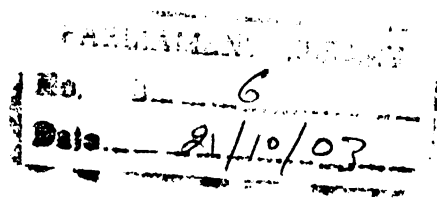


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXXII contains Nos. 11 to 20)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 13, 2003/Phalgun 22, 1924 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): I have given notice for Adjournment Motion Notice. Allegations of corruption have been levelled against us and we are repeatedly giving notices, but that is not being discussed in the House. Members of Parliament have to face very embarrassing situation in the country. The allegations levelled by the UP Chief Minister on MPs. ...*(Interruptions)* Such a serious issue is not being discussed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue has already been discussed in Rajya Sabha. We would like to have your protection. This is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also have given an Adjournment Motion Notice on the issue of tax evasion by capitalists.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I must mention to the House that I have received several Adjournment Motion Notices today. I would like to mention the names of those Members who have given those Adjournment Motion Notices before we start the work. The Adjournment Motion Notices have been received from Shri Tufani Saroj, Shri Ram Rati Bind, Shri Dharam Raj Singh Patel, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Ram Sagar, Shri Ravi Prakash Verma, Shrimati Sushila Saroj, Shri Ram Murti Singh Verma, and Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya. These Adjournment Motion Notice relate to the "Demand for CBI probe into alleged irregularities in MPLADS",

I have received one Adjournment Motion Notice from Shri Ramji Lal Suman regarding "The situation arising out of reported funds collected by the VHP". The third Adjournment Motion Notice is from Shri Basu Deb Acharia, and it is regarding "The damage and destruction due to the hailstorm in West Bengal, and displacement of tribals from forest land". Shri C.N. Singh gave an Adjournment

Motion Notice on "The misuse of public finances by Aviation Ministry". Shri Ram Vilas Paswan gave an Adjournment Motion Notice on "Misuse of POTA". Shri Ramdas Athawale gave an Adjournment Motion Notice on "Income Tax evasion by capitalists". These are the Adjournment Motion Notices that I have received. I have also received notices for suspension of the 'Question Hour'. The same Members who have given Adjournment Motion Notices have also requested for suspension of the 'Question Hour'. Shri Ramdas Athawale has given an Adjournment Motion Notice on "Evasion of Income Tax by capitalists".

We have discussed all these issues in the Leaders' meeting also. All the issues, no doubt, are of important nature. At the same time, as we have discussed, I think, it would be proper if we do not take up these Adjournment Motions at this stage. During 'Zero Hour', I will take it up. I will allow the Members also to speak on these issues. However, let the 'Question Hour' be over. After the 'Question Hour' is over, we will take it up.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, I have also given notice for adjournment of Question Hour.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the privilege issue relating to Shri Lal Muni Chaubey is still pending. Today is the concluding day of the Session.

MR. SPEAKER: Jha ji, I will allow you later. It is the concluding day. I know many MPs want to speak today. So I can give you opportunity during Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have another statement to make. I have not accepted the Adjournment Motion Notices, but at the same time, they are of important nature. I will permit them to speak on their Adjournment Motions during 'Zero Hour'. Please cooperate with me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: What will be the fate of privilege motion of Shri Lal Muni Chaubey as it is the last day of the session?

MR. SPEAKER: I am aware of the notice given by Shri Lal Muni Chaubey. I have given my ruling on that notice that I will inform after one week.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: You will not be able to get the reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have taken decision on the notice of Chaubey ji.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me first. Only then you will be able to know.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli): At least some response should be given on his privilege motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will respond during Zero Hour.

11.06 hrs.

RE: QUESTION NO. 321

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Starred Q. No. 321 regarding 'Revenue sharing system in Radio Paging Industry' appearing at the first position of today's list of Starred Questions for answer by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, now stands transferred for answer by the Minister of Communication and Information Technology on 9-4-2003, as the subject matter pertains to them. It will appear at the same position on that day.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ms. Mayawati, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and her Minister of state Shri Amar Mani Tripathi are giving death threats to my brother and myself. ...*(Interruptions)* They are protecting criminals. Conspiracy is being hatched to eliminate Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Akhilesh Yadav. ...*(Interruptions)* The Chief Minister of U.P. has given instruction that those Members of Samajwadi party who are daily raising issues of corruption against her, should not be spared at any cost. ...*(Interruptions)* They will be taught a lesson as soon as they enter Uttar Pradesh. The lives of myself, my family and my leader is under threat. Therefore, I want your protection and of the House. ...*(Interruptions)* If it is wrong to unmask the corrupt, sin to speak the truth in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak but only during Zero Hour. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we attained democracy through the efforts of Nehru Ji. If I fail to get your protection I will be obliged to go under the protection of Mahatma Gandhi. So I want your protection. If I am not listened to I will go to fast near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi outside Parliament House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has made a very serious statement. I have taken a notice of it. He can be rest assured that I will bring it to the notice of the hon. Home Minister. You can speak about the other part of your notice during 'Zero Hour'.

Since, I have told you that I am going to take it up, and this is the question of an hon. Member of the House, the Member must also remember that there are a number of other issues which we can discuss. The issue that you have raised, will be brought to the notice of the hon. Home Minister and, therefore, let us discuss the matter further during 'Zero Hour' and not now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue has already been discussed in Rajya Sabha. This issue relates to the dignity and prestige of MPs. Whether Lok Sabha would not cooperate in the matter? ...*(Interruptions)* This is a serious issue. I want your protection. a mockery of democracy is being made in Uttar Pradesh. situation in the State is grim today, that is why I want your protection.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, nothing of what anybody else says should be taken on record, excepting the Question before me.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The first question on 'Revenue sharing system in Radio Paging Industry', which has been transferred was asked by Shri Ramji Lal Suman. Would you like to say something on this? Shri Ramji Lal Suman, please speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your question will come later. First name is of Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you don't want to ask your question

[English]

should I go to the next Question?

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gandhiji had liberated the country. We are compelled to boycott the proceedings of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

11.08 hrs.

(Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members then left the House)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajo Singh and Shri Suman ji, your names come first in today's list. Shri Rajo Singh, you speak first.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivaji Mane, please do not speak from your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question no. 321 is first in the list. Such an occasion has come first time in my parliamentary career. Now when I have come prepared, you say that the question has been transferred. If you had told this to me earlier, I would have been prepared, but you are telling me now when I have come prepared to get reply of my question. You say that the answer to my question will be given on 9th as today there are notices and other listed businesses. I think that we MPs are no longer important. If only few MPs control the Parliament throughout the day, then you please tell me what people like me are supposed to do. We will do as you say.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suman, now you please make your submission.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. Question No. 321 scheduled for today was related to revenue sharing system in radio paging industry and hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting was to reply. Late night yesterday, I received a letter wherein it was written that starred question no. 321 scheduled for 13.3.2003 has been removed from the list for the day. It will now be answered on 9.4.2003 by the Minister of Science and Technology.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. This Government does not even know which Minister has to answer which question and which question relates to which department. If matters are allowed to continue thus, the situation will become grim. There is no coordination in the Government. Ministers do not know which question relates to which department. I think that this has been done deliberately. Since this is a very serious issue, I want your protection. It is necessary to avoid the recurrence of such incidents. Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting is sitting here, she should tell us why this question is not being answered today?

MR. SPEAKER: I am doing just that.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Can you give me half a minute, Sir? This is an important matter. Such matters should not be repeated. Half a minute only! I will just make one point only.

I would like to submit that whenever a Question is admitted for answer in the House, it is quite a few days before that the answer is prepared and the concerned Minister signs it. I am sure that has been done in this case by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting because that is how the Question is listed. One could understand if the Question were to be transferred before its being listed.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me know what the Minister has to say.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Once it has been done, what I would suggest to you is that in future if a thing like this happens, any other Minister may answer, but the Question should not be postponed to some other day. Once a Question has been admitted, let any Minister come and answer it that day. We are not concerned about that. But the Question should be answered on the same day.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me conduct the business of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister concerned should be directed to answer this question.

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed you and then you raised the question. Now you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow other Members to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Please listen to what the Government has to say.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to ask the hon'ble Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister of State of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is present here, why does not he reply? Why Parliamentary Affairs Minister is speaking? She gets up on every occasion—please do not do so.

SHRIMATI SUSMHA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform Shri Suman that I am no longer the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. I have not risen as the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. I have risen to speak as Parliamentary Affairs Minister since this matter relates to Parliamentary Affairs Ministry. Shri Rajo Singh should not object to my rising as it is my responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can understand the agony of Shri Rajo Singh and Shri Suman. It takes good fortune for a Member's question to get the first number in the list. If he gets the information in late night that the question has been removed from the list, then his agony is very high and Shri Suman would be feeling it today, who so often causes the adjournment of Question Hour.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as this question is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He only gives notices for that and not adjourns.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, such mistakes occur because the question relates to one department and is addressed to another department. Such mistakes occur more commonly in the case of Information Technology and Information and Broadcasting Ministry as word 'information' is common in both. This mistake was doubled in the question because two words were in common—information in the department and 'Radio' in the question. He might have thought that Radio paging comes under the control of Information and Broadcasting

Ministry. As Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal has said, Information and Broadcasting Ministry had given in writing that the question relates to the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, but it was already printed before the reply could be given and the Secretariat, quite properly, did not only inform the hon'ble Member that this question would be taken up on 9th, but having full regard for his sentiments, Lok Sabha Secretariat informed him that when it is the turn of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to give replies, that is on 9th, the question would be taken up as the first question. Therefore, the first number of the question would be maintained and its reply would be given on 9th by the Minister of Communications and Information Technology in the first instance. Only inconvenience is that in place of today, it would be answered on 9th and I sincerely regret the inconvenience.

11.16 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Availability of Multi-Channels of Doordarshan to all +

*322. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to make available multi-channels of Doordarshan to all the people in the country;

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

(c) whether there is a proposal to make available DD-2 and other channels of regional service programme without appropriate Dish Antenna System so that common man can enjoy all the Doordarshan Channels;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In satellite mode, programmes of all the 25 channels of Doordarshan are available throughout the country and these can be received anywhere with the help of appropriate dish antenna system or through cable TV networks. Two channels viz. DD1 and DD2 are transmitted in terrestrial mode also and are available to about 89.8% and 40.3% population, respectively.

(c) to (e) In terrestrial mode, DD2 coverage is presently available to about 40.3% population of the country and is expected to increase to about 49.3% with the implementation of the ongoing schemes. However, there is no scheme to set up terrestrial transmitters for relay of regional channels which have a window of about five and half (5½) hours of terrestrial cover on DD-1. Tenth Plan proposals of Doordarshan *inter-alia*, include schemes for provision of TV coverage to uncovered areas with multi channel bouquet in free to air mode, through cable and satellite distribution system and other alternative technologies.

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know, more than 70 per cent population of our country is living in villages, and these villages are being deprived of the facility of Doordarshan's multi-channels because these channels can be viewed only either through dish antenna system or cable TV networks. Doordarshan has offered the facility of only one channel in villages, which telecasts regional as well national programmes.

Sir, as you know, people living in villages are so poor that they cannot afford the cost of dish antenna or cable TV. So, there is a need to do something to provide the facility of, at least, two channels to the villagers without obtaining dish antenna.

So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he would consider to provide the facility of multi-channels to the villagers without putting any burden on them. If not, what are the views of the Government in this regard?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as Doordarshan is concerned, we have got 25 channels which are available on satellite all over the country. As far as DD-1 is concerned, on the terrestrial channel, 89.8 per cent of the population of the country is covered by it.

Sir, we have taken new steps also in the Tenth Plan. By those steps, after completion, the viewership population-wise of DD-1 would become 92.8 per cent. As far as DD-2 is concerned, today its viewership is 40.3 per cent. We are also taking steps to increase it to 49.5

per cent. But there is a larger issue. The larger issue is that we have got regional *kendras* all over the country and each regional *kendra*, depending upon the geography of the area, reaches every village of the country where the regional programme comes about, and after eight O' clock, the national channel takes up.

Therefore, I think, the hon. Member would appreciate it. It is not a case that the rural area is being ignored as far as DD coverage is concerned. The point is—should we give 25 channels, that are available *via* satellite mode, to come about through a cable network. But Sir, we are also contemplating a new strategy-Ku Band strategy-in the Tenth Plan, where in all the areas hereto ignored, DD can be provided.

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the reply, the present coverage of DD-2 is 40.3 per cent, and it will go up to 49.3 per cent, which is still below 50 per cent.

So, I want to know what are the reasons for such a low coverage; what are the schemes of the Government to raise the coverage; and whether any target has been fixed in this regard. By what time would the coverage be upto 100 per cent?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir DD-2 goes in a terrestrial network. As far as terrestrial is concerned, we have to have transmitters. But, today, there is also cable network in large part of the country. Therefore, under the Cable Act, as the hon. Member would recall, we have come with an amendment. Thereunder, it has been made obligatory for all the cable operators to show at least three channels of Doordarshan, in which DD-2 is also there. That we are also seeking to enforce. Those steps are also being taken. Therefore, in addition to terrestrial network, our insistence upon the cable network to show at least three DD channels would very much supplement the viewership of DD-2 as well.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the telecasting of the channels of Doordarshan and Prasar Bharti is obligatory under law on the Cable operators but I would like to inform the hon. Minister that the transmission of these channels is not done by cable operators. 50 thousand persons from Mumbai have sent this complaint to you. Then comes the reply from Mumbai officers of your Ministry that complaints be lodged to the Prasser Bharti, Delhi. I would like to know as to what alternative is left to the consumer, he has to travel to Delhi to lodge his complaints.

Sir, second thing I would like to know is as to what action has been taken by the Government to implement

the directions given by the Mumbai High Court and Hyderabad High Court to check the blackouts caused by the cable operators?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, concern expressed by hon. Shri Kiritji is quite apt. We are observing serious problems in the entire cable distribution sector. The Government is concerned about the welfare of consumer and the protection of the Consumer's interest is most important. It has been observed that there is a need to consider this matter from the legal point of view. Hence government have made a new provision in Conditional Access System which would give a chance to the consumer for selective viewing. Under CAS, it has been provided that subscribers will have to pay only for the selective channels that they would like to see. We have set up a task force for it and the talks are going on in this regard. The task force has representation from MSO, broadcasters as well as subscribers and the task are going on. The final decision will only be taken after the ongoing discussion is over but on behalf of the Government, I would like to assure the hon. Member that Conditional Access System will certainly be implemented in the four metropolitans of the country from 14 July.

Sir, as far the suggestion of Kiritji to cancel the entire cable network is concerned, I would like to say that this has been brought to my notice. I am trying to find all the facts in this regard and will do whatever possible after collecting information.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister in his reply has said that it is with the help of appropriate dish antenna or through the cable TV network that all the DD channels are available to the people.

Sir, I would, with utmost humility, like to only tell the Minister about his helplessness in not being able to ensure the quality of reception of the DD programmes through the cable TV network even today, despite all the efforts.

Sir, firstly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what specific steps they are taking in this direction. Coupled with this is the assurance that the Minister has held out to us that during the Tenth Plan, they are planning to start the project of Ku-Band which would, in fact, be a *desi* version of the DTH, which I would certainly welcome. But my chagrin, my disappointment is to the fact that in the current year's Plan, there is no allocation whatsoever for Ku-Band. Do you plan to do it overnight

in the last year of the Plan or are you going to start it immediately? In case, you are serious about it, please tell us that you are making allocations for it immediately.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, as far as the quality of transmission is concerned, the hon. Member has a point. Immediately after taking over as Minister, I set up a task before the engineers of Doordarshan that they must improve the quality of news reception. Today, I want to share with this hon. House that indeed the quality of reception of the news of DD-1 has improved considerably and our engineers have really shown the results.

