rajasthan	150.00	118.52	317.38	120.91	19.29	0.00	0.00
17.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.41	1.91	2.90	0.00
18.	Tamil Nadu	89.08	261.4	502.48	189.24	336.67	0.00	0.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	448.20	717.24	700.00	785.07	886.64	927.78	1030.22
20.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.42	0.00	0.00
21.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	27.00	25.27	25.00	26.25	26.33	26.33	33.42
22.	Pondicherry	28.64	31.49	31.50	30.38	29.23	0.00	0.00

Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	645.25	0.00	0.00
2.	Assam	62.50	62.50	0.00	0.00	26.85	0.00	0.00
4.	Karnataka	425.71	405.99	278.15	278.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	606.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Tripura	95.79	95.79	110.04	110.04	171.23	171.00	0.00
7.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Manipur	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	1222.21	1222.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	73.19	49.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	184.75	0.00	0.00
13.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	31.45	31.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	559.25	559.00	357.77	357.77	247.86	0.00	0.00
2.	Assam	94.47	0.00	32.77	0.00	8.39	0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Goa	25.00	0.00	0.00	6.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	55.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.00	0.00	42.00	0.00	14.32	0.00	0.00
7.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	191.88	189.74	214.08	0.00	0.00
8.	Karnataka	110.72	110.72	145.57	145.57	211.69	211.00	0.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	452.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Manipur	91.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.20	0.00	0.00
12.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	198.95	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	5.29	0.00	0.00
14.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	352.81	0.00	0.00
15.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	63.31	63.31	254.03	0.00	0.00
16.	Uttar Pradesh	10.20	10.20	329.00	0.00	1016.14	1011.14	0.00
17.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	25.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	258.14	0.00	0.00

Name of the Scheme : Hostels for OBC boys & girls

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	188.74	188.74	210.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	149.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.27	0.00	0.00
4.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	147.28	145.81	0.00	0.00	83.16
5.	Karnataka	183.23	183.23	216.99	149.6	263.77	0.00	0.00
6.	Manipur	46.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120.04	0.00	161.87
9.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Sikkim	20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Tamil Nadu	259.86	259.86	157.28	0.00	283.50	0.00	0.00
12.	Tripura	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	265.13	265.13	195.47	0.00	0.00
14.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.95	0.00	0.00

Assistance to VOs for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
		Amount released including new cases	Amount released including new cases	Amount released including new cases	Amount released including new cases
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	292.10	513.45	352.02	109.74
2.	Assam	55.48	40.83	29.34	7.42

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bihar	46.68	89.61	96.48	18.15
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	3.32	11.55	0.00
5.	Delhi	237.69	231.94	186.42	81.34
6.	Gujarat	38.91	60.19	89.52	29.16
7.	Haryana	35.56	15.96	21.21	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.45	19.47	0.78	0.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7.59	1.45	0.00	0.00
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	1.91	0.00	0.00
11.	Karnataka	286.47	290.15	256.21	87.36
12.	Kerala	17.03	9.89	1.16	11.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	69.99	171.08	174.26	115.94
14.	Maharashtra	88.64	145.15	184.17	78.79
15.	Manipur	39.82	30.38	29.33	3.83
16.	Orissa	336.90	330.47	279.47	133.276
17.	Punjab	6.71	1.85	0.00	0.00
18.	Rajasthan	95.19	126.53	230.87	144.18
19.	Sikkim	0.00	1.86	0.00	0.00
20.	Tripura	10.25	3.93	1.71	0.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	48.01	69.62	17.66	10.86
22.	Uttar Pradesh	355.70	468.02	239.23	52.17
23.	Uttaranchal	1.99	33.16	17.69	9.40
24.	West Bengal	177.59	239.73	180.83	50.12
	Total	2249.75	2900.00	2400.00	942.72

Assistance to VO's for the Welfare of Other Backward Classes

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
		Amount released including new cases	Amount released including new cases	Amount released including new cases	Amount released including new cases
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9.71	26.23	25.55	10.53
2.	Assam	7.04	9.21	13.30	2.76

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bihar	0.00	5.13	0.00	0.00
5.	Delhi	19.67	52.77	59.37	15.57
6.	Gujarat	4.67	0.00	1.22	2.30
7.	Haryana	5.39	13.90	19.31	0.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.62	3.40	0.00	0.00
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	1.05	1.23	0.00
11.	Karnataka	2.88	13.38	10.31	3.75
13.	Madhya Pradesh	24.14	18.18	54.07	2.43
14.	Maharashtra	20.77	76.39	99.66	12.06
15.	Manipur	23.40	31.95	35.17	9.83
16.	Orissa	16.31	13.63	29.15	4.76
17.	Punjab	0.00	1.17	0.00	0.00
18.	Rajasthan	0.00	10.66	47.16	8.63
19.	Sikkim	2.11	2.18	0.00	0.00
21.	Tripura	2.80	4.85	2.72	0.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	12.10	79.33	72.47	5.39
23.	Uttaranchal	0.00	6.04	2.59	0.00
24.	West Bengal	2.56	11.00	6.13	1.28
Total		157.17	380.45	479.41	79.31

Assistance to VO's under Pre-Examination Coaching for OBCs

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
		Amount released including new cases	Amount released including new cases	Amount released including new cases	Amount released including new cases
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	15.96	8.2	0.00
2.	Assam	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00
3.	Delhi	0.00	1.52	0.00	0.00
4.	Kerala	0.00	4.09	0.69	0.00
5.	Karnataka	0.00	2.84	0.00	0.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	22.18	5.60	0.00
7.	Maharashtra	0.00	4.60	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Manipur	0.00	1.30	0.75	0.00
9.	Orissa	1.00	4.48	1.35	1.69
10.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.00
11.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	6.17	0.00	0.00
12.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.72	0.00	0.00
Total		1.00	65.74	16.67	1.69

Rail Ticket Booking through Internet

1605. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail ticket booking has been started through internet in select cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response thereto;

(c) whether this system is being extended to other cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The facility of issue of rail tickets through internet was introduced on 3.8.2002. As on 24.7.2003, this facility is available in 67 cities. The names of these cities is given in Statement enclosed. As regard public response to the facility, during peak demand month of April 2003, as many as, 53,171 tickets were booked through internet.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The facility is being extended continuously to more and more cities in the country. There is a plan to extend this facility to Shillong, Saharanpur, Roorkee, Meerut, Bareilly, Izatnagar, Kota, Gwalior, Mathura, Karnal, Aligarh and Yamunanagar, shortly.

Statement

List of cities where Courier Delivery of Internet Tickets is available up to 31.7.2003.

S.No.	Shp City List	Tickets Sold
1	2	3
1.	Agra	52
2.	Agartala	0

1	2	3
3.	Ahmedabad	8641
4.	Alapuzha	19
5.	Allahabad	69
6.	Aluva	13
7.	Amritsar	10
8.	Anand	55
9.	Bangalore	36914
10.	Baroda	4860
11.	Bhopal	1205
12.	Bhubaneshwar	78
13.	Chandigarh	927
14.	Chennai	57779
15.	Coimbatore	251
16.	Darjeeling	2
17.	Dehradun	107
18.	Faridabad	2048
19.	Gandhinagar	66
20.	Ghaziabad	2003
21.	Goa	71
22.	Gurgaon	10419
23.	Guwahati	59
24.	Haldwani	1
25.	Hyderabad	12084

1	2	3
26.	Indore	1692
27.	Jabalpur	42
28.	Jaipur	1616
29.	Jalandhar	46
30.	Jammu	0
31.	Kannur	16
32.	Kanpur	944
33.	Kochi	297
34.	Kolkata	7967
35.	Kollam	18
36.	Kottayam	18
37.	Kozhikode	57
38.	Lucknow	1801
39.	Ludhiana	97
40.	Mangalore	46
41.	Madurai	0
42.	Mumbai	115464
43.	Mysore	0
44.	Nagpur	3894
45.	Nainital	1
46.	Nashik	17
47.	Navi Mumbai	56

1	2	3
48.	New Delhi	76290
49.	Noida	8739
50.	Palakkad	41
51.	Patna	186
52.	Pune	9458
53.	Rajkot	12
54.	Secunderabad	3711
55.	Siliguri	3
56.	Silvasa	32
57.	Surat	1551
58.	Thane	98
59.	Tiruchchirapalli	50
60.	Tiruppur	33
61.	Tiruvalla	9
62.	Tiruvananthapuram	257
63.	Trissur	52
64.	Vapi	35
65.	Varanasi	44
66.	Vijayawada	10
67.	Viskhakapatnam	504
		372927

Fire Broke in Chandrapur Thermal Power Station

1606. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire broke out in the Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station at Chandrapur, Maharashtra on the July 2, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the causes of the fire breaking out in the power station;

(d) the number of persons killed and injured as a result thereof; and

(e) the measures taken for ensuring safety to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) According to Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) an accident occurred at Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station of MSEB at 1420 hrs. of 2nd July, 2003 due to heavy flash over at back side of 11KV breaker panel of unit no. 6 condenser cooling water pump house. Due to flash over, 6 employees

received burn injuries, out of which one employees succumbed to burn injuries on 8th July, 2003.

(e) As informed by MSEB, the following precautions/measures are being taken by them for ensuring more safety in future:

(i) Upstream Breakers on all Incoming Cubicles on all the H.T., 11 KV and 3.3 KV panels will be kept off and racked out.

(ii) The existing system of issuing permit from the local switchgears is stopped and all the permits are now issued from central plant control room by Shift Charge Engineer.

(iii) Padlocking arrangements to the rear doors of all the incomer feeders of 11 KV and 3.3 switchgears is being made.

(iv) Entry to the Switchgear room is restricted only to the authorized persons who are permitted to carry out operation or maintenance work on the switchgear.

(v) Possibility is being explored from the manufacturer of the switchgears to incorporate electrical or mechanical interlocking system to trip out the Incomer Breaker in case of inadvertent opening of the rear door.

(vi) Training courses are arranged for operators and maintenance personnel regarding electrical switchgear isolation and safety precautions.

Electrification of Villages by NCES

1607. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal for 90 : 10 (90% Central Fund and 10% State Fund) pattern for funding under village electrification programme for electrification of villages through non-conventional sources of energy, recommended by group of Ministers, has been approved by the Government so far; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and fund allocated so far/proposed to be allocated for electrification, especially in Sundarban areas of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The pattern of funding for electrification of remote villages through non-conventional energy sources has been modified to provide 90% central

support in all special category states and Islands (other than Unions Territories).

The programme for electrification of remote villages through non-conventional energy sources in the Sundarbans in West Bengal is being implemented through the West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA), Kolkata. The WBREDA has indicated that under the 2003-04 programme, 311 remote villages would be taken up for electrification through solar photovoltaic (SPV) route in the State including the Sundarban areas. The detailed proposals are, however, yet to be submitted by WBREDA. No funds have so far been allocated to WBREDA for this purpose during the current year.

Potential of Installed Capacity of Hydro Power in North-East

1608. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire North-East region is estimated to have a hydro power potential of 63,257 MW but till 2002-03 only a potential of 1,145 MW installed capacity has been developed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have decided to set up a number of projects in this region with a cumulative hydro power generating capacity of 25,000 MW;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are also planning to set up hydro power projects in many parts of the country to tap its potential; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) As per re-assessment studies carried out by Central Electricity Authority from 1978-87, the identified hydro capacity of North Eastern region has been estimated as 58971 MW. Out of the above, 1070 MW of the identified potential has been harnessed so far while another 379 MW is under construction after investment approval (considering H.E. schemes of capacity more than 3 MW).

(b) The reasons for slow development of hydro electric potential in North Eastern region are:

(i) Rehabilitation Problems

- ii) Inter-State Aspects
 iii) Environment and Forest Clearance Problems
 iv) Law & Order Problems
 v) Land acquisition Problems
 vi) Geological Surprises
 vii) Location of hydro sites in remote & inhospitable area

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A number of projects have been planned by the Government for implementation in the North Eastern Region of country. Some of the major projects are listed in Statement enclosed.

(e) Yes, Sir. 14393 MW of hydro power is proposed to be added in the 10th Plan and about 23000 MW of hydro power is proposed to be added in the 11th Plan.

In addition, Government has launched a '50,000 MW Hydro Electric Initiative, in May 2003 under which Preliminary

Feasibility Reports in respect of 162 H.E. Schemes spread over different regions of the country with an estimated installed capacity of about 50,000 MW are to be prepared by different agencies in the Central/State Sector. These include sixty schemes with estimated capacity of 30427 MW in North Eastern region as per details given below :

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Schemes	I.C. (MW)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	42	25690
2.	Manipur	3	407
3.	Meghalaya	9	1490
4.	Nagaland	3	970
5.	Mizoram	3	1870
Total		60	30427

(f) The details of hydro capacity addition proposed during 10th & 11th Plan is at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Major Hydro Projects proposed for development in N.E. Region

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/State/Executing Agency	I.C. (MW)
1	2	3
1.	Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh, NEEPCO	4 × 150 = 600
2.	Subansiri Lower, Arunachal Pradesh, NHPC	8 × 250 = 2000
3.	Subansiri Middle, Arunachal Pradesh, NHPC	8 × 200 = 1600
4.	Subansiri Upper, Arunachal Pradesh, NHPC	8 × 250 = 2000
5.	Siang Middle, Arunachal Pradesh, NHPC	4 × 250 = 1000
6.	Siang Upper, Arunachal Pradesh, NHPC	11000
7.	Ranganadi Stage - II, Arunachal Pradesh, NEEPCO	2 × 65 = 130
8.	Dikrong, Arunachal Pradesh, NEEPCO	2 × 50 = 100
9.	Kopili H.E. Project - Stage - II, Assam, NEEPCO	25
10.	Lower Kopili, Assam, NEEPCO	3 × 50 = 150
11.	Hirit, Arunachal Pradesh, NEEPCO	50
12.	Papumpam, Arunachal Pradesh, NEEPCO	60

1	2	3
13.	Tipaimukh, Manipur, NEEPCO	1500
14.	Tuivai, Mizoram, NEEPCO	3 × 70 = 210
15.	Bairabi, Mizoram, Govt. of Mizoram	2 × 40 = 80
16.	Tuirial H.E. Project, Mizoram, NEEPCO	60
17.	Tripura Gas based Power Project, Tripura, NEEPCO	280
Total		20845

Statement-II

Hydro capacity addition proposed during 10th Plan (excluding renewable and projects up to 25 MW capacity under MNES)

As on 1.7.2003

ID No.	Name of Project/State	Rating Nox MW = MW	Benefits During 10th Plan 2002-2007	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
A. Units Commissioned				
SS-6	Sardar Sarovar Guj/Mah/ M.P. Gujarat	6×200+5×50=1450 MW	100	
SS-8	Bansagar Tons PH-II Ph-III; Madhya Pradesh	2×15 3×20=90 MW	15 20	
SS-12	Srisaillam LBPH Andhra Pradesh	6×150=900 MW	300	
PT-1	Baspa - II Himachal Pradesh	3×100=300 MW	300	
<i>Sub. Total (A) Units commissioned.</i>			735	
B. Projects under execution				
N.H.P.C.				
CS-1	Dhauliganga-I Uttaranchal	4×70=280 MW	280	
CS-2	Chamera Stage-II Himachal Pradesh	3×100=300 MW	300	
CS-3	Dulhasti Jammu & Kashmir	3×130=390 MW	390	
CS-4	Teesta-V Sikkim	3×170=510 MW	510	

1	2	3	4	5
<i>Joint venture with M.P., state (N.H.D.C.)</i>				
CS-9	Indira Sagar Madhya Pradesh	8×125=1000 MW	1000	
<i>Joint venture with W.B. State</i>				
CS-11	Purlia PSS West Bengal	4×225=900 MW	900	
<i>Sub. Total NHPC including Joint Vent.</i>			3380	
N.J.P.C.				
C.S.-12	Nathpa Jhakri Himachal Pradesh	6×250=1500 MW	1500	
T.H.D.C.				
CS-14	Tehri St. I Uttaranchal	4×250=1000 MW	1000	
CS-16	Koteshwar Uttaranchal	4×100=400 MW	400	
<i>Sub Total THDC</i>			1400	
N.E.E.P. CO				
CS-17	Kopili St-II Assam	1×25=25 MW	25	
CS-18	Tuirial Mizoram	2×30=60 MW	60	
<i>Sub total NEEPCO</i>			85	
<i>Sub Total (B) Central Sector</i>			6365	
State Sector (S.S.)				
Northern Region (NR)				
SS-1	Larji Himachal Pradesh	3×42=126 MW	126	
SS-3	Baglihar Jammu & Kashmir	3×150=450 MW	450	
SS-5	Maneri Bhali-II Uttaranchal	4×76=304 MW	304	
<i>Sub. Total S.S. (NR)</i>			880	
Western Region (WR)				
SS-6	Sardar Sarovar Guj/Mah/M.P. Gujarat	6×200+5×50=1350 MW	1350	

1	2	3	4	5
SS-7	Madhikheda Madhya Pradesh	2×20=40 MW	40	
SS-9	Bansagar Tons PH-IV Madhya Pradesh	2×10=20 MW	20	
SS-10	Ghatghar PSS Maharashtra	2×125=250 MW	50	
<i>Sub Total S.S. (WR)</i>			1660	
Southern Region (SR)				
SS-12	Srisaïlam LBPH Andhra Pradesh	6×150=900 MW	150	
SS-13	Almatti Dam Karnataka	1×15+5×55=290 MW	290	
SS-15	Pykara Ultimate Tamil Nadu	3×50=150 MW	150	
SS-16	Bhawani Kattalai Barrage I Tamil Nadu	2×15=30 MW	30	
<i>Sub. Total S.S. (S.R.)</i>			620	
Total (S.S)			3160	
Private Sector (PS)				
PT-3	Vishnu Praayag Uttaranchal	4×100 = 400 MW	400	
<i>Sub. Total (B) -under execution</i>			9925	
C. Projects works taken up earlier & presently under hold				
SS-18	Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani) Assam	2×50=100 MW	100	
PT-4	Maheshwar M.P.	10×40=400 MW	400	
<i>Sub. Total (C) - works to be taken up.</i>			500	
D. Projects under award process/works to commence				
CS-10	Omkareshwar Madhya Pradesh	8×65=520 MW	520	
SS-2	Kashang-I Himachal Pradesh	2×33=66 MW	66	
SS-11	Priyadarshini Jurala Andhra Pradesh	6×39.1=235 MW	78.2	
SS-14	Kuttiyadi Aug. Kerala	2×50 = 100 MW	100	

1	2	3	4	5
SS-16	Bhawani Kattalal Barrage II & III Tamil Nadu	2x2x15=60 MW	60	
SS-17	Balimela Ext Orissa	2x75=150 MW	150	
SS-19	Myntdu (Leshka) St-I Meghalaya	2x42=84 MW	84	
PT-2	Dhamwari Sunda Himachal Pradesh	2x35=70 MW	70	
<i>Sub. Total (D) under award/works to commerce</i>			1128.2	
H.E. Projects under approval (CEA cleared)				
CS-5	Sewa-II (NHPC) Jammu & Kashmir	3x40=120 MW	120	
CS-6	Teesta Low dam - III (NHPC) West Bengal	4x33=132 MW	132	
CS-15	Tehri St. 2 PSS Uttaranchal	4x250=1000 MW	1000	
SS-4	Shahpurkandi Punjab	2x40+2x40+1x8=168 MW	168	
SS-20	Bairabi Dam Mizoram	2x40=80 MW	80	
<i>Sub. Total (E) - under approval</i>			1500	
F. New Projects				
CS-7	Teesta Low Dam-IV West Bengal	4x42=168 MW	168	
CS-8	Bav-II, Maharashtra	37 MW	37	
CS-13	Rampur H.E. Project Himachal Pradesh (Joint Venture)	400 MW	400	
<i>Sub. Total (F) - New Projects</i>			605	
Total All India			14393.2	

Note : The following inter-state & other extraneous issues have important bearing on commissioning:

- 1) Raising of Indra Sagar Dam to minimum level of 243.19m (MDDL) : Approval to raise the height up to EI 236.0 m has been received. Further raising of Dam is linked to R & R, which is to be done by MP Government.
- 2) Rehabilitation, uncertain situation (law & order) and Closure of Diversion tunnels T1 & T2.
- 3) Transmission line clearance from MOEF is still awaited for reserved forest.
- 4) Capacity addition of 100 MW has already been achieved in year 2003-04 on 27/5/2003.

Hydro Projects for Benefits during 11th Plan

S.No.	Name of Scheme	State/Agency	IC (MW)	11th Plan
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Parbati-I (Rejected by MOEF)	NHPC	750	750

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Parbati-II	NHPC	800	800
3.	Parbati-III	NHPC	520	520
4.	Pakaldul	NHPC	1000	1000
5.	Bursar	NHPC	1020	1020
6.	Nimboo Bazgo	NHPC	445	45
7.	Chamera - III	NHPC	231	231
8.	Thopan Powari	NJPC	400	400
9.	Shongtong Karcham	NJPC	400	400
10.	Kol Dam	NTPC	800	800
11.	Lohari Nagpala	THDC	520	520
12.	Palamaneri	THDC	416	416
13.	UHL-III	HP	100	100
14.	Chirgaon	HP	46	46
15.	Pudital Lass	HP	36	36
16.	Tangu Romal	HP	44	44
17.	Kashang - II	HP	94	94
18.	Sawara Kuddu	HP	144	144
19.	Sorang	HP	100	100
20.	Tidong	HP	100	100
21.	Renuka Dam	HP	40	40
22.	Parnai	J & K	37.5	37.5
23.	New Ganderbal	J & K	45	45
24.	Sonemarg	J & K	120	120
25.	Gangabal	J & K	100	100
26.	Sitkari Kulan	J & K	84	84
27.	Sawalkot	J & K	600	600
28.	SYL Canal	Punjab	50	50
29.	UBDC + MHP-III	Punjab	105	105

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Shahpurkandi Extn.	Punjab	56	56
31.	Tuinipalasu	Uttaranchal	42	42
32.	Allain Duhangan	HP	192	192
33.	Karcham Wangtoo	HP	1000	1000
34.	Harsar	HP	60	60
35.	Budhil	HP	70	70
36.	Kugti	HP	45	45
37.	Bharmour	HP	45	45
38.	DhauLasidh	HP	50	50
39.	Malana II	HP	100	100
40.	Sainj	HP	100	100
41.	Srinagar	Uttaranchal	330	330
42.	Hoganakal	NHPC	120	120
43.	Mekadatu	NHPC	400	400
44.	Rasimanal	NHPC	360	360
45.	Upper Krishna	NHPC	810	810
46.	Sivasamudram	NHPC	270	270
47.	N Sagar Tail	AP	50	50
48.	Jurala Priya	AP	235	157
49.	Mahadayi	Karnataka	320	320
50.	Varahi	Karnataka	230	230
51.	P. Kutty	Kerala	240	240
52.	Adirapally	Kerala	163	163
53.	Koel Karo	NHPC	710	710
54.	Farakka Barrage	NHPC	125	125
55.	Rathangchu	Sikkim	30	30
56.	Rammam ST IV	WB	60	60

1	2	3	4	5
57.	Ramam-1	WB	36	36
58.	Balimela DPH	Orissa	60	60
59.	Rangandadi - II	NEEPCO	130	130
60.	Kameng	NEEPCO	600	600
61.	Tulvai	NEEPCO	210	210
62.	Lower Kopill	NEEPCO	150	150
63.	Dikrong	NEEPCO	100	100
64.	Tipaimukh	NEEPCO	1500	1500
65.	Loktak DS	NHPC	90	90
66.	Subansiri Upper	NHPC	2000	2000
67.	Subansiri Middle	NHPC	1600	1600
68.	Subansiri Lower	NHPC	2000	2000
Total			23836.5	23358.5

[English]

**Shifting of Office of General Manager
of S.E. Railway**

1609. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift the office of the General Manager of South Eastern Railway to Kharagpur from the Eastern Zone at Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**World Bank Loan to Power
Grid Corporation**

1610. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government sought World Bank loan for Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has agreed to provide loan for Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the terms and conditions thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the Government of Maharashtra is likely to be benefited from the said loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) signed an agreement with World Bank on 13th June, 2001 for a loan of US\$ 450 million (PSDP-II Ln. 4603IN). The said loan covers the following projects of PGCIL;

(i) East North Interconnector-I Project (Sasaram HVDC B/B Project).

(ii) System Coordination and Control Projects in Eastern and Western Regions.

(iii) Powergrid's diversification into telecom business.

(iv) High capacity East-North Interconnector-II..

(v) System Strengthening - III in Southern Region Grid.

(vi) National Load Despatch Centre.

(vii) Completion of projects being extended under earlier World Bank loans (No. .3577-IN and No. 3237-IN).

The loan has become effective from 21.11.2001 and will close on 30.6.2006. The repayment of the loan, which has LIBOR based interest rate, will commence on 15.12.2006 with a total repayment period of 15 years.

(e) The System Coordination and Control Project in Western Region, being implemented under the World Bank funding, would help in improving the quality of power supply and system security in the Region (including, Maharashtra). The constituents of Western Region, including Maharashtra will also be benefited from POWERGRID's Telecom Network Project and the National Load Despatch Centre Project also being implemented under the World Bank funding.

[*Translation*]

Ban on Advertisement of Narcotics

1611. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the advertisements of the narcotics being telecast through the cable T.V. and the private channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The advertisements on all TV channels when transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable Television Network are required to adhere to the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.

Complaints/suggestions from members of the public and organizations are received from time to time regarding alleged violations of the Advertising Code. The Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Act to look into violations of the Advertising Code. Cognizance of such violations of Advertising Code is also taken suo moto by the Committee. The Advertising Code inter alia prohibits advertisements, which promote directly/indirectly production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products wine, alcohol, liquor or other intoxicants.

[*English*]

Observations of C&AG on loss making PSUs

1612. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has criticized 97 public sector undertakings whose losses have increased by 33.8 percent from losses in 1999-2000 to losses in 2000-2001; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to streamline the working of loss making undertakings to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) According to Report to the C & AG of India for the year ended March, 2002 Unon Government (Commercial), Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Review of Accounts, No. 1 of 2003, which was placed in both the Houses of Parliament on 24.4.2003, the accumulated losses in 97 PSUs has increased from Rs. 45,527 crore in 1999-2000 to Rs. 60,996 crore in 2001-02 (i.e. by 33.98%).

(b) Enterprise specific measures are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments in consultation with the management of the PSUs and other stakeholders including workers for revival/rehabilitation of sick/loss making PSUs. Some of the common steps taken in this regard include referring continuously loss making PSUs whose networth has become negative to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for formulation of rehabilitation/revival scheme, periodical review of the performance of the PSUs by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments, business and financial restructuring, infusion of fresh funds, upgradation of technology, improved marketing strategies, purchase preference, cost control measures, manpower rationalization etc.

[*Translation*]

Reservation for Backward Categories in Promotion

1613. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

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

- (a) whether the Government have constituted any Committee for providing reservation in promotions to Government employees belonging to backward categories;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Committee have submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the main recommendations made therein;
- (e) the steps taken to implement these recommendations; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the said committee is likely to submit its report?

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

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Settlement of Compensation Claims

1614. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of amount as compensation being paid by the Railways to the family of every person killed in train accidents;
- (b) whether the Ministry limiting itself of making ex-gratia payments of Rs. One Lakh and leaving it to the bereaved families to knock on the doors of the Railway Claims Tribunal for their rightful dues;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether there is any law to decide the fact in case a person injured in a rail accident later dies, his/her family could claim the same amount; and
- (e) if so, the clear-cut nature of the rule in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) The amount of compensation being paid by the Railways to the family of every person killed in a train accident is Rs. 4 lakhs.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

(d) and (e) Sub-rule 4 of rule 3 of the Railway Accidents and Untoward incidents (Compensation) Amendment Rules, 1997 lays down that, where compensation has been paid for any injury which is less than the amount which would have been payable as compensation if the injured person had

died and the person subsequently dies as a result of the injury, a further compensation equal to the difference between the amount payable for death and that already paid shall become payable.

Statement

(b) No, Sir. Ex-gratia is an emergent relief provided to the victims/families to take care of their immediate needs and is not counted towards to be given by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

(c) (i) For claiming compensation for death/injury of rail passengers in train accidents, filing of claims in Railway Claims Tribunal is a statutory requirement. However, for ensuring expeditious settlement of claims filed by the dependants of those dead in train accidents, the following assistance is given to them by the Railway.

- An accident cell is set up under the Chief Claims Officer which monitors all cases of death, injury for providing relief.
- Sample forms are distributed to the prospective claimants at accident sites and to the extent possible at their residences and assistance is provided to them for filling claims applications before Railway Claims Tribunal.
- Advertisements are inserted in newspapers giving a sample of claims application form and the procedure to be followed for filing claims application.
- Railway administration liaise with the State Govt. for providing free legal aid to the prospective claimants.
- Sleeper class cheque passes from the place of residence to the place of hearing and back are issued by Railway administration to the claimants, when attendance of the claimants is ordered by Railway Claims Tribunal.

(ii) Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Rules have been amended for speedy settlement of claims filed in Railway Claims Tribunal. The amendments provide for-

- Facility for the claimant to file the claim for accident cases at where the claimant normally resides, originating station, destination station as against only at place of occurrence earlier.
- Number of adjournments in each case restricted to three.
- Railway Claims Tribunal to pronounce an order within 21 days after the date of final hearing.

Private Sector Investment in Power Generation

1615. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the aggressive reforms and encouragement by the Government the growth of private sector in power sector is very slow;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the capacity addition by private sector since 1991, State-wise;

(d) whether the private sector is not likely to realize its target in Ninth Plan and in the first year of Tenth Plan;

(e) the reasons for the slippage of target; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Union and State Government to encourage the private participation in the power sector?

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

(b) The main reasons for slow growth of private sector in power sector are indicated below:-

- (i) Failure to achieve financial closure inspite of good progress on other fronts due to insistence by the financial institutions on State Government guarantees, Escrow Cover, etc., considering the poor financial condition of the State Electricity Boards/ Transmission companies.
- (ii) Delay in finalization of various contracts such as Power Purchase Agreement, Implementation Agreement, Fuel Supply Agreement and Fuel Transportation Agreement, etc.
- (iii) Court cases/litigation in the form of public interest petition, etc.
- (iv) Increase in the prices of liquid fuels such as naphtha.
- (v) Withdrawal by equity holders and EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) contractors.

The situation is expected to improve once the State owned utilities turn around and become financially sound.

(c) As per available information, a total capacity to the tune of 7366 MW has been added by private sector since 1991. The State-wise details are indicated below :-

(i)	Gujarat	-	1587 MW
(ii)	Maharashtra	-	1570 MW
(iii)	Andhra Pradesh	-	1032.75 MW
(iv)	Goa	-	48 MW
(v)	Assam	-	24.5 MW
(vi)	Haryana	-	25 MW
(vii)	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	20 MW
(viii)	West Bengal	-	635 MW
(ix)	Madhya Pradesh	-	13.5 MW
(x)	Karnataka	-	607.1 MW
(xi)	Tamil Nadu	-	992.16 MW
(xii)	Himachal Pradesh	-	386 MW
(xiii)	Jharkhand	-	240 MW
(xiv)	Kerala	-	185 MW

(d) The capacity addition from private sector planned for the Ninth Plan and the first year of the Tenth Plan, could not be achieved.

(e) The main reasons are already given in the reply to (b) above. In the first year of the 10th Plan, the Dabhol power plant, phase-II (1444 MW), which was at an advanced stage of implementation, could not be commissioned on account of disputes and subsequent legal proceedings between the Maharashtra State Electricity Board and M/s Dabhol Power Company.

(f) In addition to assisting the State Governments in the reforms and restructuring of their power sector and providing assistance under programmes like the Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (APDRP), financing of power projects based on reforms linked mile stones has been envisaged. The Government is also providing funds to private sector through the Rural Electrification Corporation and Power Finance Corporation in order that a good project with reasonable tariff is not hampered on account of lack of funds. Some of the State Governments have now started providing suitable payment security mechanism for the private power projects.

Construction of Platforms

1616. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the lack of platforms on some railway stations;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to construct some new platforms during the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, location wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) Provision of platforms on Railways Stations over the Indian Railways is a continuous exercise. It depends on the number of passenger trains handled, type of trains whether commuter or long distance and number of passengers dealt with. Depending on the traffic requirement, either the existing platforms are extended, or levels of platforms are modified based on earnings from passenger traffic handled or additional new platforms are constructed. If a terminal is completely saturated and further expansion of the terminal is not possible on technical grounds, then a new terminal is constructed to take care of the additional traffic. Moreover, new platforms are also added as part of projects and under Traffic Facility works as per the requirement.

During 2003-04, following works for construction of new Terminals/Platforms, have been included in the Budget :

Name of Work	Cost (Rs. in Crores)
1. Anand Vihar Terminal	83.00
2. Chitpur Terminal	78.00
3. Gontinagar Terminal	70.00
4. Provision of an additional platform at Jabalpur Station	4.99
5. Provision of an additional platform at Sealdah Station	3.19

Fake NGOs

1617. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about Fake Non-Governmental Organisations working in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against Fake NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment funds a large number of voluntary organization under 10 schemes through which grant-in-aid is released. Occasionally, it is found that the recommendations of State Governments related to such cases are forged, the organization is not working on the ground, the number of beneficiaries is much less than claimed, quality of services delivered is not commensurate with the grant-in-aid released etc. Such organizations are issued show cause notice. If their reply is not found satisfactory, further grant-in-aid is suspended and the organization is black listed. Further, the concerned State Government/District Collector is asked to recover the misutilised amount from the organization. Presently there are 71 such organizations against which the Ministry has taken action. The list is available on the Ministry's website www.socialjustice.nic.in.