As far as the cable operators not showing co-operation is concerned, yes, you are very much right. This has been brought to my notice. We are taking steps, sensitising them, including telling them about the legal provision of penalty. If they do not cooperate, we will even take that action.

As far as the Plan part is concerned, I wish to share with the hon. Member that there is a provision of Rs. 500 crore in the Tenth Plan for KU Band. That is there. We will try to use it to the full potential possible.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, that is what precisely my point is. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, that is precisely my grievance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. There are other hon. Members who want to put questions. Please sit down. Shri K. Malaisamy.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, what he said is about the Plan. I want to know what is there for this year.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Malaisamy.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: That is precisely my question. I wanted to be brief in my question and therefore I did not refer to the figure of Rs. 500 crore, which I am conscious of. It is precisely because of that, that I said that there is no provision made in the current year's Budget.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please reply briefly.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I do not want to go into the nitty-gritty. It is certainly there; we have come up with the proposal. The procedural requirement of consultation with the Finance Ministry and other requirements are being undertaken, whereby the funds would become available.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: A tremendous breakthrough has been made in the TV network. As far as the private TV channels are concerned, they have gone too far to supplement the same. As far as our quality is concerned, there is no match at all with private TV channels. As rightly said by the hon. Minister, they are taking steps. But what I am trying to understand is this. What is his real constraint? Is it due to want of finance or is it due to lack of technology or is it due to want of will? If he is able to explain that he is taking steps, then I would like to know what is he going to do to improve quality? If that be the case, how long will it take? Whether there could be any timeframe within which we could match the private channels?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I do not completely agree with the hon. Member that the DD's reception quality is bad in comparison with all the private channels. That is not the case. We have 77 channels in the country. There is neither any lack of will nor is there any case of resource crunch. I just now told the august House that I gave 15 days' time to the engineers of DD; I requested them and they have come up with the results. Our technical people are indeed very competent and qualified. I am sure they understand it.

We have got two constraints which I would wish to share with the House. Prasar Bharti has got a public character. That is certainly there. It is a character enjoined under the Prasar Bharti Act itself. Therefore, revenue cannot always be a consideration. But yet there has to be professionalism; there has to be quality, etc. After becoming a Minister, I realised that content creation in-house is very important. Therefore, this year, we have provided Rs. 80 crore to DD for good quality content creation for which they are taking proper and appropriate action including a good marketing strategy.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: First of all, through you, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister of one improvement in DD. For the last one week I have been watching this and personally I was amazed to see the unique wisdom of the DD and, of course, the Minister. The Pakistan TV is spreading all false newscast against India. Incidentally, 'sach kya hai' that part is telecast. I tell you that it is a good service to the nation. I thank him for that.

My question is very specific now. Throughout the world, in the entire electronic media, the management is now under the professional desk, be it science and technology or equipment handling or even the newscast and production management. Unfortunately, in Prasar Bharti, the concept of professional management has not at all taken off for a long time. Will the Minister consider this?

Secondly, is the Minister aware of this? Sir, it is my complaint through you, since you are the guardian of the House. For the last one month, parliamentary proceedings, especially of the Opposition Members, are being deliberately ignored or outcast. I can give you three instances. Firstly, it was on the debate regarding Motion of Thanks on the President's Address; secondly, it was during the intervention of the Leader of Opposition and others, when the Prime Minister replied. I watched the newscast and I found that even the names of Members who were present in the House and intervened positively were not taken. This is something he should consider. There should be some monitoring. Earlier, there was a guidance that the entire thing should be monitored. ...*(Interruptions)*

It can happen to you tomorrow. Therefore, I would like to know whether there is any provision for monitoring the reporting of the parliamentary proceedings by a group of MPs or not. If not, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would introduce that system to ensure fair reporting of the parliamentary proceedings.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, Shri Dasmunsi had good words to say about the recent performance of the Doordarshan. I really appreciate his gesture.

Sir, as far as the last part of his query is concerned about the bias, I wish to assure you that I have seen the face of Shri Dasmunsi on a large number of occasions.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Please do not take it casually. I can give you proof that intervention by Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Yerrannaidu and other leaders on the issue of farmers were not even mentioned.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: All these decisions Government never take. These decisions are taken by the Prasar Bharati and the Doordarshan. ...*(Interruptions)* But if you have any specific. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The Doordarshan allowed Shri George Fernandes to make his statement on resignation on the DD. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you need not answer to a question that comes directly to you. You may only answer those questions that are put to you through me.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, the concern of the hon. Member would certainly be conveyed.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The Doordarshan had been directed to telecast that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak, for, there is a problem in the Western part of Madhya Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Don't waste time in it, only ask the question.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mine is tribal dominated area which has always been taken care of by your Government. Government is of the opinion that this would be implemented in the Adivasi dominated area on priority basis but in our area there is still 25 KW transmitter. There is Panchayati Raj system in our state and every Panchayat house has T.V. sets installed in it but there is no facility of Doordarshan there. Through you, I would like to know as to whether you propose to extend the doordarshan facility even in the Advasi dominated areas in view of the fact that such facility is missing even in Adivasi dominated districts of Jhabhua and Ratlam?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please complete your question. I have to go to the next question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have taken note of this specific complaint of a specific area brought to my notice. I would collect information from the officers of Doordarshan in this regard. It is not possible that transmission of Doordarshan is not reaching any area. If it is true then I will see to it.

Engines/Coaches Lying Abandoned

*323. ⁺SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail engines/coaches lying abandoned after accidents or some other reasons;

(b) the value of these abandoned railway engines/coaches lying at different places;

(c) whether the Government are aware that these engines and coaches are stolen in parts by junk dealers in connivance with railway officers/employees;

(d) if so, the value of the railway materials stolen during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect these abandoned railway engines/coaches lying unprotected?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There are no engines and coaches lying abandoned on Indian Railways. However 6 locos and 63 coaches damaged in Railway accidents are awaiting disposal.

(b) Since there are no abandoned locos/coaches, the question does not arise. However, the scrap value of accident damaged locos and coaches awaiting disposal is approximately Rs. 1.04 crores.

(c) No, Sir. No such cases have come to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In case of rail accident, rail engines/coaches at the accidents spot are guarded by the Railway Protection Force till such time serviceable fittings of such engines and coaches are removed.

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Sir, through you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like the hon. Minister to inform us as to how many railway engines, coaches and wagons are lying abandoned for over a period of one year. It is because this has been affecting the psyche of various passengers travelling on that route. I have been travelling to Deheradun by Shatabdi train and near Roorkee I have seen two to three abandoned wagons lying on the side of the tracks. This affects the psyche of the passengers and they have a feeling like next time when they are travelling, they may also have an accident. I would like to request the hon. Minister to tell me as to how many coaches, wagons and engines have been lying abandoned for a period of over one year.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding coaches and engines, I have replied that there are six such locomotives, 63 coaches and 437 wagons. This is the number of engines, wagons and coaches lying aside the tracks. Hon. Member is quite apt in saying that if their remains are kept lying stranded there after accidents,

it distorts the image of Railways and even the people who come across such a sight do not like it, and this may also cause panic and fear among people, hence the Government have taken a decision in November, 2002 in this regard and directed that the locomotives, wagons etc. Should be removed from the sites of accident within 75 to 80 days in all cases saving only those ones which are pending police clearance or these having special court orders.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: How much is the railway losing financially owing to the abandoned railway wagons, coaches and engines? Is the railway losing financially?

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have given its reply. As far the question about coaches and engines is concerned, I have said that the total estimation comes around one crore and 40 lakh rupees. The estimation of wagon can also be added to it. Hence it is not so important from financial implication point of view because when a coach is involved in an accident, the first thing which is looked into is whether or not it can be restored. If not, it is declared condemned. There is a set procedure for it. An officers' committee decide it and the final decision is taken by Railway Board. When it is done then fittings fit for use are also removed. Then it is auctioned after being condemned. This is the process. It means that keeping the abandoned wagons etc. aside track is not right because it also disturbs the ambience.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister had told that wagons and engines remain lying aside the tracks. I had asked a pointed question that parts of engine or wagon or its scrap are stolen, I have with me a statement of the hon. Minister which he has made to the press.

[*English*]

He admits leakage in scrap deal.

[*Translation*]

I would like to know as to what steps are being undertaken by the Government to protect the abandoned engines and wagons involved in accidents lying unprotected and also what is the process of sale for the disposal of this scrap of thousand of tonnes?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two aspects of it—accident involved coaches which are

condemned in regard to which I have replied. Hon. Member has asked a comprehensive question about scrap disposal. We have 56 identified depots. The rails are kept stocked there and are disposed. There is a process of auction for it. This work keep on going. We have admitted to some leakages in scrap disposal. It seems that there are leakages in it. Some people were caught by the vigilance department in this regard. Some steps like the installation of electronic way bridges at the scrap disposal sites have been taken. The work of constructing these electronic bridges is going on everywhere. These have been installed at 48 places out of 56 and the remaining would be installed within two months. Then the disposal of rails etc. takes place which keep on lying aside the track. There should be a computerised accounting system for it and that too is being implemented in four divisions on pilot basis. The work is going on and would be completed by 2004. Besides, an auctioneer was also appointed through which scrap disposal used to take place. We had constituted a Committee. That Committee had suggested that there is no need to appoint an auctioneer. The Railway officers of JA Grade should look after this work. That decision has been taken. Now this work is being undertaken by them and the lacunae are being tried to the plugged.

[*English*]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Thank you very much, Sir. The hon. Minister in his reply has said that there are 6 locos and 63 coaches lying abandoned. But he has not given their approximate scarp value, as he has already given the approximate scrap value for accident-damaged locos and coaches. So, also Sir, there are lot of rails abandoned not only in Tamil Nadu but in other places also which can be used. They are all in disuse for a long period. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has any plans to use those abandoned rails not only in Tamil Nadu, but also in other places. It is because there are many requests for new lines, and due to constraint of funds he has not been able to give new lines. I have made a request for one via Vandavasi from Kanchipuram to Tindivanam.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any plan to use these rails, which have been in disuse for a longer period, for the better use of the nation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is being done. The rails, which are usable, are used and those, which are unusable, are disposed of as scrap. The money earned through it is used in projects.

[English]

Security Deposits on LPG Cylinders

*324. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to reduce the security deposits of LPG cylinders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount the LPG consumers have so far deposited against security deposits of LPG cylinders;

(d) the manner in which amount of security deposits is being utilised;

(e) whether the Government propose to give any interest to LPG consumers on this amount of security deposits; and

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

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

Statement

(a) to (f) The public sector oil companies have reduced the rate of Security Deposit on domestic LPG cylinders from Rs. 900/cylinder to Rs. 700/cylinder for new domestic LPG connections with effect from 1st February 2002 and to Rs. 650/cylinder for the new domestic LPG connections with effect from 3rd March 2003. For the North-Eastern region, the rate of security Deposit on domestic LPG cylinder is Rs. 500 per cylinder. The estimated cumulative amount of Security Deposit with the oil companies was around Rs. 8,600 crore at the end of February 2003. The Security Deposit collected by the oil companies from the consumers is of refundable nature. This amount is used by the oil companies for procurement of new cylinders and pressure regulators, the maintenance/replacement of old cylinders and pressure regulators, etc. Administering payment of interest to around 6.90 crore domestic LPG consumers, who have paid Security Deposit at varying rates applicable from time to time, would be a huge task, involving extra costs. The amount of Security Deposit received from the customers is hence taken into consideration in determining the consumer prices of domestic LPG. Therefore, the oil companies do not propose to give any interest amounts to LPG consumers separately on the amount of Security Deposit.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, LPG gas cylinders are used by every consumer including we people. The public sector companies have ensured wide distribution of LPG for common man in the country. The security deposit of domestic LPG cylinder from Rs. 50 earlier was raised gradually to Rs. 200, and then to Rs. 900. Hon. Minister had stated in his reply last year that the Government has decreased the security deposit from Rs. 900 to Rs. 700. Recently, it has been further reduced to Rs. 650 by further cutting Rs. 50. But the most serious point is that the total receipts of public sector companies as security deposit is Rs. 8600 crore and it does not include private companies. Despite the fact that a large number of private gas companies have lunged into the market the hon. Minister has not given the figures of the sum received by them through security deposit. On one hand the NDA Government propose to disinvest the petroleum companies while on the other hand these companies have a deposit of 8600 crore rupees of common consumers. Poor people can not take gas connection on account of this high rate of security deposit. Due to it large-scale deforestation is taking place in rural areas for rural folks can not take gas connections due to high rate of security deposit. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Union Government will give the guarantee of the deposit worth Rs. 8600 crore, else what would happen if these companies are also sold as has happened in case of UTI and share scam. Who will give guarantee of deposit of the shareholders of these companies?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while asking questions some wrong information has been put forth and I would like to correct it. He said that the prices were raised. In 1995 the security deposit was Rs. 450 and was suddenly increased to Rs. 900 i.e. it was doubled. Now you might be aware as to which Government was in power in 1995.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: It does not matter as to whose Government was in power. I would like to know as to what guarantee is being given for the common man's deposit of worth Rs. 8600 crore. ...*(Interruptions)* Which Government was in power at that time, hence you decreased it and now it is your Government, hence I am saying so. ...*(Interruptions)* Government is Government. It keeps on changing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am correcting the information given by you while putting your questions, we reduced the deposit to Rs. 650 from Rs. 700 before you asked the question. The reply of the remaining question is that when it was raised to Rs. 900, there was no tender

system. A consultant was appointed and the cylinders were purchased on the rate he used to advise. After assuming the charge, I said that it is not right hence we invited tenders and tenders were received from 103 parties. They also tried to make a cartel but the prices came down once Bamer Lawry offered a good bid. Hence we reduced the prices from Rs. 900 to Rs. 700. But when the second tender was floated the prices further fell and were fixed at Rs. 650 from Rs. 700. I felt that you will welcome it that we have given relief to the consumer. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: You have given this information in writing also.

MR. SPEAKER: Pugliaji, you can ask the supplementary question also.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Hon. Minister is not providing any information as to what guarantee is proposed to be given by the Government against the huge security deposits of 8600 crore rupees. ...(*Interruptions*) I hail from Maharashtra. He also hails from the same state. I know him since he was a Member of Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: If both of you hail from Maharashtra why do you quarrel, ask the questions.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The deposit of Rs. 8600 crore is safe. Not only this but the same deposit is used in purchasing new cylinders and for the maintenance etc., else companies will have to borrow at the interest rate of 11-12 percent. The profit earned in lieu of it is transferred to consumers as subsidy. I would like to tell that the benefit of this 8600 crore rupees deposit is given to consumers as subsidy on LPG cylinders.