[Translation]

Setting up of New Projects for Power Generation in Maharashtra

1618. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between the Union Government and the Government of Maharashtra to set up a new power project;

(b) if so, whether the project is going to be set up in Vidarbha; and

(c) the details of targets fixed under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Identification of potential sites for new thermal power projects is an on-going process in the NTPC. A site near Mouda in Nagpur district of Maharashtra has been, prima-facie, identified by NTPC for a 1000 MW (2x500 MW) thermal power project for conducting a pre-feasibility study. Coal supply to the project is envisaged from Western Collieries Ltd./Coal India Ltd.

[English]

Research on Temporary Suspension

1619. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount incurred on the research project conducted by the scientist's of Pune University in collaboration with the DRDO on Temporary Suspension of Hunger and Walking Long distance without fatigue and also on Kautilya's notes concerning night vision based on Arthashastra;

(b) if so, whether they have reached at some conclusions;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A small Grants-in-Aid project costing Rs. 7.31 lakhs involving studies on "Temporary Suspension of Hunger" and "Walking Long Distance Without Fatigue" was sponsored by DRDO to University of Pune. Studies on Kautilya's notes concerning night vision based on Arthashastra were not a part of the project.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The studies show that compared to normal (control) animals, the formulation treated animals have shown better biochemical parameters and energy retention for longer periods. Treated animals maintained their body temperature well and also show significantly reduced mortality rate.

(d) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Security Charges on Railway Tickets

1620. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the unprecedented increase in the rail accidents during the last two years;

(b) whether some amount has been added on account of railway security in the passenger tickets;

(c) if so, the total amount received under this head through the tickets during each of the last three years, till date; and

(d) the details of amount spent out of it to check the rail accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) As a result

of concerned efforts made by the Indian Railways, the number of consequential train accidents has come down from 414 in 2001-02 to 351* in 2002-03. In the period April-June 2003, the number of accidents has come down to 85* as compared to 103* in the same period last year.

(* Figures are provisional)

(b) No amount has been added on tickets on account of security. However, a surcharge was levied on tickets for Railway safety with effect from 1.10.2001.

(c) Year wise collection of Safety Surcharge on Passenger Fare is as under :-

(Rs. in crore)	
Year	Amount
2001-02 (October 2001 to March 2002)	304.86
2002-03	602.51
2003-04 (upto May 2003)	89.53

(d) The Safety Surcharge so collected is being fully utilized towards safety related works included in the Green Book, through the 'Special Railway Safety Fund' (SRSF), which is also credited with contribution from Ministry of Finance received in the form of dividend free Gross Budgetary Support and in addition to the Safety Surcharge so collected. The shortfall in surcharge collection is made up through revenue surplus. Actual expenditure on works allocated to SRSF as also the source of funding are given below:-

Rs. in Crores				
Year	Actual Expenditure	Through Gross Budgetary Support	Through Safety Surcharge	From Revenue/ Revenue Surplus
2001-02	1434.28	1000.00	304.86	129.42
2002-03	2486.32	1350.00	602.51	533.81
2003-04 (BE)	2310.66	1600.00	710.66	Nil

[English]

Petrol Pumps in Orissa

1621. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to

state the number of new Petrol Pumps likely to be set up during 2003-2004 in Orissa, locationwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the oil marketing companies have freedom to choose locations for setting up of new retail outlets dealerships (petrol pumps) in various parts of the country, including the State of Orissa, provided the locations meet certain norms like commercial viability and non-encroachment of the existing dealerships.

[Translation]

Pipelines by IOCL in Jharkhand

1622. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lay pipelines in the country especially in Jharkhand through the Indian Oil Corporation Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) The oil companies including Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have proposals to lay petroleum pipelines in the country. At present pipeline projects of IOCL which are under implementation do not involve the State of Jharkhand.

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

[English]

Production of LPG in Gujarat

1623. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural gas is being processed for production of LPG at Vaghodia and Gandhar in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have any plans to provide LPG through pipelines in the nearby areas of these processing centers in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) is having gas processing plants for producing LPG at Vaghodia and Gandhar in Gujarat. The production capacities of Vaghodia and Gandhar are 73,000 MT per annum and 2,50,000 MT per annum with design feed gas throughput of 2.5 and 5.0 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre Per Day (MMSCMD) respectively. The dispatch of LPG from both the plants is through the road tankers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Laying of short distance LPG pipelines is not techno-economically feasible.

[Translation]

LPG Connections in Rural Areas

1624. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved a special scheme to provide LPG connection to the people in rural areas through respective State Civil Supply Corporation on the basis of surrender of Kerosene quota until extension counters are opened and regular distributors are appointed in the rural areas falling under 15 KMs radius of the ordinary business area of the existing distributors in the urban areas in July 1999; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of connections issued so far in various districts of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Government have not approved any such special scheme for Bihar to provide LPG connections in rural areas on the basis of surrender of Kerosene quota.

[English]

Complaints Received by Anti-Adulteration Cell

1625. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received by Anti-

Adulteration Cell during the last one year upto June 30, 2003;

(b) the number of complaints in which investigation have been conducted;

(c) whether such complaints are on the rise as compared to the last three years;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(e) the details of the complaints under which filling/ closure recommended which are sub-judice, cancellation of selection and referred to Ministry for decision; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for speedy disposal of complaints in Anti-Adulteration Cell?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) 222 complaints in respect of adulteration and 153 complaints in respect of allotment of RO/SKO Dealership & LPG distributorship have been received by Anti-Adulteration Cell (AAC) during the last one year upto June 30, 2003.

(b) 130 complaints in respect of adulteration & 86 complaints in respect of allotment of RO/SKO Dealership & LPG distributorship have been investigated by the AAC.

(c) and (d) AAC was formed in March, 2001. In the first year of its set up in 2001-2002, very few complaints were received, probably due to lack of awareness among the public about the existence of this Cell. With more awareness being created about the Cell many complaints are being received.

(e) Details of complaints in respect of allotment of RO/SKO Dealership & LPG Distributorship are as follows :-

(i)	Filing	-	38
(ii)	Closure	-	02
(iii)	Sub-judice	-	19
(iv)	Cancellation	-	16
(v)	Referred to Ministry	-	11

(f) Complaints referred by the Ministry and complaints received from General Public & VIPs are in the first instance verified by sending a reconnaissance Team. If some evidence is found only regarding the veracity of the complaint further enquiry is conducted, for speedy disposal of complaints in AAC.

Generation of Power by Wind Mills

1626. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether giant wind mills are generating more than 1340 MW of power in various States;

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

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to provide financial assistance to the wind power producer authorities; and

(d) if so, the financial assistance provided by the Union Government during the last three years and the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) A wind power capacity of 1870 MW has been installed in the country upto 31.03.2003, as per the State-wise break-up given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra to provide financial assistance to wind power producer authorities. However, Central Financial Assistance amounting to Rs. 3.48 crore has been provided to the State Nodal Agency since 2000-01 for a demonstration wind farm project and wind resource assessment activities in the State.

Statement

State-wise Wind Power Installed Capacity as on 31.03.2003

Sl. No.	State	Installed capacity (MW)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	92.6
2.	Gujarat	173.1
3.	Karnataka	124.3
4.	Kerala	2.0
5.	Madhya Pradesh	22.6
6.	Maharashtra	401.2
7.	Tamil Nadu	60.7

1	2	3
8.	Rajasthan	990.3
9.	West Bengal	1.1
10.	Others	1.6
Total		1869.5

LPG Agencies in Nagaland

1627. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to open more and more LPG agencies in the interior areas of Nagaland to check illegal cutting of forests and maintain the ecological balance;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the steps likely to be taken in this regard particularly setting up of divisional office in Nagaland to cater the demand of northern region of Nagaland which is presently being looked after Jorhat, Assam; and

(d) the time by which this office is likely to open and made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA

MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) At present Indian Oil Limited (IOCL) is operating 22 LPG distributorships spread across all districts of Nagaland State to meet the requirement of consumers. Further plans for LPG agencies in the State would depend upon commercial viability of locations.

(c) and (d) At present, supplies of LPG to Central and South Nagaland are controlled from Dimapur and to North Nagaland from Jorhat, Assam. The present arrangement is operationally and commercially convenient to the company.

Pending Power Projects in Rajasthan

1628. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for setting up of power projects in the State of Rajasthan pending with the Government;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Following projects in the State of Rajasthan have been received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) :

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/capacity	Fuel Used	Status
1.	Barsingsar TPP by NLC (2x125 MW)	Lignite	Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is now not required. The price of power/lignite needs to be resolved to enable Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) to process the case for an investment decision.
2.	Mathania integrated Solar Combined Cycle TPP M/s. RRECL (140 MW)	Solar/Lignite	The project was accorded TEC on 27.08.1999 with naphtha as its primary fuel. However, due to high price of naphtha, the project could not be taken up and the fuel was changed to R-LNG. The tie-up of fuel availability is still awaited.

(c) Government is closely monitoring the progress of all identified projects. Review meetings are held with the respective State Governments, promoters and the financial

institutions with a view to remove bottlenecks and avoid slippage of these projects from 10th Plan.

Dabhol Power Project

1629. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have allowed NTPC to operate controversial Dabhol Power Plant;
- (b) whether dispute of tariff structure between Maharashtra State Electricity Board and State Government has been finalized;
- (c) whether all the legal complications with Enron of USA have been taken care before starting the Dabhol Phase-I; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Dabhol Power Plant (Ph.I) has been shut down since 29.05.2001 after the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) stopped taking power following contractual disputes with M/s. Dabhol Power Company (DPC) and subsequent rescissions of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) by MSEB. The PPA was entered into between MSEB and DPC. Thus, the responsibility to restart Phase-I and complete Phase - II of the Dabhol project lies with the main stakeholders viz. MSEB and DPC as well as the Government of Maharashtra (GOM), who had guaranteed the obligations of MSEB under the PPA. The Indian Financial Institutions (IFIs) led by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), having substantial stakes in the Dabhol Power Project, have been trying to restructure and revive the Dabhol Plant. Government of India has agreed to facilitate any amicable solution to the various issues in order to revive/restructure the project. Any scheme finalized for revival of the Dabhol Project would come as a comprehensive package and would have to resolve complex, legal, financial and technical issues. While this may take time, as a first step, it has been agreed that an interim revival package for restarting Phase-I be worked out by the concerned agencies. It has been decided that the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) would act as the Operation & Maintenance Contractor for restarting and operating Phase-I on an interim basis.

(b) GOM has taken a decision to allow the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) to draw power from Phase-I (740 MW) of Dabhol Power Project at a Plant Load Factor of 83% at a tariff of about Rs. 2.80/KWH, considering the cost of fuel (Naphtha) as a pass through, on an interim basis, subject to approval of the Maharashtra

Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) and High Court of Maharashtra which has appointed a Receiver for the project. This would be without prejudice to MSEB/GOM's rights and contentions in the pending arbitration/judicial and MERC proceedings.

(c) and (d) The proposed restart of Phase-I of Dabhol Power plant is on an interim and adhoc basis and is without prejudice to any pending arbitration/judicial proceedings and rights and contentions of any parties, thereto. The Maharashtra High Court has passed an order on 8th April, 2003 on a petition filed by the IFIs allowing the Court appointed Receiver to take necessary steps, including allowing technical inspection at the site for an assessment of the plant, appointment of Advisers for technical and other assistance, discuss and negotiate terms for suitable arrangements with NTPC, so as to furnish a report to the Court setting out the steps required to restart Phase-I of the plant.

*[Translation]***Menace of Touts**

1630. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the monopoly of the touts at New Delhi and other Railway stations of the country as appeared in 'Navbharat Times' dated June 1, 2003;
- (b) if so, the concrete steps taken by the government to bring the ever increasing number of touts to book and punish them;
- (c) the number of touts apprehended, punished and put behind the bars;
- (d) whether complaints have been received regarding touts being assisted by tour and travel agencies and city booking agencies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof of the punitive action taken by the Government and the measures taken to curb such activity?

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

*[English]***Short Term Plan for Post-Accident Relief**

1631. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the deficiencies found in rushing aid and relief and also extraction of passengers from the compartments and under the compartment at accident sites;
- (b) whether minimum list of on-site equipment for eventual use has been enumerated;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any short-term plan has been evolved for the railways dealing only with post accident relief to ensure that every railway Station particularly Vijayawada and Rajahmundry Stations will have certain minimum equipments and personnel ready to rush to the spot within a short notice;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps proposed to change the present system of not having anything ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) The Railways have an extensive rescue and relief system that has evolved over decades and is generally sufficient for meeting the requirements in case of train accidents. However, in every case an appraisal is made to uncover deficiencies and to learn lessons, if any.

(b) There is a prescribed list of equipment depending upon the type of Accident Relief Trains and Medical Vans.

(c) Accident Relief Medical Vans (ARMVs) There are 161 ARMVs on Board Gauge and Meter Gauge network.

These are loco hauled equipped with rescue and re-railing equipment, Operation Theatre (in Scale-I ARMVs) and surgical and medical supplies for trauma care.

Self-propelled ARMVs (13 on Board Gauge only) These are two-coach self-propelled train-sets capable of running in either direction at speeds up to 95 kmph.

They are equipped with cold-cutting hydraulic rescue equipment and full medical facilities for trauma care, including an Operation Theatre.

Accident Relief Trains (ARTs)
Conventional ARTs (175-both Board Gauge and Meter Gauge)

These trains are equipped for major re-railing and restoration work. They are also provided with cranes in "A" class ARTs.

Self-propelled ARTs (10 on Board Gauge only)

These are two-coach Accident Relief Trains equipped for re-railing and restoration work.

(d) and (e) As brought out above, Indian Railways have ARTs and ARMVs located all over the network to cater to any accidents that might happen.

Both Vijayawada and Rajahmundry have been provided such equipment. All stations are covered by ARTs/ARMVs spread over the rail network.

A plan to further upgrade the supplement these facilities has also been developed with well-defined time targets.

(f) As brought out above, Railways do have a system for relief and rescue in the event of train accidents, which has been tested and developed almost since the inception of Railway operations in India. It is also periodically reviewed and upgraded.

Setting up of TPP in Dohanighat in Uttar Pradesh

1632. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up Thermal Power Project in Dohanighat at Distt. Mau, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have already made a survey long back ago for setting up Thermal project at above thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the status of the survey and the reasons for this inordinate delay in implementation of the plan; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) A proposal for setting up of 2x210 MW thermal unit a Dohanighat in Azamgarh District was submitted by Uttar

Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) in May, 1978 for approval of Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Due to constraints in coal movement by Railways and non-availability of coal linkage, CEA advised UPSEB in February, 1981 to review the scheme. UPSEB in January, 1988 intimated that an alternate site was located at Belthera Road, Distt. Balia and a feasibility report for setting up of 3x250 MW Thermal Power Station at Belthera Road was submitted by UPSEB in November, 1992. The scheme could not be taken up for approval by CEA due to non-availability of essential inputs/clearances. Accordingly, CEA informed UPSEB in February, 1994 that the scheme could not be processed due to pending tie-up of essential inputs. The matter has not been pursued thereafter.

Barsoi-Radhikapur Gauge Conversion

1633. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways Minister has inaugurated the Barsoi-Radhikapur Gauge conversion project in N.F. Railway at Katihar Division;

(b) whether the Government have fixed the target for completion of rail project work by December, 2003, and to start laying the track by January, 2004 as an important priority project to connect the neglected area of North Bengal;

(c) if so, the details therein;

(d) if not, the stage-wise target fixed for completion of said project; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for expeditiously completion of Barsoi-Radhikapur gauge conversion project?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The target for conversion of the line has been fixed as April, 2005. Formation works are likely to be completed by December, 2004, after which track linking will be taken up.

(e) Works have been planned to complete the same as per target.

Construction of Houses by IRWO

1634. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation (IRWO) constructs houses for serving railway personnel, retired railway personnel, spouses of deceased railway personnel and personnel of IRWO;

(b) whether the Organisation had acquired/had been allotted any land in Shatabdi Nagar, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh years ago from the Meerut Development Authority;

(c) if so, the amount paid by the Organisation to the Meerut Development Authority therefor;

(d) whether construction of houses has been started;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(g) the time by which the construction of these houses is likely to be started?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. Meerut Development Authority had allotted a piece of 5 acres of land to IRWO in August, 1990 at Shatabdi Nagar, Meerut.

(c) Rs. 79,88,694.00.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) The scheme was launched in February, 2000. Only 3 applications were received. In view of poor response, the scheme was pended. Another demand survey has been conducted in September, 2002 for semi built/expandable houses keeping the cost low. However, response to this survey was "nil" and therefore there is no plan to start the construction of houses at Meerut.

Telecasting of DD-2 Programmes in U.P.

1635. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to start telecasting of programmes through Doordarshan Kendras in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any scheme to start telecast of DD-2 programmes from DD-1 transmission centre of

Meerut, Muzzafarnagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Varanasi in U.P.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the Doordarshan Kendra in Uttar Pradesh at Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Bareilly, Mau, Allahabad and Mathura are already producing and telecasting programmes.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that transmitters at Mau and Varanasi are functioning for telecast of programmes on DD-1 and DD-2 and at Azamgarh, DD-2 transmitter is in service. The coverage of DD-1 at Azamgarh is, however, available from HPT, Mau Prasar Bharati has further informed that there are no transmitters at Meerut and Muzaffarnagar, these are getting coverage of DD-1 and DD-2 from the HPTs as Delhi/Mussoorie.

VRS in Railways

1636. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have announced Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for some selected staff;

(b) if so, which category of staffs are allowed to take VRS;

(c) whether some condition's are laid down to grant VRS for such staff;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the date from which the VRS is made effective for them?

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

(b) Drivers and Trackmen between the age of 50 and 57 years.

(c) to (e) Modalities are under consideration.

Instructions for Broadcasting of Advertisements

1637. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have now decided to set its sights on advertisements and have directed the broadcasters to stop airing films, songs and music videos certify as 'A' by the censor board; and

(b) if so, the details of the instructions issued by the government in this regard and how the proposed instructions are to be enforced on the broadcasters strictly so as to ensure that the objectionable or vulgar films/songs/advertisements are not aired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Programmes and advertisements of all TV channels, when transmitted/retransmitted through the cable network are required to adhere to provisions of the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Central Government has constituted two inter-ministerial committees under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into the violations of the Programme and Advertising Code. Cognizance of any violation of Codes is taken suo-moto or on receipt of specific complaints by the Committees. Action for violations of the Code can also be taken by "Authorised Officers" described under the Act. The Programme Code, inter alia, prescribes that programmes carried in the cable service should be suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

[Translation]

SCs/STs and OBCs Employees

1638. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel working in groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under the Ministry, group-wise;

(b) the number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, separately out of total number of personnel, group-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to fill up the backlog, if any?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) A statement giving information regarding Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes employees working in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and its Undertakings is enclosed. There is no Department under this Ministry.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Organization	Group	Total No. of Employees	No. of Scheduled Employees		No. of Scheduled Tribes Employees	No. of Backward Classes Employees	Steps taken/to be taken to fill up the backlog, if any
				Castes Employees	Other Employees			
1.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	A	39	08	03	Nil	Nil	The vacancies have been reported to Department of Personnel and Training.
		B	120	19	04	06		
		C	101	27	03	09		
		D	63	23	01	03		
2.	Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India	A	66	05	Nil	09		There are no backlog vacancies required to be filled up as per post based roster.
		B	60	06	01	16		
		C	229	38	01	68		
		D	184	53	02	36		
3.	National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation	A	60	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Not Applicable
		B	01	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		C	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		D	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
4.	National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation	A	09	01	Nil	03	03	Not Applicable
		B	03	01	Nil	Nil	Nil	
		C	28	05	Nil	06	06	
		D	11	03	Nil	04	04	
5.	National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation	A	13	03	01	01	01	Advertisement for the recruitment has been released.
		B	03	Nil	Nil	01	01	
		C	11	05	Nil	02	02	
		D	06	03	Nil	02	02	
6.	National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation	A	25	08	01	02	02	The vacancies will be filled up as and when recruitment is carried out.
		B	14	03	Nil	01	01	
		C	33	15	02	04	04	
		D	17	11	01	03	03	
7.	National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation	A	05	02	01	01	01	The vacancies will be filled up as and when recruitment is carried out.
		B	01	Nil	01	Nil	Nil	
		C	02	01	Nil	Nil	Nil	
		D	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

[English]

Boarding of Trains at Earlier Station

1639. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have considered the problems of passengers who have reserved tickets and wish to board the train at an earlier station;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been done by the Railways to sort out the problems of passengers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the study conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) A passenger is not permitted to board the train from an earlier station on the authority of that ticket as the ticket is not valid from that station. No statistics are maintained on this subject separately,

Vijayawada and Secunderabad Railway Stations

1640. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any expert team has been invited from the World Bank to study on how best to make our Railway Stations like Vijayawada and Secunderabad more functional and passenger-friendly;
- (b) whether the designs of these two busy stations in Andhra Pradesh are extremely difficult for elderly people and handicapped people;
- (c) whether the designs of the two railway Stations could be modified so that passengers would have easy access to enter and exit from the trains;
- (d) whether any effort has been made to see whether vehicles and passengers could alight directly at the trains as was the practice in some stations earlier; and
- (e) the steps proposed by railways to use novel ideas and new designers to solve this problem?

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

(b) and (c) At Vijayawada station, all facilities for handicapped & elderly people, as per laid down norms, have

been provided. Therefore, modification in the design of station building is not required.

At Secunderabad station, there is direct access from parking lot to the platform no. 1. Other facilities for physically handicapped like non-slippery walkway, water booths etc. have been provided. The design of Secunderabad station can be improved to provide easy access and exit from trains.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The work of improvement to circulating area and construction of new station building on Boiguda side of Secunderabad station has been sanctioned which include direct access to passengers from circulating area to trains on new platform no. 10.

Death of Persons

1641. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that 17 residents of Asha Kiran, (a Government-run home for the mentally retarded) have died during the past three months;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI) : (a) to (c) Asha Kiran is a home for mentally retarded person run by Government of NCT of Delhi. As per information furnished by Government of NCT of Delhi, all the inmates who have died recently were suffering from profound/severe mental retardation. The cause of deaths varied from status Epilepticus, Tuberculosis, Pneumonitis to Septicemia. In a few cases the cause of the death is not known. Almost all the cases were under regular treatment from Sanjay Gandhi Hospital but in spite of the best efforts of the medical staff in the institution and also the doctors at the hospital the inmates succumbed to their illnesses.

A committee of doctors has reviewed the causes of death and action is being initiated as per the recommendation of the committee to have more medical and para-medical staff for the institution. Further, a magisterial inquiry into one of the cases of death has been ordered. Further action will be initiated after receiving the inquiry reports.

Maintenance of Grid Discipline

1642. SHRI V. VETRISLVAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether grid indiscipline of Electricity Boards is the main reason for collapse of regional grids;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to ensure that State Electricity Boards in their respective States maintain grid discipline;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to keep check on SEBs so that they may not violate the grid discipline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The enquiry committees constituted in the past to enquire into the causes of various grid disturbances/collapse, had identified various reasons for the grid disturbances. Violation of grid discipline by one or more constituents in a region is one of the main reasons of grid disturbance. Besides, there are other reasons like break-down/outages of major transmission system/major generating units, power swing, malfunctioning of protection system etc. in some cases.

(b) and (c) Recommendations of the enquiry committees constituted from time to time to enquire into the causes of various major grid disturbances have been communicated to State Power Utilities/State Governments for implementation. One of the common recommendation of enquiry committees has been maintenance of grid discipline by the State Power Utilities. Central Electricity Authority and Ministry of Power through various communications to the State Power Utilities/State Governments have also been emphasizing the need for maintenance of grid discipline by them.

(d) In order to maintain the grid discipline, the Indian Electricity Grid Code (IEGC) circulated by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) is in force. The IEGC lays down the rules, guidelines and standards to be followed by the various agencies. Further, with the implementation of Availability Based Tariff which provides frequency linked commercial deterrents/incentives for overdrawal/underdrawal by State Power Utilities from the grids, the incidences of violation of grid discipline have reduced to great extent. Frequency profiles in all the regions have improved. The frequency now remains for most of the time between 49.0 to 50.5 Hz as specified in IEGC. These steps, along with Operationalisation of under frequency relays

and more inter-regional exchanges of power have improved the grid performance in all the regions.

Export of Missiles

1643. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have been actively considering to export-missiles to 'friendly countries';
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the terms and conditions on which such missiles would be exported to friendly countries;
- (d) whether the Government propose to ensure that such friendly countries will not use such missiles on us; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, a Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Defence, has been exploring the possibility of exporting missiles. All such requests for export are dealt with on a case-to-case basis and are subject to clearances from the Ministry of Defence. While considering an export order for Missiles, the Ministry takes into account: (i) The requirement of the Armed Forces; (ii) End user Certificate, (iii) Licensing and contractual obligations, (iv) The country of destination, so as to ensure that such export is in national interest and that it would not be used against India.

[Translation]

Shifting of T.V. Transmitter in Chirgaon (Shimla)

1644. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the very low power TV transmitter

proposed to be set up in Jatingari, Kaza and Chirgaon in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh during the year 2002-2003 have already been set up;

(b) if so, whether the installed transmitter in Chirgaon, district Shimla is not covering its envisaged area as it is in the back of a hill and the local people have repeatedly requested to shift it to another place; and

(c) if so, the action taken/likely to be taken by the Government and the time by which the said transmitter would be shifted to another place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) VLPTs at Jatingari and Chirgaon have been commissioned into service w.e.f. 1.5.2003. Installation of VLPT at Kaja has just been completed.

(b) VLPT at Chirgaon is reported to be functioning normally and provides coverage within a range of about 8 Kms. However, certain pockets, though in the coverage zone of the transmitter are not covered due to hilly terrain conditions. No requests for change of location of the above VLPT has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of Legacy Aircraft

1645. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import legacy aircraft from Brazil for the V.V.I.Ps;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether in order to assess the quality of the legacy aircraft before their procurement the same will be compared with similar type of aircraft available in other countries; and

(d) the time by which this small size sophisticated aircraft is likely to be procured?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Government is planning to procure Executive Jets for VIP communication duties. The aircraft EMB 135-BJ 'Legacy' from M/s. Embraer of Brazil has been shortlisted for this purpose.

(b) The aircraft is a 19 seater small transport aircraft powered by two engines. The aircraft has state-of-art avionics and a glass cockpit.

(c) The Embraer aircraft has been evaluated along with others by Indian Air Forces and found suitable for induction.

(d) The delivery of all the aircraft is scheduled to be completed after twenty two months of the conclusion of the contract.

Ban on WWF/Boxing Programmes

1646. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether programmes telecast on T.V. channels relating to boxing and WWF wrestling are fit to be viewed by school going children;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the adverse effects of these programmes on children;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to discontinue the telecast of such programmes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (f) No complaint has been received in the Ministry about the adverse effects of these programmes on children. The power of Government to interfere with such broadcasts is subject to the provisions of the Article 19(2) of the Constitution. Parental guidance and control on TV viewing habits of children, is relevant.

[English]

Joint Cooperation with China

1647. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for joint cooperation between the Naval Forces of India and China in anti-smuggling and anti-piracy issues;

- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether China has responded in affirmative; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) During the visit of our Prime Minister to China in June, 2003, the possibility of joint naval search & rescue exercise between India & China was agreed to.

(b) to (d) The details for such exercises have not been worked out as yet.

Power Generation Stations in Andhra Pradesh

1648. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of power generating stations in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the quantum of power being generated by each plant;
- (c) the demand of power in the State and whether the Government is able to meet the demand of power;
- (d) if not, the steps taken to meet the power demand and reduce the power losses;
- (e) whether the Union Government offered assistance to the State in augmenting the power generation; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) There are 29 power generating stations operating (including NTPC) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The quantum of electricity generation by each power plant during April-June, 2003 is given in Statement enclosed.

(c) During the period April-June, 2003 the power supply position in Andhra Pradesh is as under :

Energy (MU)	April-June 03'	Peak (MW)	April-June 03'
Requirement	10830	Peak Demand	6778
Availability	10370	Peak Met	6280
Shortage	460	Deficit	498
%	4.2	%	7.3

(d) to (f) Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned. However, electricity being a concurrent subject, the Central Government supplements the efforts of State Government by setting up power plants in the Central Sector and provide allocation in order to augment availability of power in States. The following steps have been taken by the Central Government to augment the availability of power in the State of Andhra Pradesh:-

- (i) Allocation of 1006 MW (including unallocated quota) from Central Generating Stations (CGS) in Southern Region (SR).
- (ii) Allocation of 60 MW from NTPC stations in Eastern Region (ER).
- (iii) NTPC has set-up and commissioned 1000 MW power plant at Simhadri (AP) which is fully dedicated to Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) NTPC is setting up 2x500 MW power plant at Talcher (Orissa) in ER which is fully dedicated to SR of which one 500 MW unit has already been commissioned. Andhra Pradesh has a share of 21.2% in the power plant.
- (v) POWERGRID has implemented 500 MW Jeypore-Gazuwaka back to back HVDC station and 2000 MW Talcher-Kolar HVDC bipole which has facilitated transfer of power from ER to SR.
- (vi) Besides capacity addition of 3055 MW planned in the State/Private Sectors, generation capacity of 4140 MW (including Talcher Stage-I (2000 MW) in ER) is proposed to be implemented in the Central Sector during 10th Plan Period in which the State will have its entitlements.
- (vii) Renovation, Modernization and Life Extension (RM & LE) of old and inefficient generating units for improving generation performance.
- (viii) Government of India have approved the Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (APDRP) which is intended for upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution (ST & D) in densely electrified zones in the urban and industrial areas and improvement in commercial viability of State Electricity Boards by reducing the aggregate technical and commercial (AT & C) losses. During the year 2002-03, the Central Government has sanctioned 101 ST & D projects amounting to Rs. 1511.40 crores for upgradation in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Statement*Details of Power Generating Stations in Andhra Pradesh and actual generation during April 03' -June 03'*

Sl. No.	Type of Generation	Monitored Capacity (MW)	April 03'-June 03' Electricity Generation (MU)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
State Sector			
1.	Kotha Gudem	1170.0	2194
2.	Vijayawada	1260.0	2517
3.	Rama Gundem-B	62.5	119
4.	Nellore	30.0	23
5.	Rayal Seema	420.0	850
APGEN Thermal		2942.5	5703
6.	Vijeswaran GT	272.3	537
APGPC G.T.		272.3	537
7.	Machkund	114.7	13
8.	Upper Sileru	240.0	3
9.	Lower Sileru	460.0	63
10.	T.B. Dam	36.0	1
11.	Hampi	36.0	0
12.	Nagarjuna Sagar	810.0	44
13.	N' Sagar RBC	90.0	0
14.	N'Sagar LBC	60.0	0
15.	Donkarayi	25.0	2
16.	Srisaillam	770.0	1
17.	Srisaillam LB	750.0	12
18.	Pochampad	27.0	0
19.	Nizam Sagar	10.0	0

1	2	3	4
20.	Penna Ahobelam	20.0	0
21.	Singur	15.0	0
22.	Small Hydro	30.0	1
APGEN Hydro		3493.7	140
Private Sector			
23.	Peddapuram CCGT	220.0	238
BSES (P) Thermal		220.0	238
24.	Jegurupadu GT	235.4	375
GVKG Thermal		235.4	375
25.	Kondapalli	350.0	568
KONDA Thermal		350.0	568
26.	LVS Power	36.8	0
LVS Thermal		36.8	0
27.	Godavari GT	208.0	224
SPECT Thermal		208.0	224
Central Sector			
28.	Rama Gundem STPS	2100.0	4153
29.	Simhadri	1000.0	1906

Petrol Pumps on Highways

1649. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued some new set of guidelines for specifications of petrol pumps on highways;

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

(c) the total number of petrol pumps on highways;

(d) the number of these petrol pumps come up to the standards which have so far been prescribed; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against those petrol pumps which have not yet come up to the standards prescribed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (e) There are, at present, approximately 6200 retail outlets (petrol pumps) set up by the public sector oil companies on the national highways.

Any action against petrol pumps not conforming to the laid down standards would depend on formulation of new guidelines for setting up of retail outlets, in future, on the national highways.

Upgradation of AN-32 Transport Aircraft

1650. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the lift capability of IAF considering the developments which take place frequently and instantly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to upgrade AN-32 transport aircraft; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Induction of transport aircraft to meet the operational requirements of IAF is a continuous process and is restored to taking into account the demand and utilization of such aircraft.

(c) and (d) The AN-32 transport aircraft are presently undergoing modifications in respect of their avionics and navigation equipment.

Special Component Plan for Dalit

1651. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR :

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to bring an amendment in the constitution by formulating a special component plan as per the population of Dalits so that the allocation made thereunder is not spent elsewhere;

(b) if so, the guidelines issued/proposed to be issued by the Government to the State in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government have reviewed the implementation of Special Component Plan;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(e) the funds allocated/released under Special Component Plan (SCP) during the current year; and

(f) the funds spent by each State under said plan so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to amend the constitution for this purpose. However, guidelines on the formulation and implementation of the Special Component Plan (SCP) for the welfare of Scheduled Castes by the State Governments and Central Ministries have been issued by the Planning Commission.

(c) and (d) The position of the Special Component Plan was reviewed with the States recently. In those review meetings the Ministry impressed upon the States the need to earmark funds in their annual plans in proportion to the Scheduled Castes population of each State.

(e) and (f) Allocation of funds is made by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations out of their plan funds. The State Governments will finalize their plan allocations in consultation with the Planning Commission for the current year.