MR. SPEAKER: Both questions and reply should be concise. You ask the Question.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This supplementary is not arising out of the main question. Please listen to me. You may ask a straight supplementary. Otherwise, I will not allow your supplementary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: My main contention is that Shri Ram Naik was given two major responsibilities as Minister. One responsibility has been thoroughly fulfilled

by him is that he has done a commendable work of distributing the petrol pumps, kerosene and gas agency to the BJP workers and leaders all across the country. The country and the Parliament can never forget it. The name of Shri Ram Naikji will always be there on the record of Parliament...(*Interruptions*) Second big responsibility entrusted to him by NDA Government and hon. Prime Minister is to disinvest all the public sector companies of the country. ...(*Interruptions*) The Government in power in 1996. ...(*Interruptions*) We are not in contention with Shiv Sena but with BJP. It is a very important question. An amount of 8600 crore rupees of the common masses of the country are deposited in it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: What wrong I have said in it? I have only mentioned the noble deed he has performed. Second noble thing he is doing is that of disinvesting oil companies. I would like to say to the hon. Minister that he has not given the information of the deposits of private sector companies. That information should also be given. I would also like to know as to whether or not the Government propose to make the consumers as Shareholders by converting the deposit of Rs. 8600 crore into shares. If not, whether the Government propose to give any guarantee *vis a vis* the security deposit with these companies? ...(*Interruptions*) [*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may reply to only one question that he has raised. If he has raised a number of questions, you need not reply to all of them.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Let me at least have the freedom to refute the wild allegations which he has levied against me. I refute them. He was a member of the BJP and he had done many wrong things. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please reply to only one question and not other questions.

SHRI RAM NAIK: How can I give information relating to private companies? It has not been asked in the Question also. Whatever information is required so far as deposits are concerned. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Since it is not arising out of the main Question, I do not permit your supplementary.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: I have not asked for information only about the Government companies. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK: The information is given only by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: What about the private sector? Why is the Minister not answering? How it will do is private sector incur loss. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Deposits are safe. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Sir, I need your protection. I have not asked only about public sector undertakings. I have asked about the private companies also. The Minister must reply to my question relating to the deposits of the private companies also. Why do you want to save them? Do you want to give shelter to all the private sector companies?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: He is not having information about the subject. Specific details about deposit made or amount withdrawn by the private companies, have not been sought in the question then how information can be given in this regard.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon'ble Minister for reducing the security deposit for LPG cylinders from Rs. 900 to Rs. 650. The LPG cylinder provided for domestic use is of Rs. 265. But for the charitable institutions, they have doubled the rates of LPG cylinders. I would like to know the reasons for this from the hon'ble Minister and whether he would make efforts to provide cylinders to the charitable institutions at the rates at which common consumers are provided.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The institutions in the field of education like hostels, educational institutions and public hospitals are being provided LPG cylinders at the rate at which they are being provided for domestic use. However, the profit making trusts have to take the cylinders at commercial rates. But educational institutions, hostels and hospitals are getting LPG cylinders at domestic rates.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 325, Shri Ramsheth Thakur—not present. Question No. 326, Dr. Ashok Patel—Not present.

Alternative Financing for Rail Projects

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

(a) whether the railway is looking for alternative financing for the completion of ongoing projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether railways have considered completing ongoing projects in the plan period; and

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

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways is looking for participation of the State Governments, multilateral agencies and lending institutions in funding of rail infrastructure projects. It is primarily through cost sharing, participation in equity in case of implementation through creation of SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle), BOT (Build Own Transfer) models and in some cases privately owned infrastructure viz. Port Railways, freight terminals. Strengthening of Golden Quadrilateral and diagonals, four mega bridges and port connectivity/strengthening of corridors connecting hinterland are included in National Rail Vikas Yojana. The projects under the Yojana are proposed to be funded through multilateral agencies such as from Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank, domestic lending institutions in addition to budgetary support. The new line project from Udhampur to Baramulla is a "National Project" being funded as an additionality to normal budgetary support. Two projects on strategic considerations are being funded by Ministry of Defence and one project by Ministry of Coal for providing linkage to coal mines.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view of limited availability of resources, Railways have planned to complete some of the ongoing projects during 2002-03 and 2003-04 as per the details given in the enclosed Annexure.

Annexure

Projects targeted for completion during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 are as follows:

New Lines

- (i) Buniadpur-Balurghat of Eklakhi-Balurghat.
- (ii) Jaroli-Keonjhar of Daitari-Banspani
- (iii) Kumarghat-Manu of Kumarghat-Agartala.
- (iv) Katra-Faizabad.
- (v) Duraundha-Maharajan restoration.

- (vi) Bajkul-Kanathi of Tamluk-Digha.
- (vii) Fatuha-Islampur.
- (viii) Una-Churaru Takrala of Nangal Dam-Talwara.
- (ix) Panvel-Karjat
- (x) Sasaram-Nokha of Ara-Sasaram.
- (xi) Kakdweep-Namkhana of Lakshmikantapur-Namkhana.
- (xii) Bajalta-Udhampur of Jammu-Udhampur.
- (xiii) Kakinada-Kotipalli restoration.
- (xiv) Mahendralanagar-Amta of Howrah-Amta.
- (xv) Hassan-Sharavanabelagola of Hassan-Bangalore.
- (xvi) Jagdishpur-Tilaiya of Rajgir-Tilaiya.
- (xvii) Yeramaras-Krishna of Munirabad-Mehbubnagar.

Gauge conversion

- (i) Latur-Latur Road of Miraj-Latur.
- (ii) Luni-Samdari-Jasai-Munabao
- (iii) Viradhachalam-Cuddalore of Salem-Cuddalore.
- (iv) Mangalore-Kabakaputtur-Subrahmanya Road of Hassan-Mangalore.
- (v) Dharmabad-Nizamabad, & Jankampet-Bodhan of Mudkhed-Secunderabad.
- (vi) Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati.
- (vii) Rajkot-Junagarh-Veraval with extension to Somnath of Rajkot-Veraval.
- (viii) Surendernagar-Rajaula City-Pipavav and Dhola-Bhavnagar.
- (ix) Virudunagar-Rajapalayam-Tenkasi of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudunagar.
- (x) New Jalpaiguri/Siliguri-Samuktala of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon
- (xi) Bharatpur-Bandikui of Agra-Bandikui
- (xii) Villupuram-Pondicherry.
- (xiii) Thanjavur-Kumbakonam of Thanjavur-Villupuram.
- (xiv) Gondia-Balaghat of Jabalpur-Gondia.

Doubling

- (i) Chandanpur-Gurup.
- (ii) New Alipur-Akra.
- (iii) Parsa Bazar-Punpun.

- (iv) Siho-Karpurigram.
- (v) Colonelganj-Sarju of Gonad-Jarwal Road.
- (vi) Cailcut-Mangalore (balance 50 km)
- (vii) Bangarpet-Bisanatham-Kuppam of Whitefield-Kuppam.
- (viii) Gudur-Renigunta-Tirupati (part 58 km)
- (ix) Ballapalle-Pullampet.
- (x) Naila-Champa of Akaltara-Champa.
- (xi) Champa-Balpur of Champa-Saragbundia.
- (xii) Bilaspur-Dagori and Nipania-Bhatapara of Bilaspur-Urkura 3rd line
- (xiii) Gevra Road-Kusumunda of Korba-Gevra Road.
- (xiv) Lanjigarh-Kesinga of Titlagarh-Lanjigarh.
- (xv) Salegaon-Negundi of Rajatgarh-Nergundi.
- (xvi) Diva-Kalyan.
- (xvii) Punpun-Taregna.
- (xviii) Bolpur-Ahmedpur.
- (xix) Gurup-Pallaroad 3rd line.
- (xx) Sheoraphuli-Diara.
- (xxi) Jarwal Road-Burhwal.
- (xxii) Gorakhpur-Domingarh.
- (xxiii) Amroha-Moradabad.
- (xxiv) Suchipind-Bhogpur.
- (xxv) Calicut-Shoranur (part-30 km)
- (xxvi) Pattabiram-Tiruvallur 4th line.
- (xxvii) Bellari-Tornagallu of Hospet-Guntakal
- (xxviii) Rahama-Paradeep.
- (xxix) Kapilas-Nergundi & Nergundi-Birupa Cabin.
- (xxx) Vijaywada-Krishna Canal 3rd line.

Electrification Projects

- (i) Renigunta-Guntakal.
- (ii) Ambala-Moradabad.
- (iii) Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar
- (iv) Ludhiana-Amritsar
- (v) Udhna-Jalgaon.
- (vi) Khurda Road-Puri as part of Bhubaneswar-Kottavalasa.
- (vii) Tambaram-Villupuram & Chengalpattu-Arakkonam.

(viii) Ernakulam-Trivandrum.

(ix) Patna-Gaya.

MTP Projects

- (i) Tirumailai-Velacheri, MRTS Phase II.
- (ii) Multimodal Transport System for twin cities of Hyderabad-Secundrabad.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have gone through the statement. My question, in part (c) is: whether Railways have considered completing on-going projects in the plan period.

The Minister, in his first term, presented a Report of pending projects. There was no indication as to when all these projects would be completed. Four years back the total estimate for completing these projects was more than Rs. 30,000 crore.

Now he has given a list of certain projects under the headings New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Electrification and MTP. He has indicated that these projects should be completed by the end of the year 2004. The project of Eklakhi-Balurghat, which is mentioned under New Lines, was started fifteen years back.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am coming to the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Straightaway come to the question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is indicated that only Bajkul-Kanthi portion will be completed and not the entire portion of Tamluk-Digha. Then, there is no mention of Bankura-Damodar river railway. He has allocated Rs. 25 crore. The same amount was allocated last year. I would like to know from the Minister as to when these projects—not a portion of them but the entire project—like Eklakhi-Balurghat, Tamluk-Digha and Bankura-Damodar river railway which is in my constituency, will be completed. Will he take steps to complete them, especially the Bankura-Damodar river railway, within the next year, that is, by 2004?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Shri Acharia ji should decide the priority for the project in which he is interested most. Out of the three, he is interested in BDR or in the other one.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In BDR.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We are taking special care of him.

MR. SPEAKER: I think it would be a sufficient reply for him.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: As you know, we have limited sources. It has been mentioned in the reply to the question about the targets fixed regarding the completion of projects—partially or fully. The number of projects are so much that we need more than 40 thousand crore rupees to complete them. Therefore, we have chalked out a new strategy in this regard. We are going for public and private partnership and also for sharing with State Government. Defence Ministry is giving funds for the projects which are of strategic importance. We are getting external assistance for the project in Jammu and Kashmir. Some State Governments like Jharkhand, Karnataka and Maharashtra have also come forward for cost sharing in this regard. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this process is going on since you were the Chief Minister. West Bengal is ready to give 1/3 of the cost of construction of Metro railway. The same policy of cost sharing is to be adopted in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and several other states. Besides adopting this strategy, it should be our endeavour to reduce the through forward of the ongoing projects, to collect maximum revenue and to increase the budgetary support so that the projects could be completed within the time limit. It was for this that National Rail Development Scheme has also been announced in this regard. Efforts are being made to raise funds for other projects and cooperation and support of the hon'ble Members is requested in this regard. Basically there is no scarcity of human resources, we can complete these projects within the timeframe. We are dividing the available resources among the various states on the basis of a formula. Despite making all these efforts, we will take special care of Shri Achariaji.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There should be no partiality. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to ask a question. I would permit him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he knows our weakness. He is smiling all the time. There is one doubling project in my constituency for which I had the great honour of laying the foundation-stone in November 1994. This is a 67-kilometre project. Only half of the work has been done in nine years. Mr. Minister, I have written to you about this but you have not even bothered

to reply to me. Before a decade expires for a 67-kilometre project, it must be completed. ...(*Interruptions*) It is from Khana Junction to Sainthia Junction. It is a very important project. Lakhs and lakhs of commuters are there. They are facing tremendous problems. I am not as valuable as Shri Basu Deb Acharia. He will only say 'yes' to Shri Acharia. That will not do. Sir, he has to commit before you today. He must complete it by the year 2004. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, you have to take him into confidence, Do not criticise him if your work is to be done.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he bothers about Shri Acharia only and nobody else. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, I am saying that before ten years expire, it must be completed. Mr. Minister, you have to give an undertaking about the Khana-Sainthia Junction. ...(*Interruptions*) There is no rivalry.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I bothered about Somnath Babu alone with Achariaji.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, are you satisfied with this reply? hardly had I put any supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: I will make a special request to Shri Nitish Kumar to look after Shri Somnath Chatterjee all the time.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Thank you, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Did the hon. Minister hear it?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Yes.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 80 km. long Arah-Sasaram railway line was approved in 1997. However, in this year's budget, hon'ble Railway Minister has proposed to lay the rail line upto Nokha division under Arah-Sasaram railway line project. It has been stated here that this railway line is proposed to be completed in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. There is a mention about new Arah-Sasaram railway line in the Budget. But it also states that the line would be laid upto Nokha division only. I would like to know whether the target fixed by the hon'ble Minister would be achieved by 2004. The construction work regarding the project approved in 1997 have been done upto to 20 kms only. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is about to be over. Please ask the question quickly. Otherwise you will not get the reply.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the hon'ble Minister make efforts to complete the laying work of 80 km. long line railway line by 2004?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the construction work on Sasaram-Nokia railway line would be completed in 2003-04. The work is in progress there.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Losses due to Wastage of Petrol and Diesel

*325. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed annual losses due to wastage of petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by Petroleum Conservation Research Association in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to check the wastage of Petrol and Diesel?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) had sponsored a study in 1996 through the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) on the losses of petroleum products due to idling of vehicles at traffic intersections in Delhi. The study found that 3 lakh litres of petrol and 1 lakh litres of diesel, totally valued at Rs. 82 lakhs, were being lost per day due to vehicle idling at signalised intersections in Delhi.

Apart from the wastage caused by congestion and delay on roads, fuel is also wasted due to bad driving habits, poor maintenance of vehicle which results in reduced fuel efficiency etc. This wastage is not quantified.

In order to check the Wastage of Petrol and Diesel, Government have taken several conservation measures through PCRA such as creation of public awareness through press campaigns, distribution of printed literature,

screening of educational films, TV sports, radio jingles, outdoor publicity, annual celebration of the Oil Conservation Fortnight, etc. The PCRA also conducts driver training programmes and workshops to educate drivers of public transport on good driving habits, promote use of fuel efficient engines and demonstrate superior operating and maintenance practices through model depots and garages.

[Translation]

Telephone and Internet Facility in Trains

*326. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to enable the railway travellers to talk to their kith and kins on Telephone, exchange information on the Internet, and view the programmes telecast by Doordarshan and other T.V. channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the above scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the rail routes on which the above scheme is proposed to be started initially?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d): (i) The Government (Ministry of Railways) have issued detailed guidelines to the Zonal Railways for provision of telephone and Internet services at Railway stations through which Railway travellers at stations can communicate with their kith and kin on payment of usual charges. There is, however, no policy, for the present, to provide Doordarshan or other TV Channels at stations.

(ii) Presently, telephone services are available on following Shatabdi Express trains—

S.No.	Train No.	Train Name
1.	2005/2006	New Delhi-Kalka Shatabdi Express
2.	2011/2012	New Delhi-Kalka Shatabdi Express
3.	2013/2014	New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express
4.	2029/2030	New Delhi-Amritsar Swaran Shatabdi Express

There is, however, no scheme to provide Doordarshan and other TV Channels in trains.

(iii) Rail Tel Corporation of India Ltd. is also planning to provide as pilot projects, internet kiosks at New Delhi Railway Station and internet service on one of the train during 2003-04. The train and route are under finalisation.

Quality Food to Train Passengers at Reasonable Rates

*328. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation has been set up to provide quality food through departmental and private contractors to the train passengers at Reasonable rates;

(b) if so, whether the quality of food items supplied has been deteriorating;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have not effected any increase in the sale price of food items for the last three-four years;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the better catering services will be provided to the passengers?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f): The sale prices of food items are fixed uniformly for departmental and private licensee. During the last 4 years there has been an increase of sale price of standard meals in June 1999 and an increase of price of tea/coffee in September 2000. However, the tariff of a-la-carte items are fixed on the zonal railways and are reviewed from time to time.

[English]

Austerity Measures

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

(a) whether PSUs under his Ministry have followed the government directions to observe austerity to cut 10% non-plan, non-salary expenditure;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the result achieved during 2002-2003, PSU-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Public Sector

Undertakings (PSUs) under the control of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG) have taken steps to implement economy instructions issued by the Government from time to time with regard to non-plan expenditure. Details of budget and expenditure for 2001-2002 is given below.

For Financial Year 2001-02

(Rs. in crore)

Name of PSU	Budget Allocation for Non-Plan/Non-Salary Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)	3178.27	2891.96
Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)	1998.39	1870.99
Oil India Limited (OIL)	1010.70	939.57
GAIL (India) Ltd.	60.91	60.78
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., (BPCL)	814.63	764.70
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL)	817.33	569.84
Engineers India Ltd. (EIL)	74.33	63.64

(c) Savings achieved during 2002-03 in non-plan expenditure by the PSUs are not available as the account for the current financial year is yet to close.

Monitoring of Power Reform

*330. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Union Government have any programme to monitor the power reforms work of State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the rating of reforms undertaken, State-wise; and

(c) the action proposed against the States failing to implement time-bound reforms, in spite of incentives?

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

has a two tier system of periodic monitoring of power sector reforms viz. at the level of Central Electricity Authority and at the level of the Ministry.

(b) The State-wise rating score of State Electricity Boards/Utilities done by M/s. Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd. (CRISIL) and M/s. Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency Ltd. (ICRA) is at enclosed Statement.

(c) Electricity is a concurrent subject and distribution is the responsibility of the State Government. The extent of assistance from and the facilitation by the Ministry of Power such as allocation of unallocated power, assistance under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme including incentives, and allocation of new capacity, would largely be related to the extent of reforms a State would be undertaking. The objective is to encourage the States engaged in reforms with a view to making the power sector viable and strengthening the power infrastructure.

Statement**Ratings of States by CRISIL/ICRA**

S.No	States	Score
1.	Bihar	11.20
2.	Arunanchal Pradesh	12.20
3.	Mizoram	13.30
4.	Manipur	16.30
5.	Nagaland	16.60
6.	Assam	18.20
7.	Tripura	18.70
8.	Sikkim	19.10
9.	Meghalaya	24.60
10.	Madhya Pradesh	31.50
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	32.50
12.	Kerala	32.50
13.	Orissa	33.00
14.	West Bengal	35.90
15.	Goa	41.10
16.	Uttar Pradesh	42.10
17.	Punjab	45.00
18.	Tamil Nadu	47.50
19.	Himachal Pradesh	49.40
20.	Gujarat	51.40
21.	Delhi	52.50
22.	Maharashtra	60.00
23.	Haryana	64.00
24.	Rajasthan	64.00
25.	Karnataka	66.00
26.	Andhra Pradesh	71.50

Advertisement Codes for News Channels

*331. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether provisions of the advertising code are required to be complied with by the news channels with regard to advertisements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these provisions are being followed by all news channels;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to ensure compliance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The advertisements of all satellite channels when transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable Television Networks are required to adhere to the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Network (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 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 officials and Members of the Committee.

Show Cause Notices are issued in the first instance to TV Channels telecasting advertisements in violation of provisions of the Advertising Code and in suitable cases TV Channels are directed not to telecast/re-telecast advertisements, which are found to be in violation of the Code. This is a continuous process.

Privatisation of Hydel Power Projects

*332. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to privatize the Hydel Projects in the country;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have identified such projects as proposed by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details of such projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Government of India has no

proposal at present to privatise any of its hydro electric project in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Supply of Contaminated Water in Trains

*333. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules under which the contract of supplying mineral water at the railway stations and in the trains is awarded;

(b) whether the Railway has any monitoring system to test the quality of the mineral water supplied;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints about the supply of contaminated mineral water in trains during the last two years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the findings of the enquiry and the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) As per extant policy "packaged drinking water" which conforms to specifications from Bureau of Indian Standards' (BIS) is supplied to passengers. Railways procure packaged drinking water through open tender in departmental units at competitive rates. Private licensees are permitted to market any brand of packaged drinking water provided the manufactures of the product are certified by BIS and necessary licences have been issued by the BIS.

(b) Inspections are undertaken and samples are taken under quality control checks. The samples are sent for analysis in recognised laboratories. On Railways' there are presently seven laboratories for testing the quality of water which are at Allahabad, Secunderabad, Kharagpur, Mumbai, Gorakhpur, Izatnagar and Vadodara.

(c) to (f) 41 complaints have been received regarding quality of packaged drinking water on Indian Railways in the last two years. Action is taken in instances of samples found unsatisfactory and not conforming to specifications.

Drug Abuse

*334. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the number of drug abusers is increasing in the urban areas of the country day by day;

(b) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the 'Hindu' dated 5th January, 2003 in this regard;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Government have formulated any strategy to check the increase in drug abuse in the country and also sought foreign assistance in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The press report has highlighted the findings of "Drug Abuse Monitoring System", a study undertaken by the Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) (earlier known as United Nations International Drug Control Programme-UNDCP), Regional Office for South Asia to assess the profile of treatment seekers for addiction to alcohol and drugs.

(d) and (e) Recognising drug abuse as psycho-socio medical problem, requiring community based interventions, the Government is implementing the "Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse", wherein registered Non Government Organizations are provided financial support for awareness programmes, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services in varied settings such as community, workplaces, educational institutions, prisons, etc. The quality in services is ensured through the implementation of the minimum standards formulated for different services. To strengthen the service delivery of the programme, the Ministry is also implementing community-based projects in collaboration with the United Nations Office on drugs & Crime and International Labour Organization.

[Translation]

Formulation of Bio-Fuel Policy

*335. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate a comprehensive Bio-Fuel Policy; and

(b) if so, the main objectives of the Bio-Fuel Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Government have taken a policy decision with regard to belonging of ethanol with petrol and have mandated supply of 5% ethanol blended petrol from 1st January, 2003 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Pondicherry. Government have conducted a "Policy Analytical Study on the Utilization of Ethanol Fuel Blends and Other bio fuels in Petrol and Diesel Engines" with the objective of developing measures for the accelerated use of biofuels as a substitute to petroleum based fuels and for reducing environmental pollution caused by the use of petroleum based fuels. Research & Development work with regard to higher than 5% blending of ethanol with petrol, blending of ethanol & biodiesel with diesel, exploring different routes of ethanol production, development of technologies for converting different non-edible oils to biodiesel, etc. is also underway. Interest subsidy for the production of ethanol from routes other than molasses, and for manufacturing kits/modified engines suitable for using higher biofuel blends, is available through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Planning Commission have set up a Committee to study different aspects of the development of biofuels. Ministry of Rural Development have included biofuel plantations on wastelands/degraded lands under their ongoing programmes.

[English]

DTH Services for Foreign News Channels

*336. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to grant permission to foreign media companies to run news

unlinking channels and also provide Direct-To-Home (DTH) services;

(b) if so whether the Government have carefully looked into the credentials of the foreign companies before issuing them DTH licence;

(c) whether the sources of funding of these companies have been checked;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Space T.V. has also applied for DTH services;

(f) if so, whether there is any link or relation between Space TV and Star TV; and

(g) if so, the details and facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Applications have been received from wholly owned foreign companies for India focused 24 hour News channels to be uplinked from India. The extant policy on uplinking of channels from India is at present being re-looked. Necessary consultations have been held with various Ministries and the matter is proposed to be taken up by the Cabinet for consideration.

As per DTH guidelines, applicant company for obtaining DTH license, should be an Indian company registered under Indian Company's Act, 1956. Total foreign equity holding including FDI/NRI/OCB/FII in the applicant company can not exceed 49%. Within the foreign equity, the FDI component can not exceed 20%.

(b) to (d) Licenses for DTH service will be granted only on fulfillment of laid down eligibility criteria and compliance with various terms and conditions prescribed in this regard.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) It has been informed by Space TV Private Limited that STAR TV has evinced interest in participating as equity shareholders in Space TV. For the present equity of Rs. 10.01 crore has been put in by individuals in the employment of Star TV. Further, Space TV has informed that Star TV will support and assist Space TV in the execution and management of the DTH project and has agreed to provide its expertise in the management of Pay TV platforms to Space TV.

Annual Electricity Consumption Rate

*337. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have estimated the annual electricity consumption rate and per capita consumption of power in the country in the forthcoming years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set any target for increasing the rate of annual power generation during tenth Plan after estimating the extent of shortage of supply in comparison to demand of electricity;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the plan of the Government to meet this target?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (e) The Electric Power Surveys conducted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) estimate demand in the country.

According to the CEA, the estimated per capita consumption of electricity in the country during the year 2001-02 on the basis of net generation of electricity works out to 404 KWH.

A capacity addition target of 41,110 MW for the 10th Plan has been set. With the attainment of the 10th Plan capacity addition target, the per capita consumption at the end of the Plan is expected to be 481 Kwh.

For achieving the 10th Plan capacity addition target, an effective two tier monitoring system has been evolved. Central Electricity Authority (CEA) reviews the progress of projects under implementation on a monthly basis. Secretary (Power) conducts a similar review every quarter. Besides, for each project, a nodal officer has been designated in the CEA who monitors the projects under his charge on day to day basis with a view to facilitating resolution of bottlenecks through interactions with the concerned agencies at appropriate levels.

In addition to the benefits from new generating capacity, the power supply position is expected to further improve through:

- An additional capacity of 3000 MW is expected to come from renewable sources of energy. In addition, supply of 1000 MW from Tala

Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan is expected in the 10th Plan.

- Undertaking energy conservation measures for which the Energy Conservation Act has been enacted and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency constituted.
- Reducing technical losses in distribution. The accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) is designed for the attainment of this objective.
- Undertaking Renovation & Modernisation (R&M) of existing power stations which combined with improved Operation and Maintenance practices would lead to higher availability and generation.
- Export of power from surplus to deficit region through the gradual development of a National Grid to optimize utilization of generating capacity on an all India basis.
- Installation of captive generating plants. The new Electricity Bill provides for a liberal framework for construction of captive power plants freely.

Retail Outlets and LPG Agencies by ONGC

*338. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

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

(a) whether ONGC is planning a non-governmental joint venture while setting up petrol pumps and LPG agencies;

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

(c) whether he has asked other oil PSUs to hold their expansion plan keeping in view the new expansion plan of ONGC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which ONGC is likely to be given permission for opening petrol pumps and LPG Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) as plans to have vertical integration and enter into downstream sector for marketing of petroleum products. Accordingly, ONGC would set up petrol pumps and also enter into marketing of bulk LPG.

Government have granted authorization to market transportation fuels and set up Retail Outlets as per the guidelines laid down. ONGC has also taken action for acquisition of the Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. It is considering several alternatives for implementing its plans including setting up of a Joint Venture. However, no final view has been taken.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) ONGC has already been given authorisation to market transportation fuels in May 2002.

Shelling on Borders/LoC

*339. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families adversely affected on account of Pakistan's shelling on the border/LoC during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(b) the details of loss of life and property suffered thereby, State-wise; and

(c) the amount of compensation given to each family and the steps taken for their rehabilitation, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In accordance with the information available, the details of families affected on account of Pakistan's shelling, loss of life and property as well as amount of compensation paid are given as under:—

	Punjab			Rajasthan			Gujarat			Jammu & Kashmir
	2002	2001	2000	2002	2001	2000	2002	2001	2000	
Number of families adversely affected on account of Pakistan's Shelling during each of the last three years, till date state-wise.	265	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	32182 (Year-wise break up is not available)
Loss of life & property suffered	Only 4 houses were slightly damaged in 2002.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Indicated in a table at Note 1 of statement.
Compensation given to each family & steps taken for rehabilitation	Nil No Compensation was claimed or paid as they were provided alternative accommodation and food ration by State Govt.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Indicated at Note 2 of Statement.

Statement**Note 1.**

In Jammu & Kashmir	2000	2001	2002
Civilians killed	7	16	76
buildings damaged	63	31	240
Cattle killed/injured	4	53	369

Note 2.

1. Compensation given to the victims by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir is in the form of an Ex-gratia relief as follows:—
 - (a) Rs. 1 lakh to the next of kin in case of death; (b) Rs. 75,000/-, Rs. 5000/- & Rs. 1,000/- for permanent disability, grievous injury and minor injury respectively.
 - (b) free Kerosene oil @ 10 litres per family per month;
 - (c) cash assistance @ Rs. 400/- per person per month limited to Rs. 1600/- per family per month;
 - (d) free medical aid to all the displaced persons;
2. The relief package provided by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir during 2000-2001 is as follows:—
 - (a) Free Ration @ 9 Kgs. (7 Kgs. Atta and 2 Kgs. Rice in Jmmu Division and 7 Kgs rice and 2 Kgs Atta in Kashmir Division) per person per month,
 - (b) Free Kerosene oil @ 10 litres per family per month,
 - (c) Cash amount @ Rs. 200/- per person per month.
 - (d) Free medical aid to all the displaced persons.
 - (e) Rs. 200/- per family per months for fodder in those areas which have been mined as identified by respective Deputy Commissioners.
 - (f) Free ration at sanctioned scale at the place of residence in case any of the migrants wish to return.
 - (e) cash assistance for fodder @ Rs. 300/- per animal rearing family per month in those areas, which have been mined as identified by respective Deputy Commissioners; and
 - (f) free ration at sanctioned scale at the place of residence in case any of the migrants wish to return.
3. State Government of Jammu & Kashmir is giving revised relief package from 1.6.2002 to displaced families as follows:—
 - (a) free ration @ 11 kgs. per person per month,

LNG Policy

*340. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has considered an integrated LNG policy that seeks to put the imported fuel at par with indigenously produced gas through big tax incentives;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry had sought abolition of 5% customs duty on imported gas and a uniform 4% sales tax on LNG throughout the country; and

(c) if so, the details of the policy that has been approved by the Government?

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

(b) and (c) Various fiscal concessions have been proposed in the Integrated LNG Policy for consideration of the Government. However, no decision has been taken so far.

[Translation]

Expenditure Incurred on Foreign Tours

3270. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) names of countries visited by Managing Directors of various Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry each of the last three years and number of days of their stay abroad;

(b) the total foreign currency in cash and through traveller's cheques paid to them by Public Sector Undertakings;

(c) the details of uncashed traveller's cheques;

(d) the reasons for public money saved by the said Managing Directors and the reasons for not recovering the same;

(e) the reasons for the misuse of the said amount; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for recovery of funds saved?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE

PATIL): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Officials of Prasar Bharati on Foreign Tours

3271. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the employees and officers of Akashwani and Doordarshan sent on foreign tours during the last three years;

(b) the names of such officials, their credentials, posts, countries visited and expenditure incurred on these tours along with the details with regard to the names of the event and dates of tours till date; and

(c) the justification for these foreign tours and the achievement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Details of the number of officers of Prasar Bharati sent on foreign deputation and expenditure incurred on these tours during last 3 years are given below:—

Year	AIR		Doordarshan	
	Number of officers	Expenditure (Rupees in lakhs)	Number of officers	Expenditure (Rupees in lakhs)
1999-00	37	10.03	118	46.55
2000-01	39	19.01	80	63.31
2001-02	31	24.26	112	133.78

The officials sent on foreign deputation are of different categories/cadres of different levels as per the requirement of event. All the officers deputed on foreign deputation are sent in connection with official work or as official delegation on behalf of the organization.