[Translation]

Setting up of Heavy Industries in Country

1652. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for setting up any Heavy Industry in Public Sector or in Private Sector with the assistance of World Bank or any other international organization during Tenth Five Year Plan, particularly in the Backward Districts of the country;

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

(c) the funds allocated/proposed to be allocated for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which the work in this regard is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) to (d) So far as the Department of Heavy Industry is concerned, there is no proposal for setting up any new unit in Public Sector anywhere in the country during the Tenth Five Year plan period with the assistance of World Bank or any other International organization. As far as the private sector is concerned, it is free to decide the location or source of funding for industry it proposes to set up in the country.

Blending of Ethanol with Petrol

1653. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :

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

(a) whether the target of blending 5% of ethanol in petrol in notified States and Union Territories by June 30,2003 could not be achieved so far;

(b) if so, reasons for slow pace of the programme; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to encourage increased production of anhydrous ethanol in various States and Union Territories for smooth implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Non-availability of adequate quantity of ethanol for the purpose of blending and multiple State levies are reasons for the slow pace of the programme.

(c) State Governments have been requested to remove bottlenecks in setting up of ethanol projects, to simplify excise procedure and to reduce State levies on Sale, import/export of ethanol for this purpose.

Expansion of Patratu Extension

1654. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for Patratu extension Phase-I power project has been turned down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the Union Government received the said projects and was turned down;

(d) whether proposals for projects remain pending with the Government for several years;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the status of the Patratu extension phase-I of the project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) A proposal for setting up of Patratu Extension Phase-I received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from Bihar State Electricity Board in December, 1988 was returned in December, 1992 as certain essential inputs/clearances required for Techno-Economic Clearance were not tied-up.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise;

(f) No fresh proposal for setting up of Patratu Extension Phase-I has been received.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps/LPG/Kerosene Agencies to Freedom Fighters

1655. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government for allotment of petrol pumps, LPG and Kerosene agencies to freedom fighters in the country;

(b) the targets fixed in this regard under this scheme; and

(c) the details of freedom fighters to whom petrol pumps, gas agencies, kerosene agencies allotted till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Consequent upon the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the selection of dealers/distributors for retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships for different

locations in the country, will be made by the oil marketing companies (OMCs) themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them. While finalising the policy, OMCs will take a view on all related questions including allotments to the freedom fighters.

(c) As on 1.10.2002, the number of retail outlet dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships allotted to the persons in the Freedom Fighter category in the country were 217, 196 and 56 respectively, in accordance with the previous Dealer Selection Guidelines which stipulated 2% reservation for Freedom Fighters.

[English]

Illegal Transportation of Goods/Parcel

1656. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the catering staff of the contractors in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains are indulging in illegal transporting of goods/parcels from one place to another;

(b) if so, whether surprise checks are conducted from time to time in this regard;

(c) if so, the number of persons found guilty and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check such type of practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (d) In terms of the pantry car licence agreement carrying parcels or goods other than permissible items of permitted quantity in the pantry car is a punishable offence.

However, one case of transporting of illegal goods was reported on Ghuwahati Rajdhani Express train and the licence of the pantry car contract has since been terminated. Regular and surprise inspections are conducted to check such type of practice.

Train Services from India to Myanmar

1657. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh has agreed to allow Indian Railway to run train services from India to Myanmar via that country;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed between the countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said train services is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Recruitment of Officers in Armed Forces

1658. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a perceptible decline in the interest amongst the youth to join the armed forces;

(b) the number of vacancies that occurred in the rank of commissioned officers in the three services, respectively during the last three years;

(c) the number of officers recruited/commissioned during the corresponding period;

(d) the reasons for less recruitment against the vacant posts in the three services; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to attract talented youth to join the armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) Recruitment of youth in the Armed Forces during the recent years has not shown perceptible decline. In fact, the response in the recruitment rallies conducted in various parts of the country has also been very encouraging. However, due to a changed socio-economic environment and the availability of wide variety of lucrative employment options on the civil side, the priority being assigned to Armed Forces as a career option for officers of the three services, is currently lower.

The number of vacancies of commissioned officers during the last three years and those recruited/commissioned during that period is given below :-

Service	No. of vacancies	No. of Officers recruited/commissioned
1	2	3
Army	2000-2978	2000-2211
	2001-2666	2001-1997
	2002-2822	2002-1911

1	2	3
Air Force	2000-746	2000-385
	2001-728	2001-363
	2002-809	2002-448
Navy	2000-330	2000-260
	2001-329	2001-286
	2002-484	2002-389

The Armed Forces continue to maintain its high standards for induction of personnel. Only those who meet the stringent selection and medical criteria are accepted for training. Therefore, there is some induction shortage.

Sustained efforts are being made by the Armed Forces to attract talented youth, both at the officers' level and at the Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBORs) level.

An Image Projection Campaign by the Army has been launched in 1997 and currently Phase-III of the Campaign is under way. In addition seminars, lectures and presentations are also organised by the Recruiting Offices at schools and colleges in order to motivate the youth to join the Army and the training capacity of the Army has been increased to facilitate increased intake.

Extensive publicity and recruitment drives are being carried out by the Navy. Motivation drives are conducted in various colleges/institutions in order to widen the scope of target population.

Sustained publicity efforts are being undertaken by the Air Force to attract talented and qualified youth into the officers' cadre. Almost 3000 Schools and Colleges are on the mailing list for sending the publicity material. Campus interviews are undertaken by qualified assessors from Selection Boards so as to interact directly with potential candidates and answer their queries about the service. Schools and Colleges are visited regularly for motivational talks. Participation in "Career Fairs" and placing of career-oriented advertisements in newspapers and magazines is also undertaken.

Policy Guidelines for Granting Multiple Distribution Licence

1659. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to formulate policy guidelines for granting multiple distribution licence under the New Electricity Act, 2003;

(b) if so, the main features of this policy;

(c) the extent to which it has been agreed by the States; and

(d) the extent to which it has been helpful for the country in regard to power ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the Appropriate Commission may grant a licence to two or more persons for distribution of electricity through their own distribution system within the same area, subject to the conditions that the applicant for grant of licence within the same area shall, without prejudice to the other conditions or requirements under the Act, comply with the additional requirements (including the capital adequacy, credit worthiness or code of conduct) as may be prescribed by the Government.

Progress of Anti-Collision Device

1660. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of Konkan Railway anti-collision device programme till date;

(b) the cost involved in this project; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to put into action in Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) The work of provision of Anti-Collision Device (ACD) on N.F. Railway is in progress. This shall be completed in the year 2004-05. ACD survey have been undertaken on 1700 RKms of North-east Frontier Railway (NFR), 80 RKms South Central Railway (SCR), and 533 RKms of South Western Railway (SWR) Survey have been completed on NR and SCR and are in progress on NFR, SR & SWR. Further works of provision of ACD on about 1750 RKms on Northern Railway, SR, SCR & SWR and ACD survey works on additional section of 10000 RKms on Indian Railways have also been sanctioned during the current year.

(b) As per earlier estimates by KRCL, total cost of provision of ACD on Indian Railways is Rs. 1600 Cr. However, the same is likely to be revised upwards on completion of surveys and submission of detailed estimate.

(c) The work on N.F. Railway is expected to be completed in 2004-05. Further work shall be taken in hand after successful completion of work of provision of ACD on N.F. Railway.

**Generation and Consumption of Power
in U.P. and Delhi**

1661. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual losses being incurred by Uttar Pradesh and Delhi State Electricity Boards at present;
- (b) the present consumption of power in the above States and the percentage of power generated by their own resources;
- (c) the names of areas from which remaining supply of power is made; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government of Delhi & Uttar Pradesh to attain self-sufficiency in power generation along with the contribution of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANT MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The commercial losses of the power utilities of Uttar Pradesh (Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd.) and Delhi (Delhi Vidyut Board) and present consumption of power in these States are given as under :-

Sl. No.	Issues	Uttar Pradesh		Delhi	
		States own generation and percentage of total consumption	Total consumption	States own generation and percentage of total consumption	Total consumption
1.	Commercial Losses during the year 2001-2002		Rs. 1887 crore (UPPCL)		Rs. 1196 crore (DVB)
2.	Consumption of electricity during June 2003	1567 MU (46.8%)	3347 MU	350 MU (18%)	1942 MU
3.		The remaining energy was made available from State's share in the central sector generating stations		The requirement of the State was met from the grid against allocated share in central sector generating stations including Badarpur Thermal Power Station and import from other States like Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Goa and West Bengal.	

To meet the power requirement of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi a capacity addition of 710 MW and 225.78 MW respectively have been programmed during Tenth Plan in the State sector. Both of the States will also have their shares in the Central Sector projects.

[English]

**Guidelines for Termination of LPG
Distributorships and Retail Outlets**

1662. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedural guidelines for termination of LPG distributorships and retail outlets of OMC's in the country in terms of MDG-2001 issued by Government;

(b) whether OMC's take into account the malpractices committed by distributors/dealers before implementation of aforesaid guidelines, while deciding about the penalty on them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the above guidelines are uniformly implemented by OMC's throughout the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) issued by the Government in April, 2001 provides for the termination of LPG distributors and Retail Outlets as under :-

(i) In case of LPG distributors, at 3rd instance in case of established major irregularities and 4th instance in case of established minor irregularities given in MDG, 2001.

(ii) In case of Retail Outlets, at 2nd or 3rd instance in most of the cases depending upon the nature of irregularities given in MDG, 2001.

(b) and (c) On establishment of any malpractice/irregularity at LPG distributorships OMCs, while taking penal action taken under MDG, 2001, are supposed not to take past irregularities into account. In case of Retail Outlets, however, OMCs are reckoning the irregularities committed in preceding 5 years from the date of detection of irregularity for establishing 1st/2nd/3rd irregularity.

(d) and (e) OMCs are required to implement the MDG uniformly throughout the country.

DD/AIR in Karnataka

1663. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total areas in Karnataka State has been given Radio and Doordarshan coverage as on date;

(b) the year by which the entire State would be given 100% AIR/DD coverage; and

(c) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Air & Doordarshan presently cover 96.4% and 76% of the area respectively and 97.3% and 82% of population respectively in Karnataka. However, the entire country is covered by Doordarshan signals in satellite mode.

(b) and (c) Provision of AIR & Doordarshan services to uncovered areas is a continuous process. Hence, no time frame can be given. AIR & Doordarshan reach is estimated to be available to 98.48% and 76.2% of area respectively and 98.75% and 82.4% of population respectively in Karnataka, after completion of projects currently under implementation.

Prices of Ethanol

1664. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :

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

(a) whether distillery owners have agreed to reduce the prices of ethanol to the petroleum companies;

(b) if so, the price fixed by the distillery owners and the reduction agreed to by them;

(c) the total requirement of ethanol by the oil companies and the money spend by them on the purchase of ethanol annually; and

(d) the States in which the petrol doped with 5% ethanol is supplied and the reasons for not supplying petrol doped with 5% ethanol in other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Oil marketing companies procure ethanol through public tenders. As a part of tendering process, negotiations are carried out with the tenderers in order to get most competitive rates.

(b) the negotiated basic price of ethanol (excluding State levies) obtained against the public tenders is in the range of Rs. 17 to Rs. 17.50 per litre.

(c) The total requirement of ethanol in the notified 9 States and 4 UTs is 345 thousand kilo litre per annum and expenditure on annual procurement is about Rs. 280 crore.

(d) As notified by the Government, all the areas of 9 major sugar producing States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu & Uttar Pradesh and 4 Union Territories of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Pondicherry will be covered with 5% ethanol-blended-petrol by 30.9.2003. The remaining States and UTs will be covered in the next phase.

Replacement of Old Coaches

1655. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to replace all the old coaches in various trains of Railways particularly in Narsapur Express plying in South Central Railway;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the guidelines fixed for allotment of coaches for any train;
- (d) the steps being taken/to be taken to ensure that better coaches are released for Narsapur Express and other trains; and
- (e) the steps proposed to increase safety in this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Replacement of old coaches is a continuous process in Railways. All old coaches are condemned and replaced on age-cum-condition basis. Old, overaged coaches are not running in Narsapur Express.

- (c) New coaches are allotted to Zonal Railways as per traffic requirement.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Safety is ensured by means of a preventive maintenance system for all trains.

Help from Panchayats during Accident Relief

1666. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan to contact and involve all Panchayats along the railway tracks to help and rush aid during rail accidents;
- (b) whether this plan has been implemented;
- (c) the number of panchayats were contacted and brought into a coordinating role with the railways in the last two years;
- (d) the State-wise break-up of such involvement of Panchayats with the Railways in accident-anticipation and accident-relief; and
- (e) the steps proposed to increase involvement of panchayats in this effort?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (e) No Sir. However, in cases of train accidents the people residing in the nearby villages and towns ordinarily come forward, to render assistance in rescue and relief measures. Besides, the State Governments were requested in 1994 and 1995 to

address the heads of every village, falling under their jurisdiction to arrange meetings with their villagers and create awareness in them how to negotiate unmanned level crossings and avoid dangers in careless driving. To educate the villager regarding precautions to be taken for negotiating unmanned level crossing, Zonal Railways undertake campaigns from time to time in which various civic bodies, district administrations, municipalities, village panchayats and many non-governmental agencies are closely involved. These social campaigns are carried out by zonal Railways primarily, to focus on the role of road vehicle users in enhancing safety.

Recruitment Quota for Fresh Candidates in Doordarshan/AIR

1667. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are a number of posts presently lying vacant in various cadres of Doordarshan and AIR under direct recruitment quota in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government are engaging retired personnel for the vacant posts in various cadres of Doordarshan and AIR instead of recruitment Fresh unemployed qualified candidates in the country;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts under direct recruitment quota by recruiting fresh candidates in the country; and
- (f) the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Confirmation of Railway Tickets

1668. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria adopted by the Ministry to confirm wait listed railway tickets from H.Q./Minister Quota;

(b) whether the MPs are also given priority for the same;

(c) if so, the number of tickets confirmed on the request of MPs and other authorities during the last six months, MP-wise and Authorities-wise;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there are large scale corruption in issue of H.Q. Quota by the concerned authorities;

(e) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to conduct CBI inquiry in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) A limited number of berths have been earmarked as Emergency Quota to meet the emergent travel requirement of High Officials Requisition (HOR) holders, Ministers, MPs/MLAs, VIPs and other emergent demands. Preference is given to High Official Requisition holders and the MPs travelling themselves.

(c) Since a large number of requests are received from various quarters and are dealt with on day-to-day basis, details of category-wise allotment are not compiled.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Work on NCES in Bihar

1669. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI MANJAY LAL :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of electricity generating from NCES in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the total number of projects of NCES commissioned in the above State and the details of the amount of expenditure involved thereon, location-wise and project-wise; and

(c) the progress achieved during the above period in this regard?

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

KANNAPPAN) : (a) About 317 million units of power have been generated from Non-conventional Energy Sources during the last three years, i.e., 2000-01 to 2002-03 in Bihar.

(b) and (c) Four small hydro power (SHP) projects aggregating to 44.90 MW have already been set up in Bihar with State funds. These projects are Sone Western Canal (6.6 MW) at Dehri, District Rohtas, Sone Eastern Canal (2.3 MW) at Barun, District Aurangabad, Eastern Gandhak Canal (15 MW) at Valmiki Nagar, District West Champaran, and Kosi Canal (20 MW) at Kataiya, District Supaul. In addition, 10 more SHP State funded project with a total capacity of 15 MW are under different stages of implementation. Besides, 46 Detailed Survey & Investigation and Detailed Project Reports have been prepared.

Financial Aid to NGOs

1670. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

SHRI ADHI SANKAR :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

SHRI P. R. KHUNTE :

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

(a) the guidelines being followed for allocation of funds to NGOs;

(b) whether the Government propose to stop allocation of funds to NGOs;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) if not, the details of proposals received from various NGOs and funds allocated released during the current year, NGO-wise;

(e) the details of proposals of NGOs pending alongwith the reasons therefor and the time by which the pending proposals of NGOs are likely to cleared; and

(f) the measures being taken/to be taken by the Government to evaluate the working of NGOs and action taken against being their mis-utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) Under the existing guidelines for release of grant-in-aid, the recipient organization should be a registered body, having a legal status, functioning for at least two years in the field of activities proposed. The proposal should be

recommended by the State Government/inspection agency nominated by the Ministry etc. The guidelines and scheme-wise requirements are available in the Ministry's website at www.socialjustice.nic.in.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) 2163 proposals have been received under 10 NGO schemes of the Ministry. 1545 proposals have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 75.10 crore released during the current financial year. Details of releases made to NGOs are periodically posted on the website of the Ministry.

(e) 618 proposals are pending for reasons like want of requisite documents specified in the scheme applied for, inspection reports/recommendations from the State Governments etc. The NGOs and the State Governments are being pursued to furnish the requisite information so that the cases can be decided.

(f) Monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the NGOs receiving grant-in-aid is carried out through inspections by the representatives of the State Governments, National Institutes, Ministry's own officials, designated inspecting authorities etc. If the shortcomings are noticed, organizations are issued show cause notice. If their reply is not found satisfactory, further grant-in aid is suspended and the organization is black listed. Further, the concerned State Government/District Collector is asked to recover the misutilized amount from the organization.