[Translation]

Setting up of National War Memorial

3272. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a 'National War Memorial' in Delhi;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) It is proposed to set up a 'National War Memorial' preferably along the Central Vista in New Delhi to commemorate those who have laid down their lives for the country. The matter is being pursued with Ministry of Urban Development for allotment of a suitable plot of land for this purpose.

*[English]***Recommendations of Task Force on CAS**

3273. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the Government have recently decided that July 14, 2003 deadline for implementing the conditional access system for Cable Television will not be extended;

(b) if so, whether Government have received the report of the task force headed by Shri Rakesh Mohan; and

(c) if so, the recommendations made by the task force and the final decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) There is no proposal to extend the deadline for the implementation of the Conditional Access System in the four metros, namely Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Instances of Drunkenness

3274. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether a few instances of drunkenness while on duty among the operating staff like Station Master, Cabinmen and staff manning the services and posted in vital installation have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) whether a Cabinman on duty at Amethi was found drunk and diverted an Express Train on the wrong track;

(c) whether the Government have launched a massive breathalyser test for all operating staff to prevent such mishaps; and

(d) if, so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) yes, Sir. Some instances of drunkenness on duty, amount the station staff have been detected recently.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Drivers are subjected to breathalyser tests whenever they go on duty and sign off. However, periodical safety drives and surprise inspections are conducted to detect and curb occasional cases of drinking on duty by operating staff. Such staff are withdrawn from duty and appropriate disciplinary action is initiated.

Training to Railway Employees

3275. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 554 dated November 21, 2002 regarding 'Training Courses to employees' and state:

(a) whether the information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the said information is likely to be collected?

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

(b) It is observed that the figures have been taken from the CAG Report No. 9A of 2002 (Railways) and it refers to the training of Signal & Telecommunication staff of Indian Railways.

Initial and Promotional courses in S&T Department are 'need based' depending upon level of recruitment every year and also number of departmental selections conducted against departmental quota of vacancies. Specialized courses are conducted as and when required for enhancing skill whenever new assets are acquired or new technology is adopted. As far as refresher courses are concerned, non-safety category staff are required to undergo refresher course once in 5 years, and safety category staff once in 3 years. It will, therefore, not be necessary that all the employees need to be trained in a given period of time.

There is a system of regular meeting with the Principals of training centres, where amongst other issues,

ensuring capacity utilization to the fullest are also discussed. Instructions have also been issued to wipe out backlog if any. There has been marked improvement and a total number of 9944 staff have been trained in the Signal & Telecommunication training centres spread over all Zonal Railways during the year 2001-2002. In terms of training capacity, the capacity utilization of seats for the period 2001-2002 was 233264 trainee days against the available capacity of 236111 trainee days, which is about 98.79%. Defferent types of training courses are organized in Zonal Railways for different categories of staff to enhance competency and skill in their respective spheres and also to make them updated with current technological advances and management techniques as well as continuously refresh them regarding existing system & practices.

(c) Does not arise

(d) Does not arise.

Performance of AIR/DD

3276. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a random check officials of All India Radio and Doordarshan have been found to be unable to perform even mundane acts;

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

(c) the steps taken/likely to be taken to make the public sector organizations compete effectively with other private channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Without diluting its mandate as a public service broadcaster, Prasar Bharati is taking steps to match the competition for this purpose, Prasar Bharati has revised guidelines for sponsorship of programmes/serials on its channels. A creative Advisory Committee, constituted in 2002, which consists of eminent media experts from various fields of art, culture and journalism, regularly reviews creative content of the national channel and of the news. Action has been taken for improving the style of presentation and of promotion of programmes. Effective steps have been taken to improve the quality of transmission. It is Prassar Bharati's endeavour to improve

the quality of its programmes and it is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Child Marriage

3277. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government to check Child Marriage;

(b) whether the Government have succeeded in their efforts made, if any;

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

(d) the number of the cases of Child Marriage noticed in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Partapagarh, Sultanpur and Rai Bareli constituencies during the last three years; and

(e) the number of F.I.Rs. registered in these constituencies to check Child Marriage alongwith names of the persons registering such F.I.Rs.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was amended in 1978 to fix the minimum age for marriage at 21 years for boys and 18 years for girls and offences under the Act were made cognizable.

With the objective of raising the overall status of the girl child and bringing about a positive change in family and community attitudes towards her, the Government is implementing a scheme called "Balika Samridhi Yojana" as a centrally Sponsored Scheme under which funds are released to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations afford execution of the scheme. The Scheme covers up to two girl children born on or after 15th August, 1997 in family living below the poverty line.

Government is also undertaking mass media programmes against child marriages through electronics and print media. During the year 2002, the National Commission for Women had organized an awareness campaign called "Bal Vivah Virodh Abhiya", particularly in Andhra Pradesh and in the Northern States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, where the evil of child marriage is most pronounced.

(d) and (e) The Central Government is not maintaining District-wise information on Child marriage as the

administration of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, as per the latest available statistics in 'Crime in India-1999 and 2000' published by the National Crime Records Bureau of the Ministry of Home affairs, the number of cases registered in Uttar Pradesh during the years 1998 to 2000 is given below:

1998	—	0 (zero)
1999	—	1 (one)
2000	—	0 (zero)

Revamping of Production Units

3278. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Production Units of Jabalpur are proposed to be revamped;

(b) if so, whether any work order is being planned to be given to the said units;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts made to make these units competitive with the private units?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. As a part of the modernisation programme, the ordnance factories located at Jabalpur, are being modernised.

(b) There are four ordnance factories at Jabalpur, out of which the Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur, Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur and Ordnance Factory, Khamaria have adequate workload to fully utilize their installed capacities. The Grey Iron Foundry, Jabalpur (GIF), however, does not have adequate workload to fully utilize the installed capacity, since, production of castings for various components of the engine for 'B' vehicle has been discontinued. Steps have been taken to improve the work order position of GIF.

(c) In accordance with the recommendations of the committee constituted to suggest an appropriate product-mix for GIF to increase the workload, GIF management has decided to diversify its product range to ammunition packages, bomb body castings, hand grenade castings and other castings required for ammunition items.

(d) Apart from modernisation of the manufacturing facilities, efforts have been made to diversify the product range, develop new products and broaden the customer base with a view to fully utilise the installed capacity and bring down the cost of production.

[English]

Supply of Poor Quality of Food on Stations around Nagpur

3279. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has received complaints of supplying poor quality of food on the stations of South Eastern Railway and Central Railway Station around Nagpur;

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

(c) whether the Railways would take cognizance of this and improve the food quality at railway stations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The number of complaints, as compared to the magnitude of traffic handled, are negligible.

About 29 complaints were received during 2002. Accordingly, action on departmental staff and licencees have been taken.

Railways have taken several steps to improve quality of food which include use of casseroles, bain-maries, automatic vending machines, disposable paper cups and opening of food plazas etc.

Supply of Petroleum Products In Nagpur City by Pipelines

3280. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to lay down a network of pipeline for the supply of petroleum products in Nagpur City;

(b) if so, the source of supply of petroleum products to Nagpur through this pipeline;

(c) whether all the formalities connected with the laying down of this pipeline have been completed; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work on this pipeline is to be taken up and the schedule for its completion and the financial implications involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Petronet Central India Limited has planned to lay a cross country pipeline for transportation of petroleum products, a section which is planned to terminate at Nagpur.

(b) The petroleum products to Nagpur through this pipeline are planned to be supplied from the existing Reliance Industries Limited's refinery at Jamnagar, Indian Oil Corporation's refinery at Koyali and the partly implemented refinery project of Essar Oil at Vadinar.

(c) and (d) Detailed route and cadastral survey, proceedings under the Petroleum & Minerals Pipelines Act for Right of User acquisition etc. are in progress. Two major promoters Indian Oil Corporation and Reliance Industries Limited have expressed unwillingness to participate in the project. Accordingly alternative implementation methodology is under consideration of Petronet India Limited.

[Translation]

Projects for Approval in Rajasthan

3281. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan have sent certain projects for approval of his Ministry.

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

(c) the time by which those projects are likely to be considered and cleared by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Survey of Kurla-Mahul Rail Line

3282. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of survey work for Kurla-Mahul railway line;

(b) the funds allocated therefor along with the expenditure incurred thereon, so far, year-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The field survey has been completed.

(b) The survey has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 1,00,000/-. An expenditure of Rs. 70,987/- has so far been incurred during 2002-2003.

(c) The survey report is likely to be drawn by 30.04.03.

Bankura-Damodar River Project

3283. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far towards completion of Bankura-Damodar River Project, phase-wise;

(b) whether the said project is running behind its scheduled time;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of this project;

(e) whether the old employees in various stations of B.D.R.P. are likely to get the employment in B.D.R.P.; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) 83% of land acquisition, 53% of earthwork, 29% work on major bridges and 47% work on minor bridges have been completed so far.

(b) No, Sir. No target has been fixed for completion of the project.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The project is being progressed as per the availability of resources.

(e) and (f) All staff of erstwhile Bankura Damodar River (BDR) Railway have since been redeployed as per their suitability in different departments/units. No surplus staff is available in BDR cadre as on date.

Exclusion of Tribes Living in Kasaragod

3284. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have excluded some tribes living in Kasaragod in the border district of Kerala State from the list of STs whereas the same tribes living in the other border side of Karnataka State are enjoying the status of Scheduled Tribes due to passing of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Orders (Amendment) Bill 2002 by the Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representation has been received to solve these discrepancies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The subject matter of specification of Scheduled Tribes pertains to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which has since apprised that the Marati community which had been notified as Scheduled Tribe in relation to Hosdrug and Kasaragod taluks of Cannanore district of Kerala has been deleted vide the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002 because the Government of Kerala, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had recommended its exclusion whereas there was no such recommendation from the Government of Karnataka for deletion of Marati community which is notified as Scheduled Tribe in relation to South Kanara district of that State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representation has been processed as per modalities approved for deciding such claims.

Welfare Scheme in Maharashtra

3285. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NGOs have been involved in the implementation of various welfare schemes/programmes in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the financial assistance given to the State during the last two years;

(c) whether Government have assessed the work of NGOs in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 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, Nodal Agencies, Ministry's own Officials. In order to further improve this process, formats for reporting of work done by the NGOs themselves and the proforma for inspection have been revised to get improved quality of data, which shall enable assessment of effectiveness of the work done by the NGO and reduce the chances of defalcation of funds. Other measures being adopted are *inter alia* improving publicity of release made so that the work of NGOs comes under public scrutiny, resulting in improved accountability, increase in frequency of inspections for effective monitoring etc.

Statement

Scheme-wise No. of NGOs & amount released in Maharashtra during the last two years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	2000-01		2001-02	
		No. of NGOs	Amount Released	No. of NGOs	Amount released
1	2	3	4	5	6
Plan					
1.	Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities	18	197.99	27	209.39

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme)	9	159.98	5	144.33
3.	Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse	50	293.35	48	349.52
4.	General grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence	0	0	1	4.49
5.	Integrated Programme for Street Children	16	106.62	18	69.40
6.	Integrated Programme for Older Person	10	24.21	19	33.43
7.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisation for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs)	15	88.64	35	145.15
8.	Coaching & Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities	3	7.44	1	3.08
9.	Assistance to Voluntary Organisation working for the Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)	11	20.77	39	75.45
10.	Pre-examination Coaching for Other Backward Classes (OBCs)	0	0	3	4.60
11.	Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria	7	25.70	16	40.78

Dividend by Oil Companies

3286. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have divested oil companies to pay dividend to meet revenue shortfall;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether oil companies have enough funds, after payment of interim dividend to meet emergent situations, especially oil imports; and

(d) if not, the manner in which it is proposed to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In view of the expected higher accrual of profits during financial year 2002-03, the oil PSUs under the control of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas had decided to pay interim dividend in consultation with the Ministry.

(c) and (d) Since the interim dividend has been paid out of higher profits earned by the Oil PSUs during 2002-03, it is not likely to affect their normal schedule of activities.

Subsidy for Setting up of Durgadwani Mini Hydel Project

3287. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to provide subsidy for setting up of Durgadwani mini hydel project in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the progress made so far, for the setting up of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M.

KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) The Government have provided financial support for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a 3 MW capacity tidal power project at Durgadwani Creek in Sundarban, West Bengal. The DPR has been prepared and thereafter, reviewed by a Committee of Experts. The proposal is under process for getting necessary clearances and approvals at different levels. The provision of subsidy/grant for this project will be examined after necessary approvals are obtained.

[*Translation*]

Shatabdi and Jan Shatabdi Express Trains

3288. SHRI SURESH PASI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Shatabdi and Jan Shatabdi Express trains running on various routes in the country;

(b) whether there has been increase in the revenue earning of the Government from operation of these trains; and

(c) if so, the break-up of profit being earned and loss being suffered by the Government from the operation of each of the Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Jan Shatabdi Express trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) There are 16 pairs each of Shatabdi Express and Jan Shatabdi Express trains running on the Railways.

(b) and (c) Train-wise profitability is not maintained by the Indian Railways.

[*English*]

Decision to Amend the Recruitment Rules to Ensure the Reserved Posts for SC/STs

3289. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka State has decided to amend the cadre and recruitment rules to ensure that the posts which are reserved for SC/ST communities, were not offered to other categories if the selected candidates from these categories did not join;

(b) if so, the time by which the State Government is likely to introduce the legislation;

(c) the total number of posts which are lying vacant for SC/ST category; and

(d) the extent to which this will help in improving the position of recruitment of SC/ST?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per the policy of reservation in Direct Recruitment to the State Civil Services, the vacancies earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for direct recruitment shall not be dereserved and filled by others in case the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not available for recruitment, such vacancies shall remain vacant until candidates of the category are available. If the candidates, including reserved categories, selected for any post fail to report for duty, then such vacancies shall be treated as fresh vacancies for the next recruitment. As such, there is no need to amend the Cadre and Recruitment Rules. However, the State Government has framed the Karnataka State Civil Services (Unfilled) Vacancies reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes) Special recruitment) Rules, 2001, which have come into force on 22nd November 2001, to clear the Backlog in direct recruitment in the State Civil Services posts, to ensure that adequate reservation to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is provided.

(c) Approximately 16750 vacancies to be filled up by SC/STs have been identified till the end of February 2003 by the State Government of Karnataka.

(d) All the 16750 backlog vacancies identified, when filled up will help approximately equal number of SCs and STs to find employment. Rules also give preference to candidates between the age of 29 to 40 years.

HPT Facilities for Kokrajhar

3290. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3732 dated August 8, 2002 and to state:

(a) whether the Government have since approved the proposal to upgrade the existing LPT Doordarshan Kendra, Kokrajhar to HPT Kendra with the provision of production and other facilities;

(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 scheme for upgradation of the existing LPT at Kokrajhar to an HPT is included in the Special Package for North East Region, which is awaiting approval. At present there is no proposal to set up Production facilities at Kokrajhar.

Upgradation of SC, ST and OBC Students

3291. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any centrally sponsored scheme for the upgradation of merit of SC, ST and OBC students;

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

(c) the number of students from these categories covered under the above scheme in the Bihar and other States as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Central Sector Scheme of Upgradation of merit for SC/ST Students only provides 100% Central Assistance to States/UTs for arranging remedial and special coaching for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Students studying in class IX to XII. Special coaching is also provided to prepare students for competitive examinations for entry into professional courses like Engineering & Medical. A package grant of Rs. 15,000/-per annum per student is given under the scheme. The break-up of this amount is as under:

(i) Board & loading charges Rs. 500/- per month for 10 months = 5,000/-

(ii) Pocket money @ Rs. 100/- for 10 months = 1000/-

(iii) Books and Stationary = 2,000/-

(iv) Rs. 7,000/- per year per student for honorarium to principal, Experts and other incidental charges. Besides the above, students with disabilities are eligible to the following additional grants:

(a) Reader allowance of Rs. 100/- per month for blind.

(b) Transport allowance of Rs. 50/- per month if the disabled student does not reside in hostel within the premises of the Educational Institutions.

(c) A special allowance of Rs. 100/- per month to any employee of the hostel extending help to severely orthopaedically handicapped student, residing in a hoster managed by the educational or by the State Government/ Union Territory Admn. who may need the assistance of a helper.

(d) Escort allowance of Rs. 50/- per month for severely handicapped day scholar students with lower extremity disability.

(e) Allowance of Rs. 100/- per month towards extra coaching to mentally retarded and mentally ill students.

(c) The number of SC/ST students covered under the bode Scheme during the years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 upto 13.3.03 including Bihar are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

(Number of SC & ST Students covered under the Scheme of Upgradation of Merit during the years 2000-01 to 2002-2003 upto 13.3.03)

S.No.	Name of State	2000-2001		2001-02		2002-03 (upto 13.3.03)	
		SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	277	Nil	203	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	45
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	59	92	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Chhattisgarh	28	Nil	112	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Goa	10	Nil	10	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Haryana	64	Nil	64	Nil	64	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	14
10.	Jharkhand	35	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	188	Nil
12.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	20	5	20	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	112	Nil	Nil	Nil	490	172
14.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil	68	122	136
16.	Pondicherry	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	86	47	Nil	50
19.	Sikkim	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	10	5
20.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Tripura	8	Nil	8	16	Nil	Nil
22.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	276	Nil	275	Nil
23.	Uttaranchal	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
24.	West Bengal	62	Nil	Nil	30	248	72
Total		345	Nil	711	226	1712	494

Joint Venture for Manufacturing Artillery Gun

3292. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for a Joint Venture between South African Public Sector Company and the Indian Defence Production factories for artillery gun and related systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to set up such joint venture with other companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. A South African public sector company had proposed a Joint Venture for cooperative efforts between South African and Indian Government Defence Production factories for artillery guns and related systems.

(b) No detailed proposal has been received from the South African Company.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

GAIL's HBJ Pipeline Project

3293. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:
DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:

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

(a) whether GAIL has awarded contract recently for HBJ upgradation project (42" LSAW line pipe);

(b) if so, the details of firms participated in the tender; and

(c) the reasons for rejecting tenders of those firms which have quoted lowest tender bid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. GAIL has received 3 tenders from Indian bidders and 9 tenders from foreign bidders. Out of 9 foreign bidders, 7 did not meet technical/commercial qualification criteria. Remaining 2 foreign bidders qualified techno-commercially along with 3 Indian bidders. However, evaluated rates of both the foreign bidders were not competitive as compared to rates offered by the Indian parties.

Persons Killed during Rally in Lucknow

3294. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1750 dated November 28, 2002 regarding 'persons killed during rally in Lucknow' and state:

(a) whether the information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d)

The enquiry report is still under examination. Thereafter, the information will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Computerised Reservation

3295. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to open computerised reservation centre at Dahanu Road Station in Western Railway;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has received a representation from Shri Chintaman Wanaga, Hon'ble MP requesting for opening of computerised reservation centre at Dahanu Road Station on Western Railway.

(c) The proposal is under examination/consideration of this Ministry.

Composite Regional Centres for Disabled Persons

3296. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set-up Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) for persons with disabilities in the country;

(b) if so, the places where these centres have been set-up;

(c) the functions of these centres; and

(d) the total financial outlay and the amount sanctioned and spent thereon during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Five Composite Regional Centres for Persons with Disabilities (CRCs) have been set up at Srinagar, Sundernagar (H.P.), Lucknow, Bhopal and Guwahati to provide facilities for manpower development and ensuring availability of rehabilitation services for all categories of disabilities.

(d) Funds have been sanctioned for setting up the Composite Regional Centres from the generic Scheme for Implementation of PWD Act. During the last three year, an amount of Rs. 829.49 lakhs has been released for this purpose.

Power Grid

3297. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since been collected the information pertaining to Power Grid at Sherghati and Tikari in Parliamentary Constituency Gaya as replied in Winter Session 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) A comprehensive scheme for strengthening the Sub-transmission system in Bihar is to be executed by the POWERGRID (PGCIL) through a special grant of Rs. 365 crores from the Planning Commission. BSEB have sent a proposal for some more schemes including Bodhagaya-Sherghati 132 KV D/c (S/c strung) & 132/33 KV sub-station at Sherghati to Government of Bihar. The same would be considered by the Planning Commission on receipt of recommendation from Government of Bihar.

[*Translation*]

Rail Concession to Doctors

3298. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have recently announced some concessions for doctors in fares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(d) the criteria and rules on the basis of which concessional passes to different categories of social, labour-related, spiritual talented persons and institutions are issued by the Railways;

(e) the details of the number of such new passes issued from January 1, 2000 till date;

(f) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the misuse of such passes by the pass holders

or received any complaints regarding the misuse for personal work or in any other manner; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the misuses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) 10% concession in Mail/Express basic fares of all classes and fares of Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi group of trains has been granted to Doctors with minimum qualification of M.B.B.S. with effect from 1.3.2003. This concession is granted directly from the stations/reservation offices on production of the requisite undertaking.

(d) There is no concept of "Concessional Passes" on Indian Railways.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Paradeep Oil Refinery

3299. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) the time by which Paradeep Oil Refinery has been scheduled to be completed and the initial and latest estimate;

(b) the details of funding agencies and sponsoring company or institutions;

(c) whether the Government or the sponsoring company are thinking to close down the work;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) if not, the current status and the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(f) whether any change in the original plan and programme has been considered; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Paradip Refinery was approved in July, 1998 with a completion schedule of 48 months from the date of issuance of Government approval of the project. At present, the schedule of completion of the project is being reviewed by the Board of Directors of Indian Oil Corporation.

(b) The Board of IOC have approved implementation of the project through a subsidiary of IOC.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) Present status of the Paradip refinery project is as under:-

1. Basic design of process units of the refinery has been completed.
2. Acquisition of 3347 acre land completed.
3. Pre-project works like dredging & reclamation, building bridges across Santra Creek and approach road from National Highway-5A completed.
4. Infrastructure works like railway over-bridge, boundary wall, roads & drainage, buildings like site office, canteen and gate complex are in progress.

(f) and (g) The Government had approved implementation of the project by IOC in joint venture with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). In view of continuing uncertainties in respect of participation of KPC, the Board of IOC in January, 2000 approved implementation of the project through a subsidiary of IOC.

**Construction Activity near Lohagaon (Pune)
Aerodrome**

3300. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested to reduce the 900 metres distance restriction from the Lohagaon Pune Aerodrome for construction activity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the present restriction is affecting population of about 3 to 4 lakhs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to settle the issue urgently?

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

(b) The Government of Maharashtra requested for reconsideration of prohibitory orders on construction activities within a periphery of 900 metres around Air Force Station, Pune.

(c) As per the views of the Government of Maharashtra a population of nearly 4 lakhs will be affected.

(b) An exercise is being carried out to review the notification imposing restrictions.

NOC for Installation of Petrol Pumps

3301. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the District Magistrates of the different districts specially in Haryana and Punjab are unnecessarily delaying to issue the NOC for the installation of petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the time prescribed in the Petroleum Act for the issue of NOC of Oil Companies after the submission of application for the same;

(c) whether there is some provision to issue the NOC by any other authority of Union Government in case the District Magistrates do not issue the NOC even after the lapse of 6 months or one year due to some other reasons;

(d) if not, the remedy with the applicant or they are left on the mercy of District Magistrates;

(e) whether the necessity of obtaining NOC from District Magistrates would be stopped as is done in case of construction of LPG Godowns; and

(f) if not, the reasons for this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) Generally the 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) for the installation of retail outlets (petrol pumps) is given by the District Magistrate after obtaining NOCs from various authorities like the Police, the Fire Service, the Public Works Department, etc.

As per Rule 144(5) of the Petroleum Rules, 2002, the District Authority shall complete its inquiry for issuing the NOC under sub-rule (1) and shall complete the action for issue or refusal of the NOC, as the case may be, as expeditiously as possible, but not later than three months from the date of receipt of the application by him. As per Rule 149, a District Authority refusing to grant an NOC under Rule 144 shall record in writing the reasons for such refusal, and shall furnish the applicant a copy of

such order after the applicant has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

As per Rule 154(2), an appeal against any order of the District Authority refusing to grant or cancelling an NOC shall lie to the Authority which is immediately superior to the said District Authority.

As per practice, an NOC is obtained from the District Authority for applying for the issue of the Explosive Licence for the construction of the LPG godown.

Link with ISI

3302. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some former and at present working army officers have connections with I.S.I. agents;

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

(c) the number of such cases registered by the Government during the last three years alongwith the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the details of the arrangements made by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Cases of former and serving Army personnel having connections with ISI agents have come to the notice of the Government. As per the available reports, cases against seventeen former Army personnel and forty six serving Army personnel have been registered during the last three years. The cases in respect of former Army personnel are being investigated by the State Police Authorities concerned. Among the serving Army personnel, services of six army personnel have been terminated, disciplinary proceedings have been completed against three individuals, one individual is absconding and cases in respect of four individuals are being investigated by the State Police Authorities. Disciplinary proceedings/General Court Martial/investigations are in progress in respect of the remaining thirty two serving Army personnel.

Necessary counter intelligence measures exist to curb such incidents. However, the security agencies concerned have been sensitized. Also necessary instructions are reiterated from time to time to all concerned to neutralize such attempts.

Amount Incurred on Advertisements

3303. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of expenditure incurred by the Government on publicity advertisements in newspapers on the opening of new bridges, roads, railway lines, foundation laying ceremonies and other projects during the last three years, Ministry-wise and Department-wise;

(b) whether the Government have set some financial limit on such publicity advertisements; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with Ministries/Departments who have crossed the Financial restrictions?

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.

[*Translation*]

Atrocities on Dalits in Meerut

3304. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers of National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission have investigated the matter relating to incident of reported atrocities on dalits on December 8, 2002 under Medical College Police Station of Meerut in U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether investigation has been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken so far or proposed to be taken on the report of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A fact finding team consisting of a Member of the Commission, D.I.G.(P) and an Investigator visited Meerut on 24.01.2003 for conducting an enquiry into the reported incident of atrocity on Dalits on 08.12.2002.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) On the basis of the report of the fact finding team, the Commission has since taken up the matter with the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

**Humiliating Conditions of Family of
Dadasaheb Phalke**

3305. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the distress and humiliating living conditions of the family of Dadasaheb Phalke;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any effort to know about the predicaments of the family;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to rescue the family from its sufferings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Shri Dada Saheb Phalke is considered the pioneer of Indian Cinema. The Dada Saheb Phalke Award has been instituted to commemorate his pioneering work in Indian Cinema. The circumstances of the family, as reported in the newspapers recently, have come to the notice of the Government. The National Film Development Corporation's (NFDC) assistance scheme is limited to living artists facing financial problems. NFDC has requested the Film Industry Associations/Trade Bodies in the Film Industry to extend all possible help to the family.

**Compilation of Survey of Newspapers
and T.V. Channels**

3306. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Readership Survey Council (NRSC), Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) and Advertising Agency of Associations of India (AAAI) have compiled any figures about the circulation/readership of various newspapers and the viewership of different television channels; and

(b) if so, the latest figures in this regard?

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

**Multi Modal Metro Transport System
in Hyderabad**

3307. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work on multi-modal Metro Transport System in Hyderabad is progressing very slowly;

(b) if so, whether at some of the stations very little work has been done;

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the train will start running on this system?

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

(b) and (c) At two stations viz. "Lakdi Ka Pool" where work has just started due to delayed acquisition of land by the State Govt., and at 'Necklace Road', work is delayed because of a Court case.

(d) All infrastructure works, except the two stations mentioned above, are likely to be completed by 31.03.2003. However, since this work is being executed on cost-sharing basis with the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, target date for introduction of trains can be decided only in consultation with the State Govt.

VRS In HEC

3308. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

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

(a) the name of the employees who has opted for VRS and their cases not being considered due to diversion or non-release of funds by the Management of Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited (HEC) Ranchi, Jharkhand;

(b) the details of reasons for delayed payments relating to C.P.F. and the total number of such employees and outstanding amount, separately;

(c) the steps being taken/likely to be taken by the Government to make outstanding retirement benefits to the employees who have yet to get the payments; and

(d) the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) There has been no case where the option for VRS has not been considered by the Management of HEC due to diversion or non-release of funds.

(b) There is no delayed payment of CPF dues to separated employees.

(c) and (d) Government have provided support for payment of retirement benefits to employees separated under VRS. For others retired on superannuation, the company has been making payment of retirement dues from internal resources, in a phased manner, depending upon availability of funds.

Appointment of Full Time Chairman

3309. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of public sector enterprises which are without a full time Chairman or Managing Directors and are being run by *ad hoc* or temporary Chairman or Managing Directors;

(b) the period from which these Public Sector Undertakings are headless;

(c) the reasons for delay in completing the process and appointing full time heads of these PSUs; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to fill these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. However, the names of the Public Sector Enterprises where the posts of Chief Executive (Chairman/Chairman-cum-Managing Director/Managing Director) are lying vacant as on 31.1.2003 along with the dates of vacancy are given in the enclosed statement. The reasons for delay in completing the process of appointment include time taken for selection and obtaining of clearance, occurrence of unforeseen vacancies, proposals for winding up of sick and unviable companies.

Statement

Details of PSUs where the posts of CMDs/MDs are lying vacant as on 31.1.2003

Sl. No.	Name of the PSU	Date of vacancy
1	2	3
1.	Chairman, Airports Authority of India	01.02.2002
2.	MD, Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	14.04.2001
3.	MD, Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd*.	01.08.2000
4.	CMD, Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.	12.11.2002
5.	MD, Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	01.10.2001
6.	CMD Educational Consultants (I) Ltd.	08.08.2001
7.	CMD, ET&T Ltd*.	17.04.2000
8.	CMD, Fertilizers Corporation of India Ltd*.	09.02.2002
9.	CMD, Hindustan Cables Ltd.	23.12.2002
10.	MD, Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd.	20.08.2002
11.	CMD, Hindustan organic Chemicals Ltd.	20.05.2002

1	2	3
12.	CMD, Housing & Urban Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	05.06.2002
13.	CMD, India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd.	01.10.1997
14.	MD, Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	02.02.2000
15.	MD, Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.	29.09.1997
16.	CMD, ITI Ltd.	01.10.2002
17.	MD, Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	05.05.2000
18.	CMD, Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants (I) Ltd.	01.02.2002
19.	CMD, National Jute Manufacturers Corpn. Ltd.	01.04.1998
20.	CMD, National Instruments Ltd*.	20.03.2002
21.	MD, NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Orissa) Ltd.	21.08.2002
22.	CMD, NEPA Ltd.	01.12.2001
23.	MCD, North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corpn. Ltd.	01.03.2002
24.	MD, Rail Tel Corporation of India Ltd.	18.04.2002
25.	CMD, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	01.08.2002
26.	MD, State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.	20.09.2001
27.	MD, Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd*.	22.05.2000
28.	CMD, Instrumentation Ltd.	12.9.2002
29.	MD, Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd*.	
30.	CMD, Tannery and Footwear Corporation Ltd*.	
31.	CMD, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd*.	
32.	CMD, National Bicycle Corporation Ltd*.	
33.	CMD, Cycle Corporation of India Ltd*.	
34.	MD, RBL Ltd*.	
35.	CMD, Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Ltd*.	
36.	MD, Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Ltd*.	
37.	CMD, National Industrial Development Corpn. Ltd*.	