[English]

Outlay for Rural Electrification

1671. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the outlay for Rural Electrification Corporation during 2003-2004;

(b) whether outlay for the current year has been reduced as compared to the preceding year;

(c) if so, the justification therefor;

(d) whether Orissa is likely to be adversely affected due to this reduction; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The outlay (Budget Estimate) for Rural Electrification Corporation for 2003-04 is given as under :-

	(Rs. Crore)	
(i) Kutir Jyoti (North Eastern States)	-	10.00
(ii) Kutir Jyoti (other States)	-	90.00
(iii) Interest subsidy under Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme (AREP)	-	100.00
Total	-	200.00

(b) and (c) The outlay (Budget Estimate) for the current year under interest subsidy has been reduced compared to preceding year as subsidy has been phased on declining scale year-wise; 2002-03, being the first year of the subsidy accounted for higher allocation.

(d) and (e) The allocation of Kutir Jyoti grant for Orissa for the current year i.e. 2003-04 is Rs. 764.52 lakh which is higher than the allocation of Rs. 549.15 lakh in the preceding year 2002-03.

The interest subsidy is linked to the drawal of loan for rural electrification schemes. Since power distribution in Orissa has been privatized, the private power utilities have not approached REC for any loans for rural electrification schemes and thus for interest subsidy, Hence Orissa is not likely to be adversely affected due to reduction in the outlay under interest subsidy.

Extension of Gas Grid from West Asia to South Asia

1672. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has urged the United Arab Emirates that the gas grid of West Asia be extended to South Asia;

(b) if so, whether the subject was discussed during meetings with visiting high-level UAE delegation;

(c) if so, whether the views of the Government in this regard have been approved by the UAE; and

(d) if so, to what extent it will be helpful for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Power Generation by NTPC

1673. **SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC has formulated a long term plan for power generation;

(b) if so, whether any emphasis is proposed to be laid by NTPC on hydro power generation also;

(c) if so, the target set under that long term plan; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) NTPC envisages to become a 40,000 MW plus Company by the year 2012 by doubling its capacity by adding about 20,000 MW during 10th and 11th Plans.

NTPC has decided to develop hydroelectric Power Projects also and envisages hydro capacity addition of 4500 MW.

NTPC is executing the 800 MW Koldam Hydroelectric Power Project in Himachal Pradesh. It has also entered into MOUs for the development of the Lohari Nag-Pala Hydroelectric Project (520 MW) and Tapovan Vishnugad Hydroelectric Project (360 MW) in Uttaranchal. It has also formed a subsidiary Company namely 'NTPC Hydro Limited' for development of hydro Projects upto 250 MW capacity.

Kannad Programmes from DD Karnataka

1674. **SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has taken any steps to popularise Kannad programmes in its Doordarshan Channel in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any emphasis is laid on telecasting

educative and informative programmes based on the culture of the State; and

(d) If so, the step taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Kannada programmes are being produced and telecast from DDK, Bangalore and Gulbarga regularly. These programmes are relayed terrestrially all over Karnataka and are also available in satellite mode throughout the country.

Prasar Bharati has further informed that Kannada programmes are being telecast on DD-1 channel (terrestrial) on all days of the week, at different time schedules.

The regional language satellite channel "Chandana" is also telecasting programmes in Kannada, round the clock

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that due emphasis is given on telecasting educative and informative programmes, based on the culture of Karnataka. Prasar Bharati has informed that programmes on Women, children, Youth and special minority languages like Tulu, Konkani, Kodava programmes are being telecast which are not only informative and educative but also present the cultural heritage of Karnataka. Special efforts are being taken by Prasar Bharati to promote Kannada culture and languages by producing innovative programmes like Kavya Samputa, Sanchaya and Kavi Samaya.

Warehousing Facilities along Railway Sides

1675. **SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to have warehousing facilities along the railway sides at different places in the country to handel the goods services more efficiently;

(b) if so, whether this is proposed to be done with the strategic partnership of the Central Warehousing Corporation of India;

(c) if so, the locations where this facility is propose to be made available and the number of warehouses propose to be constructed with the capacity of each of such warehouse and the total amount involved in the construction of these warehouses; and

(d) the time by which these warehouses are likely to be ready?

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

(b) to (d) As announced in the Railway Budget 2003-2004, Railways intend to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Central Warehousing Corporation to develop warehousing complexes at 22 locations. Development of Rail side warehousing facilities by other parties is also permitted. As the proposal is in initial stages, it is not feasible for Railways to give details of locations along with numbers, capacity, cost and likely time of construction of the warehouses.

Cracks in Third Godavari Rail Bridge

1676. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cracks and faults were found in the Third Godavari rail bridge recently;

(b) if so, the details of such faults and cracks and the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) No fault has been found in the construction of the Bridge. Some shrinkage cracks in the concrete-box were found but the same were not affecting the structure.

(c) The cracks were sealed using epoxy material some time back and since then, no development of cracks has been noticed.

Visit of Railway Officers at Project Sites

1677. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether specific officials are not visiting any project of work in the field;;

(b) whether any specific directions have been given to senior officers at Divisional level to make minimum number of field trips, giving duration and distance to be covered every month;

(c) if so, the details of such stipulations;

(d) whether senior Railway officials have also been instructed to use the Railways for travel; and

(e) if so, the details of such policies to enhance contact between senior officials and technical and field staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (a) No, Sir. Senior officials are periodically visiting construction project sites.

(b) and (c) No such specific guidelines have been issued for project sites. However, the officers at Divisional level conduct regular inspections of the project works as per the requirement and progress of work.

(d) and (e) The construction projects are inspected by suitable mode of transport as per the convenience, availability and requirement. During inspections and otherwise, there is adequate contact between the officers and the field staff.

[Translation]

Development Schemes for Muslim Community

1678. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether the Government have recently started some schemes for the development of muslim community under the auspices of Maulana Azad Foundation;

(b) if so, the details of each scheme; and

(c) the funds provided under these schemes during the current year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Maulana Azad Education Foundation has started three new schemes for the welfare of minorities. These are, (i) Maulana Azad National Scholarship Scheme for Meritorious Girl students belonging to Minorities, (ii) Scheme of establishment of Maulana Azad Sadhbhawana Kendras and (iii) Maulana Azad National Literacy Awards. The details of each scheme is at Statement enclosed.

(c) The budget provision for the current financial year is Rs. 1.20 crore for Maulana Azad National Scholarship Scheme for Meritorious Girl Students belonging to Minorities, Rs. 1.10 crore for Scheme of establishment of Maulana Azad Sadhbhawana Kendras and Rs. 0.10 crore for Maulana Azad, National Literacy Awards.

Statement

Maulana Azad National Scholarship Scheme for Meritorious Girl Students belonging to Minorities.

Objective : To recognize, promote and assist meritorious Girl Students belonging to National Minorities who can not continue their education without financial support.

Purpose : Scholarship will be admissible for expenditure on payment of School/College Fee, purchase of syllabus books, stationery and payment of Boarding/Lodging charges.

Eligibility Criteria : Girls students belonging to national minorities, i.e. Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs and Parsis and

- (i) Family income of the student from all sources should be less than Rupees one lakh (Rs. 1,00,000/-) in a year.
- (ii) Should have appeared in any of recognized Central/State Board of Secondary Education and have secured not less than 55 per cent marks in secondary school certificate examination.
- (iii) Have confirmed admission in Class-XI/Dip. Engineering/ITI.
- (iv) University/College/Institute offering admission should be recognized by the competent authority.

Number of Scholarships : 1200 scholarships @ Rs.10,000/- each will be given.

Scheme of establishment of Maulana Azad Sadhbhawana Kendras.

Objectives : To create awareness about national ideas of Justice, Liberty, Equality, Unity Fraternity, Democracy, Secularism and Socialism. Infrastructure in the form of Sadhbhawana Kendras would be created to promote the objective of the scheme by organizing seminars/conferences/competitions, cultural programmes and to promote the cause of education.

Amount & purpose of financial assistance : Maulana Azad Sadhbhawana Kendra will be assisted by the Maulana Azad Education Foundation with a maximum grant of Rs. 10.00 lacs for construction of community Hall, Library, Office Room and Toilets and for purchase of books/furniture.

Eligibility : Universities, reputed academic and research institutes and local bodies shall be eligible to apply provided that they have a properly constituted Managing body and have capability to invest at least 10 per cent of the total cost of project. No part of funds shall be utilized towards cost of land or land development.

Maulana Azad National Literacy Awards for promoting Education amongst Educationally Backward Minorities

The Award shall be given to an Institution having done commendable work to promote education amongst educationally backward Minorities.

There shall be four awards every year. Each award shall carry an amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh, which will be given to an outstanding institution in each region of the country rendering yeomen services in the field of general education and technical education, particularly for girls of educationally backward minorities.

Doubling and Electrification of Lucknow-Howrah Line

1679. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of doubling and electrification of Lucknow-Gorakhpur-Chhapra-Muzaffarpur-Howrah railway track;
- (b) the target fixed for completion of said project; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure punctuality of late running trains on the above railway route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) On Lucknow-Gorakhpur-Chhapra-Howrah route, double line already exists between Lucknow-Barabanki, Gonda- Jarwal Road, Muzaffarpur-Ramdayalunagar, Dholi-Muzaffarpur, Karpurigram-Barauni and Hathitah-Howrah. Further patch doubling is in progress on Jarwal Road-Burhwal, Gorakhpur-Shahjanwan, Chhapra-Hajipur and Dholi-Karpurigram.

As regards electrification, there is no proposal to electricity this route. However, Barauni to Howrah is already electrified.

- (b) No target has been fixed for completion of doubling of the entire line.
- (c) The following steps are being taken by Indian Railways to improve the punctuality of trains:
 - (i) To improve the punctuality of trains, a Coaching Operations Informations System (COIS) has been proposed in the Railway Budget 2003-2004.
 - (ii) Intensive, round the clock monitoring of trains at all the three levels viz. Divisional, Zonal Head Quarters and Railway Board levels.

- (iii) Punctuality drives are conducted from time to time.
- (iv) Running of trains at maximum permissible speed subject to observance of safety limits and speed restrictions.
- (v) Improvement in Time tabling to provide a clear path.
- (vi) Improvement in standard of maintenance to reduce equipment failures.
- (vii) Counselling and motivating staff to ensure punctual running.
- (viii) Liaison with State Government to tackle the law and order problems and miscreant activities.
- (ix) By upgrading infrastructure, technology and system.

[English]

Petrol Pumps of IBP and IOCL

1680. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

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

- (a) whether the IBP and IOCL has appointed some petrol pump dealers in the months of January and February 2003 as per their own policy evolved by themselves after the dismantling of APM w.e.f. April 1, 2003;
- (b) if so, whether the preparation of Field Inspection Report regarding the empanelled candidates is considered as the final part of dealers selection process for issuing the Letter of Intent;
- (c) if so, whether some petrol pumps have been commissioned under the oil PSU's policy and some are still pending; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for keeping these cases pending and the time by which the remaining petrol pumps would be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector with effect from

1.4.2002, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited have taken necessary action for selection of dealers for retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) as their respective policies. Field Investigation is one of the steps in the process of selection of dealers. Some of these retail outlets where Letters of Intent were issued have been commissioned and some of these retail outlets are pending for commissioning for different reasons.

Help from Air Battalion Force During Accident Relief

1681. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to appoint air battalion force to depute them during railway accidents;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. It is proposed to have a professionally trained Crack Team of Rail Rescue Experts who can be rushed to any site of accident by air/land route at short notice. This group will continuously be exposed to the latest rescue, extrication techniques and medical relief and will support the accident rescue and relief arrangements. Besides, assistance is sought and obtained from Armed Forces to tackle post accident operations whenever need arises.

[Translation]

Study on Use of Alternative of Diesel

1682. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

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

- (a) whether any study has been conducted about the alternative of diesel being used in the world for public transport system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) IOC R & D is presently conducting studies related to the use of ethanol as a blending component for diesel fuel. In addition, work is also being done with respect to production and utilisation of bio-diesel as a blending component with diesel.

[English]

Constitution of SCC/SEC

1683. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States and Union Territories where State Coordination Committee (SCC) and the State Executive Committee (SEC) have been constituted for the smooth implementation of the Persons With Disabilities (PWD) Act, 1995 and time by which the remaining States/Union Territories is likely to appoint SCC/SEC;

(b) whether all States/Union Territories have appointed commissioners for such SCC and SEC;

(c) if so, the name of the States/Union Territories have appointed commissioners on full time and part time basis; and

(d) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government for appointment of full time commissioners in States/Union Territories who have part time commissioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI):

(a) As per Section 13(1) and 19(1) of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, only the States are required to constitute State Coordination Committee (SCC) and State Executive Committee, respectively. Union Territories are exempted from this provision under Section 13 (3) of the Act. All States Governments except the State of Jharkhand have constituted the State Coordination Committee (SCC) and State Executive Committee (SEC). As informed by Government of Jharkhand, it has initiated the proposal for constitution of SCC and SEC.

(b) According to the provisions of the Act relating to constitution of SCC and SEC, the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities is to be the Member, ex-officio, of the SCC and SEC. All the States/Union Territories have appointed Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

(c) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland and Rajasthan have appointed Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities on full time basis. In the rest of the States/Union Territories, Commissioners for persons with disabilities have been appointed on additional charge basis.

(d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, appointed under the Act, have been impressing upon the State Governments to appoint Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities on full time basis.

Restructuring of Internal Vigilance System

1684. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make some improvements in the jurisdiction of the Vigilance Officers in order to put a check on corruption in defence deals;

(b) if so, whether CVC has also asked the Ministry to restructure internal vigilance system;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Defence Procurement decision are slow and affecting modernisation of Armed Forces;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(g) whether the presence of agents in defence deals was banned; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for its non-compliance?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) On the advise of Group of Ministers the Ministry of Defence has set up the Defence Acquisition Council and the Defence Procurement Board. The defence Procurement Procedure has been revised in June 2003. Appropriate equipments are made available to the three Services. The modernization programme of the three Services is proceeding adequately.

(g) and (h) The Ministry of Defence have diligently observed the ban on agents imposed in 1987 and 1989. Cases where information regarding involvement of agents were brought to the notice of Ministry of Defence, an investigation was undertaken through the Central Vigilance Commission/Central Bureau of Investigation. Results of the investigation were invariably acted upon.

Coffin Purchase

1685. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Journalist Shri R.V. Pandit published a document, which was supplied to M.Ps in relation to Coffin purchases etc. as exposed in C.A.G. report of Operation Vijay, had been done at the expense of Defence Ministry;

(b) whether Journalist R.V. Pandit had the access to Defence files while preparing his document; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The book titled "The Whole Truth with all the Documents about the Aluminium Casket bought by the Defence Ministry in 1999-2000" written by Shri R.V. Pandit was not published at the expense of Defence Ministry. This book was a journalistic endeavour of Shri Pandit and the views expressed in the book are of Shri Pandit himself.

Shri R.V. Pandit, a prominent journalist had requested information and supporting documents related to procurement of Aluminium Caskets from the Ministry of Defence (MOD). These documents were already in the public realm, by way of the Question answered by MOD on the procurement of Aluminium Caskets in the Lok Sabha, "Statement of Facts" already sent to Parliament, the Press Conference given by the Raksha Mantri on this issue on 11.12.2001 and a Press Note issued on 11.12.2001, which had all relied on these very documents. On his requests, these documents were also sent to Shri R.V. Pandit, who has relied on them in his book.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7854/2003]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the IRCON International Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7855/2003]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the RITES Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7856/2003]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Engineering Projects (India) Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7857/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYWANTI MEHTA) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7858/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICES AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): Sir I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7859/2003]

12.03 hrs.

NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMISSION BILL, *2003**[English]**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 31.7.2003.

PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to constitute a National Statistical Commission and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to constitute a National Statistical Commission and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : I introduce the Bill.

12.03½ hrs.

RE : BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN MUMBAI

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have rejected all the notices of adjournment motions.