*Appointment of CMD/MD kept in abeyance pending closure/winding up.

[Translation]

Demand for Starting Navjivan Express

3310. SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public and the Members of Parliament have demanded to start the Navjivan Express from Hapa-Jamnagar-Okha instead of Ahmedabad;

(b) whether he and the DRM, Rajkot have received a letter dated February 21, 2003 from the Members of

Gujarat and a letter dated February 14, 2003 from the passenger;

(c) whether demand to run the train on Hapa-Jamnagar-Chennai route instead of Ahmedabad-Chennai route has been made;

(d) if so, the details of the demands and letters; and

(e) the action taken thereon and the time by which the train is likely to be run from Hapa-Jamnagar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) Some representations, including from Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiria, Minister of State for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Shri Bahadur, Topan Madhanji Kagdi, Jamnagar, have been received for extension of 6045/6046 Chennai-Ahmedabad Navjeevan Express to Hapa/Jamnagar/Okha.

(e) The proposal was examined but has not been found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

Electrification of Villages

3311. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for electrification of villages in Saharia Project by Solar Energy;

(b) if so, status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing a programme for the electrification of villages in the remote and difficult areas of the country. Under this programme, renewable energy system like solar photovoltaic systems, small hydro units and biomass gasifiers are installed in unelectrified villages to provide lighting and other services. The programme for electrification of villages in Rajasthan is being implemented through the state renewable energy development agency i.e. the Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation (RREC), Jaipur. The Ministry has not received any proposal from RREC for electrification of villages by solar energy in the Saharia Project.

Grievances of Sainik School Staff

3312. DR. BEATRIX D'SOUZA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 18 Sainik Schools of the country coming under the control of his Ministry;

(b) if so, whether any grievance redressal machinery for the Sainik School employees are available;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Sainik School non-teaching staff are getting salary on par with their counterpart in other Central Government Establishments as per the commitment given by the Sainik School Society before the Hon'ble Supreme Court during 1998;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons and the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. There are 18 Sainik Schools in the country managed by the Sainik Schools Society which functions under the supervision of the Ministry of Defence.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sainik Schools Society Rules and Regulations provide for mechanism for redressal of grievances by way of a Local Board of Administration (LBA), whose Chairman is the General Officer Commanding of the Command in which the school is located. Individuals can also forward their grievances to the Board of Governors, Sainik Schools Society.

(d) to (f) The expenditure on Sainik Schools is mainly met through the fees and associated charges paid by the parents of the cadets and the contribution of the Central Government is marginal. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has also observed that Sainik School employees cannot be treated as Central Government employees nor can they be treated at par with the employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

[Translation]

Non-Payment of Salaries in PSUs

3313. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the payment towards salary has not been made to the workers employed in certain CPSUs in some States for the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether they are on the verge of starvation due to the delayed payment; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure timely payment of salary to these workers?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Due to financial crunch some of the central PSUs have not been able to pay salaries and wages to their employees in time. Government are however releasing non-plan assistance/loans to the enterprises on case basis to support payment of salaries and wages. Besides this, efforts are on to find ways and means to clear the outstanding dues.

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Chhattisgarh

3314. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps operating in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the number of those outlets are adequate in proportion to the growing population of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to set up new LPG agencies/retail outlets in the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) At present, 94 LPG distributorships and 246 Retail Outlets of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating in the State of Chhattisgarh. The demand of customers of LPG enrolled with OMCs and other petroleum products in the State of Chhattisgarh is being met, by and large, in full.

(d) Consequent upon the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), OMCs will set up the LPG distributorships and Retail Outlets as per their commercial considerations in all the States.

Reopening of Snowfall and Avalanche Study Institute in Himachal Pradesh

3315. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Snowfall and Avalanche Study Institute (SASI) Headquarter was shifted from Bahang Village, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh to Chandigarh and Ramgarh in Haryana owing to flood;

(b) if so, whether the people representative of Himachal Pradesh had demanded to reopen the Snowfall and Avalanche Study Institute (SASI) Headquarter in Bahang, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh;

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

(d) whether the certain offices of the said institute were temporarily shifted to Chandigarh and Ramgarh in Haryana owing to flood;

(e) if so, the progress made so far in regard to re-opening of said institute in the aforesaid place;

(f) the reasons for not shifting these offices back in Bahang, Himachal Pradesh as on date; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. A segment of Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment Headquarter (SASE) was shifted to Chandigarh/Ramgarh.

(b) Yes, Sir. A representation from the Hon'ble MP was received by the Ministry.

(c) The facts have been explained to Hon'ble MP. All the buildings of SASE, Manali damaged due to flash floods on 4-5 September, 1995 have been rehabilitated and the Establishment is fully functional at the old location at Manali as before.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The SASE is carrying out the activities from Manali as well as from Chandigarh. Manali is taking care of all the operational snow related activities whereas the Research and Development Centre, SASE, Chandigarh is carrying out research on instrumentation, modelling, design of control structures and liaison with academic institutions.

(f) and (g) The officers and staff who are required at Manali have already been positioned at Manali to take care of all the operational activities.

*[English]***Grants to States for Rural Electrification**

3316. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds for village electrification would, henceforth, be available as Additional Central Assistance (A.C.A.) with 90% grant and 10% loan for special category States and 30% grant and 70% loan for others;

(b) The funds released to various State Governments during 2001-2002 and proposed for 2003, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the grant or loan utilised by the State Governments during 2001-2002, State-wise; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) From the year 2001-2002, Rural Electrification has been included

as one of the schemes under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) under which funds flow directly to the States as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) with 90% grant and 10% loan for special category States and 30% grant and 70% loan for other States. Besides, funds for village electrification are also released under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) as 100% loan to those States where village electrification is below 65% at the beginning of the Seventh Plan.

(b) and (c) State-wise details of funds released under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) during 2001-02 and for 2002-2003 are given at enclosed statements-I&II respectively.

According to the Planning Commission, 100% funds under PMGY have been released to seven States namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, Tripura, Mizoram and Tamil Nadu. However, for other States 50% of the allocated funds have been released during 2002-03. Release of the second instalment of Additional Central Assistance for PMGY is conditional upon the State Governments ensuring utilization of at least 60% of the total funds sanctioned earlier.

Statement I*Funds released under PMGY during 2001-02 and 2002-03 for Rural Electrification*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	Released 2001-02	Allocation of funds during 2002-03	Released 2002-03 (50%) as the 1st Instalment
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1705.00	1438.00	1438.00*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	684.00	684.00	684.00*
3.	Assam	6011.00	3000.00	3000.00*
4.	Bihar	2457.90	2417.30	1208.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	851.70	515.00	257.50
6.	Goa	04.50	6.00	3.00
7.	Gujarat	362.80	—	—
8.	Haryana	187.90	142.90	71.42
9.	Himachal Pradesh	100.00	110.00	55.00

1	2	3	4	5
10.	J&K	1922.00	800.00	400.00
11.	Jharkhand	379.60	1116.90	558.45
12.	Karnataka	841.00	1000.00	500.00
13.	Kerala	594.50	—	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1460.62	1275.00	627.50
15.	Maharashtra	1901.08	1664.00	832.00
16.	Manipur	600.00	600.00	300.00
17.	Meghalaya	600.00	600.00	300.00
18.	Mizoram	598.00	598.00	598.00*
19.	Nagaland	452.60	650.00	325.00
20.	Orissa	1703.80	100.00	50.00
21.	Punjab	1488.25	444.00	222.00
22.	Rajashtan	1080.00	1061.00	1061.00*
23.	Sikkim	—	400.00	200.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	1173.60	1608.00	1608.00*
25.	Tripura	850.00	500.00	500.00*
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9417.00	10187.00	5093.50
27.	Uttaranchal	976.75	2000.00	1000.00
28.	West Bengal	2820.00	2774.00	1382.00
Total		41223.60	35424.30	22490.15

*Allocation made under PMGY during 2002-03 has been released.

Statement II

State-wise disbursement under Minimum Needs Programme for Rural Electrification during 2000-02 and 2002-03

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	961	1200
3.	Assam	2652	6000

1	2	3	4
4.	Bihar	948	6800
5.	Jharkhand	2819	6800
6.	Goa	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	—
8.	Haryana	—	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	72	200
10.	J&K	77	—
11.	Karnataka	7	—

1	2	3	4
12.	Kerala	—	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	263	800
14.	Chhattisgarh	286	800
15.	Maharashtra	—	—
16.	Manipur	131	270
17.	Meghalaya	1872	3000
18.	Mizoram	16	—
19.	Nagaland	38	130
20.	Orissa	1133	6000
21.	Punjab	—	—
22.	Rajashtan	507	—
23.	Sikkim	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	—	—
25.	Tripura	14	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3923	15000
27.	Uttaranchal	624	7000
28.	West Bengal	1157	6000
29.	Delhi	—	—
Total		17500	60000

Central Monitoring Services of AIR

3317. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to take the Central Monitoring Services (CMS) out of All India Radio and turn it into an independent Media Unit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether once the CMS becomes an independent Media Unit, CMS would be required to monitor the requirements of intelligence agencies in addition to its earlier tasks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI

SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to delink Central Monitoring Services (CMS) from Prasar Bharati with effect from 1.4.2003. The Central Monitoring Services will now function directly under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

This change has been effected because of the need to monitor foreign radio and TV broadcasts and then make available relevant information to the various Ministries/Departments/Agencies of the Government of India.

Gas Supply in Eastern Parts

3318. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have adopted a plan to arrange supply of gas in Eastern parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In order to meet the demand of natural gas in Eastern parts of the country Government is exploring the possibilities of import of natural gas from Bangladesh. For this purpose, a consortium of three Oil Public Sector Undertakings, namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited has been formed to participate in any venture for import of natural gas from Bangladesh. Further, GAIL has taken an assignment in Block A-1 in Myanmar Offshore alongwith ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) from Daewoo International Corporation, Korea. The Block was awarded by the Myanmar Oil & Gas Enterprises to Daewoo International Corporation, Korea under Production Sharing Contract in October, 2002. Supply of natural gas to Eastern parts of India depends on decision of Government of Bangladesh to sell natural gas to India and gas discovery by GAIL and OVL in Myanmar.

[Translation]

Lalitpur-Singharauli Railway Line

3319. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Lalitpur-Singharauli rail line project;

(b) the estimated cost of this project and the amount allocated for the purpose so far;

(c) the target fixed for completion of said project; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of that project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Final location survey has been completed for 233 km length. Land acquisition has been taken up. Tenders have been processed for earthwork and bridges in part length. Work has been taken up where land has been handed over.

(b) The anticipated cost of the project has been assessed as Rs. 925 crore. An expenditure of Rs. 4. crore has been incurred upto 31.3.2002. An outlay of Rs. 30 crore has been provided for 2002-2003 and Rs. 34 crore has been proposed for 2003-2004.

(c) and (d) No target has been fixed. The project is being progressed as per the availability of resources.

Funds Allocation to various Institutions for Coaching

3320. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to various institutions for giving coaching to the candidates belonging to Backward classes and Scheduled Castes prior to appearing in the Civil Services Examination during the last three years;

(b) whether appropriate benefits of such a scheme are not reaching to the students; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that appropriate benefits of this scheme reach the students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The details may be seen in the statement attached.

(b) and (c) The appropriate benefits are reaching the students.

Statement

List of NGOs/Institutions/Universities etc. to whom Grants Released for giving Coaching to the candidates belonging to Backward Classes & Scheduled Castes during the last three years

Sl.No.	Name of the Institution	Amount Released (Rupees in lakhs)		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
Name of the Scheme: Pre-examination Coaching for Other Backward Classes (OBCs)				
1.	Vennela Education & Rural Dev. Society, Khammam, AP	Nil	Nil	3.97
2.	Rao's Study Circle, Hyderabad	Nil	Nil	1.69
3.	AP Study Circle, Mehboob Nagar	Nil	Nil	0.72
4.	Jagruthi Educational Community Dev. Society, Hyderabad	Nil	Nil	5.40
5.	Sri Yogi Narayan Education Centre, Bangalore, Karnataka	Nil	Nil	2.84
6.	Institute of Management in Government, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	Nil	Nil	3.54
7.	Krishna Coaching Inst., Gwalior	Nil	Nil	0.72
8.	Krishna Coaching Inst., Bhopal	Nil	Nil	1.66

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Padmakar Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	5.37
10.	Kundan Kalyan Samiti, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	3.74
11.	Chaitanya Bahudeshiya Sanstha, Nagpur	Nil	Nil	1.99
12.	L.C. Institute of Social & Applied Services, Bhuvaneshwar, Orissa	0.85	1.00	2.07
13.	Orissa IAS Study Circle, Bhubaneshwar	Nil	Nil	0.72
14.	Sachdeva New P.T. College, Puri, Orissa	Nil	Nil	1.69
15.	All India Services Pre-Exam Training Centre for SC/ST, Allahabad University	Nil	Nil	2.46
16.	AANCHAL, Aliganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	1.66
17.	Study Point Samiti, Dehradun, Uttranchal	Nil	Nil	0.72
Name of the Scheme: Pre-examination Coaching for Scheduled Castes (SCs)				
18.	Jagruti Educational Dev. Society, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	Nil	2.61	4.50
19.	Nagarjuna Study Circle, Andhra Pradesh	Nil	15.08	Nil
20.	Rao's Study Circle, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	1.69	Nil	1.69
21.	Social Integration Rural Dev. Society, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	Nil	2.10	1.69
22.	Veneela Educational Society, Khammam, Andhra Pradesh	Nil	1.60	1.70
23.	Delhi Education Centre, Delhi	17.52	10.37	18.67
24.	SN Das Gupta College, Delhi	4.38	Nil	Nil
25.	Instt. of MPA, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir	2.39	Nil	Nil
26.	B.R. Amb. Instt., Mhow, Madhya Pradesh	1.87	Nil	Nil
27.	Gyan Vikas Samiti, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Nil	1.52	Nil
28.	Krishna Coaching Centre, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Nil	4.20	Nil
29.	Mahakaushal Academy, Raipur, Madhya Pradesh	Nil	1.94	Nil
30.	Suruchi Vya. Sikshan Sansthan, Madhya Pradesh	Nil	0.88	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Chanakya Mandal, Pune, Maharashtra	Nil	1.29	Nil
32.	National Instt. of Com. Exams. Nagpur, Maharashtra	0.85	Nil	Nil
33.	Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sansthan, Latur, Maharashtra	Nil	0.86	Nil
34.	L.C. Instt., Bhubaneshwar., Orissa	3.43	Nil	2.57
35.	Orissa IAS Study Circle, Orissa	1.25	1.24	1.33
36.	Udaipur Study Circle, Rajasthan	Nil	1.69	Nil
37.	ICE Carrear Guidance, Tamil Nadu	Nil	0.88	Nil
38.	Sahara Academy, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	Nil	0.88	Nil
39.	Dr. G.R. Damodaran College, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	2.42
40.	Kakatiya University, Andhra Pradesh	Nil	3.37	Nil
41.	Nagarjuna University, Andhra Pradesh	1.69	Nil	Nil
42.	Osmania University, Andhra Pradesh	1.69	Nil	1.82
43.	Shri Venkateshwara University, Andhra Pradesh	1.42	1.42	Nil
44.	Kurukshetra University, Haryana	3.23	Nil	1.28
45.	Vikram University, Madhya Pradesh	1.79	1.69	1.83
46.	Pune University, Maharashtra	3.56	Nil	Nil
47.	Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjab	2.40	2.40	2.40
48.	Punjabi University, Punjab	Nil	10.13	Nil
49.	Sikkim Govt. College, Sikkim	2.06	Nil	Nil
50.	Allahabad University, Uttar Pradesh	7.75	12.01	14.48
51.	H.N. Bahuguna University, Uttar Pradesh	1.33	1.33	1.33
52.	Lucknow University, Uttar Pradesh	1.20	1.20	1.2
53.	Aligarh Muslim University, Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	2.46
54.	Bangalore University, Karnataka	Nil	Nil	12.65
55.	Jai Narain Vyas Uni., Jodhpur, Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	2.01
56.	Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	Nil	Nil	2.06
57.	Himachal Pradesh Univ., Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	2.46
58.	Mangalore University, Karnataka	Nil	Nil	1.95