[Translation]

I am ready to give permission in Zero Hour but important subject will be taken up during the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, I have given a notice for an adjournment motion. He has also given a notice for an adjournment motion. We have to submit our views ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can submit your views and I am not objecting to it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : I have given the notice for Adjournment Motion. You had promised me in the Question Hour that I will be given the first opportunities to speak during the zero Hour...(Interruptions) It is a very serious matter, ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI, NORTH-EAST) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a major bomb blast has taken place in Mumbai...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I want that the maximum number of members could raise their questions during the Zero Hour. I am going to give permission. However the hon. Minister can make a statement in regard to the question raised by Shri Khaire and Shri Kirit Somaiyaji in the morning once the permission is given.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Some serious incidents have taken place in Mumbai.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been reported at the local level that the assassins have entered Mumbai and on the same lines as had come in 1993.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR) : Sir, the hon. Minister is going to make a statement in the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Patil, do you want to speak?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Shri Shivraj Patil wants to speak on this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Kripashankarji has himself said that terrorists are involved in this while the Home Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister of the State are saying that it is not a terrorist attack and the terrorists are not involved in it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Rawaleji, you sit down. Hon. Minister is ready to make a statement, why are you interrupting...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I would like to know from the Union Government whether or not it propose to take any action against Pakistan. The ISI of Pakistan has hand in it. Why don't the Government decide to attack Pakistan. Our men are being killed there time and again. Terrorism is prevailing unabatedly in India. What is being done by our

Government. Why don't it attack Pakistan...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (AMRAVATI) : He has said that there is no disturbance in Mumbai.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (THANE) : He has said that the law and order is disturbed only when Shiv Sena does something. Even if bomb blasts are taking place, law and order situation is quite good. He has said in the press conference...*(Interruptions)* He says that law and order gets disturbed due to Shiv Sena and the Government says...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have nothing to do with what might have been said outside the House. Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let the House be in order.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khare, you have already spoken on this subject.

[Translation]

I had permitted you to speak, now you resume your seat. The members who want to speak on the subject...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these Members are interrupting me and are not allowing me to speak...*(Interruptions)*. Mine is a very important issue. The day before yesterday entire day was waste in it...*(Interruptions)* Mine is a very serious matters...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not given him permission, you resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Shri Ramji Lal Suman, every time you cannot disturb the House like this. What is this going on?

[Translation]

How you add to the decorum of the House by doing such things. Ramdas Athawale, it is enough now, you resume your seat. You can only remain in your feet with my permission. You can not do so in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not opposing the issue raised here. I am only saying that whether such any which incident takes place in Orissa, will also be discussed here. I am asking only this...*(Interruptions)* Our colleagues sitting on treasury benches repeatedly remind that this should not be converted into a national issue. I only want to ask...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question of politics.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : If any such thing takes place whether or not it should be imparted a national character if any such thing happens at the places other than Maharashtra, will it not be an national issue for them. The hon. Minister is giving statement on this and I do not have any objection on it. However he is wrong in demanding the dismissal of Maharashtra Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : The people are being killed in Maharashtra and he is saying such things despite his belongings to Maharashtra...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The people who repeatedly make us understand that no politics will be done on the question of combating terrorism, will have to make their associates also understand that the terrorist incidents should also not be politicised...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident that took place in Jogeshwari area in Mumbai at 3.10 am in the morning resulted in the death of seven persons alongwith widespread damage to property...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (PURNEA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether discussion on Bihar would also take places like this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR) : Discussion may also be held on Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath Singh Ji, I would permit you to raise your question. Now please sit down

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

extensive damage has been caused by today's blast...*(Interruptions)* During 1992 in Mumbai, 13 explosions had taken place in a single day.

MR. SPEAKER : Let Jayawanti ji speak. It is not right. You may please go on.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, three days ago, the hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra expressed his apprehension to the journalists that the blasts are linked to Godhra massacre. He expressed this apprehension...*(Interruptions)* I would like to submit that Mumbai is the commercial capital. For your information, two-three months ago, the Police Commissioner of Mumbai had given the information through newspapers that there is a need to increase the security arrangements of multistoreyed buildings of South Mumbai in view of terrorist threats. The information of this nature was given to the journalists by the Police Commissioner two-three months ago. This seems to be part of a conspiracy to derail the economy of our country.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, is she making the statement as a Minister?

MR. SPEAKER : Not at all.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : She is a Minister ...*(Interruptions)*. She is making a statement as a Minister...*(Interruptions)*. The Minister is jointly responsible to the Council of Ministers...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : I represent Mumbai...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA) : Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)* Let her resign as a Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'. The 'Zero Hour' has already started.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHU) : Whether Jayawanti ji would speak something different from what Advani Ji would say, as both are Ministers?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, a Minister cannot speak in her individual capacity as a Member of Parliament. Therefore, what the lady Minister has said must be expunged from the records...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Whether Mehta ji agrees with the statement of hon'ble Home Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : No Minister can speak in his or her individual capacity. If the lady Minister has spoken in her personal capacity, what she spoke must be expunged from the records. It never happened in the history of Lok Sabha...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Her constituency is Mumbai. She is a Lok Sabha Member and not a Rajya Sabha Members. She is not speaking any wrong thing ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : There is no law and order in Mumbai and they are taking about irrelevant things...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please give your ruling on the issue.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order. The Minister is replying now.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, today the Government gave two statemetns on this issue- one by the Deputy Prime Minister and another by the lady Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I do not accept it. I personally feel that on important issues a number of Ministers have spoken in this House on a number of times. This is not the first time. The Ministers have spoken on a number of issues. I had also spoken as a Minister. The Ministers spoken on a number times.

I had spoken a number of times in the House, as a Minister, on other issues and no objection was raised in the House. Now, the reply to the discussion is being given by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and that should be taken as the statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, again I submit that we will not obstruct the proceedings but we will consider both the statements, one of the lady Minister and the other by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister as the statements of the Government made on this issue...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have now permitted the hon. Minister to reply to the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, you have not given your ruling on the statement made by the lady Minister ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister reply to the query raised by the hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, please tell us as to the status of the statement made by the lady Minister... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think you are all very well aware that on a number of times, on different issues, the Ministers have spoken though it was not pertaining to their Departments.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Minister is a Minister till he/she does not resign. A Minister uttering anything on the floor of the House could be only in the capacity of a Minister and not in the capacity of a Member.... (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Every Member has the right to speak here... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Therefore, the statement made by the lady Minister should be accepted as a statement made by the Government... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Her statement must be expunged from the records... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Why do you feel truth so bitter... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, it is my honest view that no Minister can speak here in his/her personal capacity. It never happened before. A wrong precedent has been set. It never happened before. When we say this, we take the responsibility... (Interruptions) Sir, we do not question your ruling. Therefore, I want you to give your ruling as to the status of the statement made by the lady Minister ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have heard you and I have spoken what I wanted to speak. I have already said what I wanted to say. Therefore, now the hon. Minister will reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, Shri Jaipal Reddy and I have argued this point. There is no quarrel on this. We wanted to say that you gave a direction in the Question Hour that the hon. Deputy Prime Minister will make a statement. Now, before the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, another lady Minister spoke something on the subject not as a Member but as a Minister. We would like to know whether both these statements are to be treated as statements made by the Government or not. That is what we are praying ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : you did pray for this and I did say that on all important issues, the practices has been that the Ministers have spoken.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Sir, by talking thus he is diverting the issue of Mumbai and Maharashtra as it would affect them... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Not only did say this, I also made it clear that I also had personally spoken on such issues, on behalf of my party, that were not concerning my Department.

Therefore, looking at the past practice. I had permitted her to speak and she spoke something. Now, the Minister is supposed to reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, a statement has been made by the Minister. When a statement is made on the floor of the House by a Minister it is treated as a part of the statement made by the Government. They have a joint responsibility...(Interruptions) Any Member getting up and speaking is different from a Minister getting up and speaking. If a Minister makes a statement, then it is supposed that the Minister has collected the information and the Minister is making a responsible statement and it is on behalf of the Government...(Interruptions) If a Minister makes bold without consulting anybody, then he/she has to take the responsibility. The Minister has to first resign and then make a statement of his or her own, or as Minister he/she has to make a statement on behalf of the Government.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It was not her statement as a Minister. I had not permitted her to make a statement as a Minister. The matter is pertaining to her constituency and she wanted to make a few points which she has made. This is the information from the constituency that she has given, nothing more than that. There is nothing wrong in that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : She is a Minister. How can you deny her existence as a Minister?

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot deny her existence as a Member of this House also. If she has some information from her constituency and wants to share that information with the House, I can only permit her to do so. The Minister can now say whether her information is right or wrong. No more debate on this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This is a wrong precedent.

MR. SPEAKER : I have said a number of times that Ministers also can express themselves in the House on behalf of their Party. I do not agree with you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for fifteen minutes.

12.22 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty-seven
minutes past Twelve of the Clock.*

12.37 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-seven minutes
past Twelve of the Clock.*

RE : BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN MUMBAI, *Contd.*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (PURNIEA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, statement will come later, first Bihar Government should be dismissed....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker Sir, a little while ago, I tried to raise a point of order. Now there is greater calm, may I formulate my point of order?

Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta, a lady Minister, spoke on the incident in Bombay. I am sorry, it is Mumbai. In all minor particulars, I am ready to get corrected. The point that I am making is, she is a Minister. In parliamentary democracy, the Council of Ministers is governed by the non-negotiable principle of collective responsibility. No Minister in the House can speak in his or her personal capacity except on the occasion of offering personal explanation. I raise this point of order. She made her submission. May I request that her submission on this issue be expunged? However, I seek your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : I have heard you. I will go through the rules, regulations and precedents and I keep your matter under consideration.

12.39 hrs.

STATEMENT BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Bomb Explosion in a Bus at Ghatkopar (West), Mumbai on 28th July, 2003 and an explosion in Jogeshwari West Mumbai on 31 July, 2003

[English]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND INCHARGE OF

THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker Sir, according to reports received from the State Government of Maharashtra, today at about 3 o'clock early morning, there was an explosion of very high intensity in a chawl in Yadav Nagar area of Jogeshwari, West Mumbai as a result of which the chawl and the adjoining houses have been damaged. As per the initial report, the explosion had occurred at the residence of the Dilnawaz Khan aged 40 years. In this explosion seven persons have been killed and 25 other injured.

All the injured have been admitted to the hospital. Shri Dilnawaz Khan, his wife and daughter are among those killed. The Mumbai police has started the investigation. They have informed us that Shri Dilnawaz Khan used to store and supply fireworks from his residence and the nearby godown for stunt scene in Hindi movies.

Three days back, on 28th July, 2003 at about 9.15 a.m. a powerful bomb exploded in the BEST bus at Ghatkopar (West), Mumbai. At the time of the blast the bus was about half a kilometre away from the Ghatkopar railway station with about 35 passengers. The explosion ripped apart backside and floor near the rear entry of the BEST bus. Another BEST bus, three auto rickshaws, and two motorcycles were also affected by the impact of the blast. The name plates of some shops along the road and the windows of many nearby buildings were also shattered. In the blast two persons, aged 28 and 35 years, who were travelling in an auto rickshaw had been killed. Fifty-two others were injured.

The Government of India has advised the Government of Maharashtra to review and streamline security and intelligence apparatus in the city so as to prevent recurrence of such incidents...*(Interruptions)*

(Also Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7859/A/2003)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the forensic expert report on Ghatkopar bomb blast says...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have permitted Shri Ramji Lal Sumar to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (AMRAVATI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State Government have no control over Mumbai. The law

and order situation there has worsened. Even the statement of the Minister of State Government is wrong...*(Interruptions)* Different statements have been given there. In the morning it was said that terrorists are involved...*(Interruptions)* The Home Minister of the State says that terrorists could be involved in it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only what Shri Suman says will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, day before yesterday, on 29th July the MPs of BSP had, in this august House, raised the issue of Taj heritage corridor and said that the Union Tourism and Culture Minister Shri Jag Mohan ...*(Interruptions)* It is a very serious issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I would allow you, too, to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : You have permitted me as number one to speak on this subject...*(Interruptions)*... Before him, you had permitted me to speak. I have been raising the issue for days. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after him. After that I will allow Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was submitting that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : One by one, you all may speak. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after these two-three Members to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All notices are important to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I am going to give you permission. I have not said no.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two notices for Adjournment Motions were raised in the morning. One was from Shri Ramji Lal Suman and the second was mine. If Shri Ramji Suman is allowed to dispose of his subject, then I should also be allowed to dispose of my subject.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had said my turn will come after him...(Interruptions).

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please restore order in the House otherwise it would be very difficult for me to speak....(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have been saying for so many days that I would be the first to speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, without disposing of the notices on Adjournment Motion, how can we take up 'Zero Hour'?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If we go on debating on this issue, the time will be wasted and no business can be transacted. Please all of you sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, you established a practice in this House to take up 'Zero Hour' only after disposing of the Adjournment Motion notices. So, dispose of the notices for Adjournment Motion and then take up 'Zero Hour'...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was submitting that in this August House, members of BSP have(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been giving notice on the issue of Bihar continuously for the last four days...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise Bihar issue. If you sit just now, this issue could be taken up, otherwise not.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have said this issue will be taken up only if you resume your seat otherwise.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will speak after him...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will decide about that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had stated that ...(Interruptions) If it goes like this, what we will do?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All the four members can raise their issues if you will cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All the four hon. Members can speak today.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was submitting that on 29th July, the Members of BSP raised an issue in this August House due to which the business of the House remained suspended for the whole day. The issue was that the Tourism and Culture Minister Shri Jag Mohan has misled the House in respect of Taj Heritage Corridor issue. Therefore, he should resign from his post. Hon'ble Home Minister was not listened even after your request. They were saying that they will not back track till Shri Jag Mohan resigns. Later in the evening their leader Mayawatiiji stated that there is no point to demand resignation from Shri Jag Mohan. You are aware that hon'ble Supreme Court has already issued an order for CBI inquiry in Taj Heritage Corridor issue. My allegation is that the proceedings of the House have been interrupted deliberately to affect the CBI inquiry. CBI is being misused in their own vested interests. In the evening after meeting hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Home Minister, Mayawatiiji stated in a Press Conference that

Central Government has given assurance to fulfill her demand...*(Interruptions)* It is a very serious matter. Not in this case but there are several cases where CBI has been misused by the involved persons on their own terms...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR, U.P.) : He is trying for this only...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, they have left the House ...*(Interruptions)* Yesterday no Member of their party came in the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All the hon'ble Members may please go back to their seats.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : I was submitting with your permission. The day before yesterday the issue of discussion was as to who asked to the work on this project whether Jag Mohan Ji got it stopped or Mayawatiji? The actual question is who initiated work on it despite the orders issued by the hon'ble Supreme Court. On the Project of Rs. 175 crores, Environment Ministry of Central Government has ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot allow you to speak more than this....

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : It is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. In my view, you have raised your issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on records.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling one by one. I will certainly call you when your turn comes.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, I have permitted you. You can speak now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I gave the notice from the Congress Party....*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, can he go on doing like this?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Only the Adjournment Motion would be taken up...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, resume your seats. I do not want to make other listens. It is sufficient for me if he has listened.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not have any objection if hon'ble Minister speaks.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : It is a conspiracy, it should be exposed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I gave you permission to speak, I allowed you to speak first, despite that you are not letting other Members speak. You raised the issue during Zero Hour. Hon'ble Minister may reply if he wishes so.

[English]

The Speaker has no right to force the Minister to reply in the House. You Know it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Hon'ble Minister was to speak on this issue the day before yesterday. It is a very serious matter. People are losing faith in an organisation like CBI...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You know that House will function as per the rules. There is nothing like this in the rules. You please show me the rule under which I can force the hon'ble Minister to reply. Hon'ble Minister is listening, she will reply, if she wished otherwise not.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : I wish that the Government should react on this matter. It is very serious...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have given you a lot of opportunity, let others speak now. Dasmunsi ji please speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : This House and the country has all the rights to know everything in this regard...*(Interruptions)* What the wish to say in this connection ...*(Interruptions)* The Government should react ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR) : Mr. Speaker,

Sir, that day no one had risen from the treasury benches to protect Shri Jag Mohan...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would now wish that the hon. Minister may be directed to give statement in this regard. The way in which entire developments have taken place...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam Minister is listening to it. If she wishes, she can give replv

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It has been said here that no body stood up to protect the Minister..I had said in the House that the question of his removal does not arise. It is on record. It is not right...*(Interruptions)* to say that no one had risen...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All these things would not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi says will only go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first submission to you is, if I am not wrong, right from the First Lok Sabha, there has been an established procedure that on matters of public importance, even if there are 1,000 notices, the recognised principal Opposition Party gets priority to raise matters. But I am sorry to make a submission that it is not being observed in this House... *(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it does not mean that everyday only the Members from the Opposition Party will speak and we will not have any right to speak at all...*(Interruptions)* This is not fair.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand the pain of my friend. Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra because he is in the Treasury Bench temporarily.

Sir, my notice for Adjournment Motion is regarding the gross misuse of the CBI on a different aspect. When an executive agency, after having submitted several documents and evidences running into more than 700 pages to a court earlier, finds an opportunity, selectively places doctored and monitored tapes in Raebareli court so as to protect the Union Home Minister. Nothing could be gross abuse of the CBI than this and, therefore, we cannot compromise on this.

Sir, the NDA Government, one after another, be it Liberhan Commission, be it Phukan Commission on Tehelka,

be it CBI, it desperately and deliberately trying to protect the people involved in criminal conspiracy in this fashion. Therefore, this is a demolltion of an institution by the NDA Government by hatching a conspiracy like this. So, I demand, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that you kindly compel the Government to place all the evidences placed in the earlier court on the Table of the House and let the House take a decision...*(Interruptions)* We cannot compromise on this matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, you have made your point clear. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra will speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.54 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are unnecessarily disturbing the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are unnecessarily disturbing the hon. Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Other Members have also a right to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : T.V. transmission may be stopped. No slogan would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your respective seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok-Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, on the issue of Adjournment Motion...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the way CBI is being misused is a serious matter...(Interruptions). It is the question of CBI's credibility...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPUR) : These people do not want to run the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you not want that matters under Rule 377 be taken up?

...(Interruptions)

14.02 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Vilas Muttemwar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Matters listed under Rule 377 for the day be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- (i) **Need to provide a gate at railway crossing near Zonal Training Centre, Bhusawal Tehsil Maharashtra**

[Translation]

SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN (JALGAON) : Sir, the Head-

*Treated as laid on the Table

quarters of Tehsil Bhusawal falls under my constituency Jalgaon and divisional Railway Station under the Central Railways is also located there. There is urgent need to provide a gate at railway on the railway line near Zonal Training Centre, Bhusawal. Many railway lines have been laid in the railway yard at this place. The people of this area have been demanding to provide a gate at railway crossing on this railway line for a long time. There is acute resentment among the people for not being provided crossing gate at this place. The people have to bend below the bogies to cross the railway line which is very dangerous. Many accidents have occurred while crossing the railway line and many people have been killed thereby. Ailing, aged and handicapped people as also children face a lot of problems in crossing the railway line.

I, therefore, through you, would request the hon. Minister of Railways that directives be issued to provide a gate at Railway Crossing on the Railway line near Z.T.C. in Bhusawal under my constituency.

- (ii) **Need to accord B-2 status to Jamnagar city in Gujarat**

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (JAMNAGAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I myself, the employees, employees, unions and also the Government of Gujarat have written many times to upgrade Jamnagar city of Gujarat to B-2 status. Strikes, demonstrations have also been observed and I have been raising this issue inside and also outside the Parliament for the last 14 years. And everytime it is told that the census of Jamnagar is below 5 lakhs. It would be considered in the census of 2001.

Now, as per the 2001 census, population of this city is about 5 lakhs 50 thousand. And the original figures have also been published.

Jamnagar Municipal Corporation have also given census code number 0000x11 to the Government of Gujarat, the Union Government and the Registrar of census. According to them the population of this city is 5,00,208 and that is why Jamnagar city is eligible for upgradation to B-2 status. The Government should make notification to this effect immediately so that thousands of Central Government and local employees could get the benefits to B-2 upgradation.

- (iii) **Need to declare economic package for development of industries in Bhiwadi city, Rajasthan**

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (ALWAR) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bhiwadi city in district Alwar of Rajasthan is an industrial area but the development of the industries here is not taking place due to the lack of proper facilities. The problems of this city Bhiwadi are increasing unabatedly but neither the State Government nor the Bhiwadi industrial

development Authority are paying proper attention towards it. Some of the State Governments like Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal are offering soaps to the industrialists and implementing economic packages for the development of the industries but it is really unfortunate that Bhiwadi despite being an industrial city can not compete with the industrial areas like NOIDA and Gurgaon.

Hence, I request the Government to prepare an economic package for development of industries in the industrial city Bhiwadi keeping in view the problems of the industrialists therein so that the speedy industrial development of the city caused be ensured.

(iv) Need to run Godavari Express trains, between Dhule and Kurla via Chalisgaon-Manmad, Maharashtra

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT (DHULE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, public representatives, government employees, traders in large number daily travel from my constituency Dhule to the capital of Maharashtra Mumbai. Besides a large number of people also visit pilgrims and tourists also visit the holy Hindu shrines and the hill stations like Toranmal but the provision of only two second class compartment for these tourists and pilgrims is inadequate.

If the route of Godavari Express running between Manmar Kurla is diverted through Dhule to Kurla via Chhattisgarh Manmad, it will result in a lot of convenience for the citizens of district Dhule besides ensuring financial gain for railways.

Hence through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Railways that directions be issued to run Godvari Express train between Dhule-and Kurla via Chalisgaon-Manmad in public interest.

(v) Need to advise State Government to follow the instructions issued by Centre in regard to District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee constituted for review of development activities

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (MANDI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring it to the notice of the Minister of Rural Development that the district level vigilance and monitoring committees were constituted under the Chairmanship of MPs on the direction of the former Minister of Rural development to review the development work in various states. The notification to this effect has already been issued in several areas and these committees have even started functioning at some places and have been proving very effective but the Government of Himachal Pradesh issued

directions to the Deputy Commissioners vide the letter issued by the Department of Rural Development dated 02 July 2003 and I would like to quote those directions here.

[English]

"I am to refer to this department letter of even number dated 31st May, 2003 vide which you were requested to reconstitute the District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee in this context. You are requested not to reconstitute the District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees in your district till further orders. If the committee has been reconstituted the meeting of this committee may not be convened also till further directions."

[Translation]

Hence I would like to urge upon the Hon. Minister to advise the State Governments to follow the instructions issued by the Government of India in regard to the said committees.

(vi) Need to improve telephone service in Nainital district, Uttaranchal

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (NAINITAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the functioning of the telecommunication corporation has not been satisfactory ever since its setting up by the Government of India. The Public representatives in particular have constantly been writing to the authorities to improve and streamline the system but nothing has been done. So much so that even the telephones to be provided under the MP telephone quota are not allotted and the applications are returned back with one objection or the other. I would like to say especially in regard to Uttaranchal that the entire telephone system in Uttaranchal has collapsed and there is no improvement despite repeatedly intimating the officers in this regard. I had personally requested the concerned officers through telephone for improving the telephone services in Okhakana block, Dhari block, Betaighat block, Bhimtal (Begad) block of district Nainital but the concerned officers have yet not taken any effective steps. Hence I demand the Government to improve the telephone services keeping in view the welfare of the public and instruct the concerned officers to take appropriate and immediate action.

(vii) Need to relax the procedure for attestation of educational qualification to get employment in Gulf Countries for the people of Kerala

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR) : Almost 605 of youths seeking employment in Gulf countries are from my State, Kerala. UAE Government has recently declared that

for any unskilled job, the minimum qualification should be SSLC. This new stipulation requires that every Indian wishing to go to the Gulf/UAE should get his academic certificates attested by (i) Ministry of HDR Cell at New Delhi, (ii) Ministry of External Affairs and them (iii) by the UAE Embassy in New Delhi.

The HRD Attestation Cell has imposed impractical conditions for those seeking attestation of their documents by insisting that only blood relations of the candidate could file the application and collect the document after attestation. The Counter opens only for two hours in the morning and there is a long queue with only one counter to serve them. A person coming from Kerala has to spend at least one week to get a document attested. This involves high expenditure on travel and stay in Delhi. To provide relief to these unemployed, I urge the HRD Ministry to relax the conditions by (i) opening up more counters with increase in working hours from 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM, (ii) allowing the applicant's relatives/friends/agents in Delhi to file the application on the applicant's behalf and to collect the attested document, on production of satisfactory identification process.

(viii) Need to release adequate funds for the benefit of sugarcane growers in Karnataka

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN) : As you are well aware the sugarcane growers in the country are facing lot of problems. The sugarcane is not lifted on time for crushing. The payment to the sugarcane growers is not made in time. The sugarcane growers all over the country are very much agitated on this issue.

I am glad that the Government have released the grave situation of cane growers and announced a package of financial assistance of about Rs. 600 crores to the sugarcane farmers of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal only. In fact, Karnataka which is the second highest sugarcane growing State in the country has not got adequate attention of the Government in this regard.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Prime Minister to release a package of at least Rs. 300 crores for the benefit of the sugarcane growers in Karnataka.

(ix) Need to direct Government of Kerala to withdraw move to private mineral sand mining in Coastal areas of the State

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (QUILON) : Serious issue arising out of the decision of the Government of Kerala to allow private companies to mine in the coastal areas of Kerala. This is part of an intrigue to thwart the endeavour pronounced by Hon. Prime Minister for investment of about Rs. 1500 cr. by NDMC

in collaboration with IRE and KMML both PSUs. This is certainly a move to privatise the mining and separation of strategic minerals. The privatisation of this strategic sector will be a great threat to the security of the nation and detrimental to our national interests. Indiscriminate private mining will cause adverse environmental problems and shatter the livelihood of the fishermen community of coastal Kerala. Hence, I would like to urge the Central Government to retain the mineral sand mining absolutely in public sector in view of our national security and national interests. I urge the Government of India through you, Sir, to resist this move of the Government of Kerala to allowing private sector mining.

(x) Need to take adequate security measures to check frequent train accidents

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL) . A major railway accident almost in every 45 days seems to have become the norm in India Railways. The major accident this year that occurred on 2nd July morning near Warangal station claimed 18 lives and another in four days in Chittoor district injured 22 passengers in Andhra Pradesh. Every time the accident is blamed on sabotage. The derailment of Shramjivi Express in May, 2002, the prestigious Howrah Delhi Rajdhani Express fell into a river near Rafiganj on September 9, the Secunderabad-Manmad Express accident on January 3 and the fire in the Frontier Mail on May 15 this year were again blamed on sabotage that too before the final reports on accidents were presented. The Railway Minister's White Paper on Railway Safety, laid in Parliament in April, admitted that two-thirds of the accidents were caused by human error. In 2001-2002, only 557 people faced action (including 34 dismissal) just 1.34 per cent. I am sorry to add that only junior staff are touched, the senior ones get away as the emphasis on substantive responsibility, not moral. Accidents probes focus on the field staff's negligence, not on the systemic failures that are often the cause. The need is to improve accountability of staff. The work culture is not tuned to safety, there is almost no vigilance, training sessions, and if held at all are not attended by the key staff.

I would request the Union Government to make serious efforts to control the accidents.

(xi) Need to review registration fee charged on funds being provided to recognised schools/institutions from MP Local Area Development Scheme in UP particularly in Phulpur Parliamentary Constituency.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (PHULPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards funds

being provided to recognised schools/institutions/trusts/registered societies for construction of building or for construction of other immovable property from MP Local Area Development Scheme. General registration on stamp paper Rs. 10/- on the basis of draft agreement sent by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation under clause 17 of Indian Registration Act is necessary before sanctioning funds for construction work to these organisation, but it Uttar Pradesh, particularly in District Allahabad Stamp Fee of Rs. 70 per thousand and registration fee from 2 to 3 per cent is being charged from these schools/institutions on the directions of Stamp Commissioner, Uttar Pradesh camp office, Lucknow, which is in violation of the directions given by the Union Government to the District Collectors.

Through you, I would like to urge through the Government of India to check the Uttar Pradesh Government, Stamp Commissioner Camp Office, Lucknow and District Collectors from charging fee of Rs. 70, per thousand on stamp paper and registration fee of 2 to 3 percent and issue orders to do registration on non-judicial paper of Rs. 10 for sanctioning funds, so that development work in recognised schools and institutions could be started in Phulpur Parliamentary constituency and other Parliamentary constituencies.

(xii) Need to Provide mobile services of VSNL in Selu area of Parbhani Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pulse rate from mobile to land line in Selu area of my parliamentary constituency Parbhani is 30 seconds, whereas pulse rate from mobile to land line in Pune, Parbhani, Aurangabad, which are urban area, is 60 seconds. On the other hand pulse rate from land line to mobile phone is 90 seconds in Partoor, Jalana and Pune. In this way, you will find that pulse rate is more in rural areas as compared to that in urban areas, which is against the Government's policy to make telephone facility available in rural areas at lower rates. In Selu even mobile facility is not available.

Therefore, through the House, I would like to appeal to the Government to pay attention in this regard and to take necessary steps to implement uniform pulse rate at all places, reduce pulse rates particularly in rural areas and direct BSNL to make mobile service available in Selu District.

(xiii) Need to protect Bhagalpur, Khagaria and Katihar districts in Bihar from severe erosion caused by the Ganga, Koshi and Bagmati rivers

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many villages of Bhagalpur, Khagaria and Katihar district

are badly affected by severe erosion caused by the Ganga, Koshi and Bagmati rivers. Kamlakund Budhchak, Karari Teen Tanga Phulkia under Bhagalpur district have been affected by the erosion of Ganga river and Punama Pratapnagar, Milky Madrauni, Shripur Kaluchak Vishpuria and Chaurhar Gram are affected by Koshi river erosion, whereas Vorana, Dadi Pachath, Veervas Talgachi, Koyla Basua, Ambatola Rasoant, Gandgati, Ghooranmod, Siadpur Malpa etc. of Khagaria District are affected by the erosion caused by Gaon Ganga, Koshi and Bagmati river. It is very essential to check the erosion caused by Ganga Koshi and Bagmati and make provision for water drainage from agricultural land in the interiors of Ganga Prasad Dam.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to formulate necessary work plan for checking erosion and water logging to protect villages affected by erosion.

(xiv) Need to reschedule stoppage of Train No. 3151 UP, 3049 UP and 3911 UP at Platform No. 1 Burdwan railway station, West Bengal with a view to provide easy access to parcel office

[English]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (CALCUTTA, NORTH EAST): Nearly 600 to 800 baskets of betel leaves are brought daily from different area of Karimpur, West Bengal at the Burdwan Railway Station for parcel booking but the consignees are facing genuine problems at the station.

Although the vehicles bringing the baskets start arriving at the station from early morning they are not allowed to approach the parcel office till 12.00 Noon. Due to this very little time is left to get the correct weight of the baskets before loading into the trains which wait for limited period only. Moreover, the consignees have to bear heavy coolie charges as the baskets have to be carried to Platform No. 2 or 3 instead of Platform No. 1 which is very near to the parcel office. So, the train No. 3151 UP and 3911 UP may be rescheduled to stop at Platform No. 1.

Remedial measures may immediately be taken to redress the grievances of the consignees.

(xv) Need to bring a legislation to ban cow slaughter in the country

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (KURUKSHETRA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand to impose ban on cow-slaughter is being raised in the entire country. Cow is valuable from social and economic point of view besides having religious association. If livestock is protected agriculture would be

protected and if agriculture is protected, the country would be protected. Therefore, the Government should clear this blot by bringing a legislation to ban cow-slaughter. Cow should be declared as national animal.

(xvi) Need for protection of Kapilash Shivapitha in Dhenkanal district of Orissa by Archaeological Survey of India

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL) : I draw the attention of the Government of India to the alarming reports which are emanating regarding the destruction of forest cover and consequent drying up of the only perennial natural spring and water source of the famous and ancient thirteenth century Shivapitha, the abode of Lord Chandrasheker on the 1500 ft. high Kapilash hill in Dhenkanal district, Orissa. Thousands of devotees, pilgrims and tourists visit Kapilash from all over India during Shravan Purnima and lakhs of people throng the temple during Mahashivaratri. In this proposed sanctuary which also contains the Kapilash Zoo and Crocodile Breeding Centre, the second of its kind in Orissa and funded by the Zoo Authority of India, the Kapilash hill area also contains a Science Centre set up by the National Council of Science Museum.

The Central Government has time and again been requested to take over the ancient Kapilash Temple and its environs under the Protection of Ancient Monument and Archeological Site and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules 1959 by the Archaeology Survey of India.

In the absence of any protection the site of Kapilash Temple is being encroached and unauthorised buildings are being constructed in violation of Forest Conservation Act 1980 and the beautiful natural stream, the only water source for the temple, pilgrims, tourists and cultural persons and the wild life as well as domestic life has totally dried up which will have serious consequences. There is an urgent requirement for the protection, preservation and conservation by the Archeological Survey of India as well as protecting and conserving the encroachment as well as the course of water. I urge upon the Government to take over this site of Kapilash Shivapitha forth with.

(xvii) Need to lay new rail line between Jolarpettai and Hosur via Bargur and Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu

SHRI V. VETRISLVAN (KRISHNAGIRI) : Time and again for the past so many decades there has been a demand for a new railway route between Jolarpettai and Hosur via Bargur and Krishnagiri. All the Members of Parliament elected from Krishnagiri constituency had made so many representations but it vain.

Even though there are ample avenue for the expected level of revenue from this area for this new project, the Government have turned a deaf ear to the repeated requests and representations. Even in the survey conducted recently for this project was poor and the data collected was ambiguous.

It was a great shock that when we expected for Minister's announcement for this project during the Budget session, there was betrayal again. But when I placed before the Minister the facts comprising the available potentialities and the expected revenue, he had agreed in principle to consider my request for laying of the new railway route between Jolarpettai and Hosur via Bargur and Krishnagiri and to allot necessary funds for it, but so far the work is not taken up and the people of this area are very much angry and unhappy over this. I urge upon the Government to take necessary action in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats. I will hear you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have to transact legislative business, please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Sir, what is this going on?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am asking them to go back to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you want to raise your issues, go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats. You can raise your issues from your seats and if the Government wants to reply, the Government will respond.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, we have lot of legislative business to transact. We had taken up the Bill for consideration yesterday and it has to continue today. I appeal to all of you to please be orderly. Let us transact some business. By this way, it is not going to serve any purpose to the country.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 1st August 2003 at 11 a.m.

14.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 1, 2003/Sravana 10, 1925 (Saka).



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