1	2	3	4	5
59.	Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	1.95
60.	Pondicherry University, Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	1.95
61.	University of Mysore, Karnataka	Nil	Nil	2.46
62.	University of Madras, Tamilnadu	Nil	Nil	4.43

[English]

Rejection of GAIL's Offer to Build Pipeline Grid by Reliance

3321. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Industries Limited have rejected offer of the GAIL to build pipeline grid to transport and market the recent gas discovered in Krishna Godavari Basin; and

(b) if so, the action proposed for a joint venture to ensure better development in the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR); (a) and (b) No such offer has been made by GAIL (India) Limited to M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL). However, M/s Gas Transportation and Infrastructure Company Limited a company promoted by M/s RIL, propose to lay gas pipeline from Kakinada-Hyderabad-Goa for which process of acquisition of land under Petroleum & Mineral Pipeline (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962 is on.

[Translation]

Hydel Power Projects

3322. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether pace of hydel power projects has been very slow despite encouraging these projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to accelerate the pace of hydel power projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The constraints which have affected hydro development are:

- Constraints of survey and investigation.
- Lack of infrastructure.
- Geological uncertainties.
- Resettlement & rehabilitation problems.
- Inter-state aspects.
- Environment and forest clearance problems.
- Law and order problems.
- Land acquisition problems.
- Natural calamities like flash floods.
- Inadequate funding in some State Sector projects.

(c) and (d) The Government is according high priority to exploit the untapped hydro-electric potential in the country. A capacity addition of 14,393 MW from hydro projects is to be achieved during the 10th Plan. The hydro-electric projects of above 25 MW being executed under Central Sector, State Sector and Private Sector are being regularly monitored at various levels. Government of India has introduced three-stage development of hydro-electric projects in the Central Sector with the object of reducing time and cost over-runs during the implementation of these projects. A basin wise 'Ranking Study' of all the balance hydro-electric potential which is yet to be exploited has been carried out by the CEA and discussions with the State Governments have been initiated to finalise an Action Plan for their subsequent development.

[English]

**Catering the needs of Mentally Ill
and Spastic Persons**

3323. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any special schemes to cater the needs of the mentally ill, spastic persons, young widows, destitute women and visually affected/blind persons in the country, State-wise particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote industrial projects to provide service and opportunities for the above mentioned categories;

(d) the details of the amount allocated, disbursed and utilized for the same in the last 3 years;

(e) whether the Government both in Centre and State find it very difficult to monitor the performance of such industries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the serious steps taken by the Government to fund and monitor such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) A number of schemes and programmes are being implemented all over the country, including the State of Tamil Nadu for education, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, through the national Institutes, Composite Rehabilitation Centres, Regional Rehabilitation Centres and District Disability Rehabilitation Centre. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO)s are also assisted under the Scheme to promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme), Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) and Scheme of General Grant in Aid Programme for financial Assistance in the field of Social Defence for rehabilitation of widows, orphans and old persons. Soft loans are also provided by National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) for self-employment ventures. A total amount of Rs. 686.82 lakhs has been released to Tamil Nadu in 2001-2002 for programmes for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, under the Schemes of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Department of Women and Child Development is also

implementing a special scheme Swadhar for women in difficult circumstances from the year 2001-2002.

(c) to (f) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 mandates appropriate Governments and local Authorities to frame schemes in favour of persons with disabilities for the preferential allotment of land at concessional rates, *inter-alia*, for setting up business and establishment of factories by entrepreneurs with disabilities. The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) set up in 1997 provides loan to persons with 40% or above disability for setting up small business in service or trading sector, small industrial units, manufacturing/production unit of assistive devices for disabled persons and also for agricultural activities etc. The details of the amount disbursed including that for micro-lending activities of NHFDC in the last three years is as under:

Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	
Year	Disbursed
1999-2000	576.02
2000-01	1,180.87
2001-02	1,284.32

Monitoring the working of these projects is the role of State Channelising Agencies and NHFDC. No difficulty has been experienced in this regard.

No Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to promote industrial projects for the handicapped persons in the country. Also, no Scheme is being implemented by Department of Women & Child Development to promote industrial projects for destitute women and young widows.

[Translation]

**Transfer of Kanpur Electricity Supply
Corporation to NTPC**

3324. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to transfer the Kanpur Electricity Supply Corporation to the NTPC;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of loss suffered by the said corporation during the last three years;

(d) whether the NTPC has floated a new company to enter in the distribution field; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Some preliminary discussions have taken place between National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Uttar Pradesh authorities regarding the feasibility of NTPC taking over Kanpur Electricity Supply Corporation.

In order to facilitate NTPC entering into power distribution, a wholly owned subsidiary called NTPC Electric Supply Company Limited has been incorporated on 21.8.2002 with its Registered Office in New Delhi.

Assistance to States for Petro-Products and LPG

3325. DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry proposes to provide any separate or special assistance and LPG to the States which are engaged in environment protection and forest conservation and such States having more than 60 percent forest over; and

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

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

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

Implementation of IREP in Delhi and U.P.

3326. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the integrated rural energy programme is being implemented in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi;

(b) whether the Government have studied the progress made in regard to integrated rural energy programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether desired results have been achieved under the said programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The implementation of Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, and other States, is being carried out through two components, namely, the Central Sector component under which support is provided for development of capabilities, including provision of staff and their training, and the State sector component under which financial support is provided under the State outlay for promoting various rural energy devices, extension and other related activities. The IREP is under implementation in 95 Blocks in Uttar Pradesh and 5 Blocks in Delhi where the programme is being implemented by the State Nodal Agencies namely, Non-Conventional Energy Development Agency (NEDA) and Delhi Energy Development Agency (DEDA) in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The latest study on the progress of the IREP entitled "Analysis of IREP and Development of Capacity Building Strategy" was taken up by the Government with the support of United Nations Development Programme, in selected States including Uttar Pradesh in the year 1999-2000. The study has brought out that as a result of IREP, minimum infrastructure for preparing rural energy plans and projects at the district and State levels have been set up. Further, IREP has enabled rural people and field development officials to appreciate different dimensions of the rural energy problem and how it should be tackled. IREP has also brought about large-scale awareness about new and renewable energy and need for conservation of energy in rural areas. The study has recommended that IREP should be consolidated; higher levels of support should be provided by the State Government; and monitoring of the programme should be strengthened.

(d) and (e) As brought out in the above study, IREP has achieved success in some aspects, but the implementation aspect needs to be strengthened in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, among other States, for which increased flow of resources is required from the State Governments.

Projects Forwarded by Jharkhand Government for Approval

3327. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects forwarded by Jharkhand Government for approval;

(b) the scheme-wise reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) the amount of assistance given to Jharkhand Government during the last two years alongwith the amount of utilization certificates received there against; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) A statement-I indicating the position is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Details of amount released and utilized by Government of Jharkhand during last two year are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Details of Proposals forwarded by the Government of Jharkhand during 2002-03

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Proposals received	Proposals approved	Proposals pending/rejected
Scheduled Castes Development				
1.	Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste Students	1	1	Nil
2.	Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupation	1	1	Nil
3.	Assistance to voluntary Organizations working in the field of Scheduled Castes	3	Nil	3 (New proposals to be considered during 2003-04)
Other Backward Classes				
4.	Post Matric Scholarship for OBC students	1	1	—
5.	Construction of Hostels for OBC boys and girls	1	—	1 (clarification sought)
6.	Pre Matric Scholarship for OBC students	1	—	1 (clarification sought)
7.	Assistance to Voluntary organisations for OBCs	1	—	1 (Received recently)
Welfare of Persons with Disabilities				
8.	Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities	5	4	1 (Incomplete)
9.	Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances	2	1	1 (incomplete)
Social Defence				
10.	Scheme for Prevention & Control of Social Maladjustment.	1	—	1 (Under examination)

Statement II

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	2000-01		2001-02	
		Release	UC recd. for	Release	UC recd. for
1	2	3	4	5	6
Scheduled Castes Development					
1.	Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes	500.00	NR	578.84	NR

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Post-Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes	0.00	NA	0.00	206.64
3.	Pre-Matric Scholarships to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations	0.00	NA	30.20	31.20
4.	Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste boys	0.00	NA	245.80	NR
5.	Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste girls	0.00	NA	245.80	NR
6.	National Scheme for Liberation & Rehabilitation of scavengers	1085.00	NR	0.00	NA
7.	Upgradation of Merit for SC/ST students	5.25	NR	0.00	NA
Other Backward Classes					
8.	Pre-Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes	0.00	NA	31.45	31.45
9.	Post-Matric Scholarships including Higher Scholarship for Ph. D and higher level for Other Backward Classes	0.00	NA	191.88	191.88
10.	Construction of Hostel for Other Backward Class boys and girls	0.00	NA	147.28	147.28
Welfare of the Persons with Disabilities					
11.	National Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with Disabilities	210.85	NR	156.05	NR

NA = Not applicable

NR = Not Received

*[English]***ONGC Discoveries in Mumbai High**

3328., SHRI CHANDRA BHUSAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has discovered a major offshore oilfield with a reserve of 48 million tonnes of crude oil and natural gas in Mumbai recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Basin field which recently produces gas of 32 million standards cubic metres a day, would have hit a dry patch next year with production falling by as much as 3 MMSCMD;

(d) if so, whether the sting of discoveries will boost the country's oil and gas sector where local production accounts for only 30 per cent of the nation's total consumption; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has recently found oil and gas leads in B-22 structure located about 15 kilometres west of Bassein field in Mumbai offshore.

(c) Keeping in view various aspects like reservoir pressure and natural decline, ONGC envisages a production of about 29.66 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) of gas in 2003-04 from the Bassein field, as against the current rate of production of 31 MMSCMD.

(d) and (e) Exploration is a continuous process and the leads thus obtained from various discoveries are to be pursued to consolidate the gains and produce hydrocarbons, for which no timeframe can be laid down.

Coverage of War Crisis

3329. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Doordarshan has decided to engage a private producer to provide its viewers coverage of the unfolding Iraq crisis as reported in 'The Hindu' dated February 19, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Doordarshan's own infrastructure is ineffective to cover the entire world news;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the terms and conditions including the amount of contract for engaging private producer for Iraq crisis; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan has accepted a proposal received from M/s. Third Eye TV, New Delhi for a programme on Iraq War, titled "Gulf War—India cares, India counts".

Due to the importance of the event which is of major international significance, it was felt that Doordarshan would benefit if noted journalists cover the event, keeping in view the Indian perspective, the presence of large number of Indians in that region. As a secondary and supportive measure, Doordarshan is also planning to send its own team with the private producer.

It is planned to telecast 20 episodes of 30 minutes each, five days a week at the rate of Rs. 5 lakhs per episode, with inputs for the news bulletines. Doordarshan reserves the right to terminate the contract at 48 hours notice.

[Translation]

Annual Expenditure of Prasar Bharati

3330. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the annual expenditure of Prasar Bharati is exceeding its proceeds;

(b) if not, the average annual income earned and the expenditure incurred by it;

(c) the break-up of the sources of income of Prasar Bharati;

(d) whether the potential of these sources has been explored to realise more income therefrom; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Break up of sources of income and expenditure incurred is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Commercial Revenue is the major source of Prasar Bharati's Revenues. Hence efforts are being made to augment this source through setting up of Marketing Division in important cities; direct contact with Government Departments for tapping the Government business etc. Periodic meetings are also held at various levels to look for avenues to augment and monitor the flow of revenue.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Source	Year		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (upto Jan. 03)
Commercial Receipt	637.51	615.20	437.69
Non-Commercial Receipt	3.53	1.09	4.43
Total Receipt	641.04	616.29	442.12
Total Expenditure	1580.87	1662.61	1196.53

[English]

**Grant-in-Aid for Institutions Concerning
Physically Handicapped**

3331. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals pending before the Government of India for Grant-in-aid for institutions concerning physically handicapped, mentally handicapped, deaf and dumb and Old Age Homes;

(b) if so, the dates from which these applications are pending in various departments and decision taken in this regard, State-wise;

(c) the applications pending from Kerala State for clearance since last three years;

(d) the reasons for pending the application; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) A statement indicating number of proposals pending, State-wise, including Kerala at various stages of processing for grant in aid for the year 2002-03 pertaining to institutions concerning physically handicapped, mentally handicapped, deaf and dumb and old age home is enclosed.

(c) to (e) No complete application from Kerala State is pending for clearance since last 3 year. However, 32 applications for new projects for the welfare of mentally challenged recommended by Government of Kerala were not considered keeping in view the facilities already extended through the scheme in the State.

Statement

Name of the State/UTs	Number
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	23
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	8
Bihar	3
Chandigarh	1

1	2
Delhi	6
Goa	1
Gujarat	1
Haryana	2
Jharkhand	1
J&K	1
Karnataka	21
Kerala	13
Maharashtra	65
Madhya Pradesh	11
Manipur	6
Nagaland	1
Orissa	13
Punjab	1
Rajasthan	4
Tripura	2
Tamil Nadu	19
Uttaranchal	2
Uttar Pradesh	21
West Bengal	21
Total	248

[Translation]

Defence Agreement between India and Poland

3332. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement in the Defence Sector has been reached between India and Poland during the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions of such Defence Agreements?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) An Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of India concerning cooperation in the field of Defence was signed on 17th February 2003. The Agreement broadly envisages co-operation in the field of defence technology, research and development, training, peace support and combating terrorism.

[English]

Exploration of Oil and Gas in Eastern Sea bed

3333. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted private companies to explore the eastern sea-bed for oil and gas reserves;

(b) if so, whether such explorations have taken place and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of huge reserves of oil and gas in eastern sea-bed, the Government propose to set up refineries on the Orissa coast; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The Government has so far awarded 34 exploration blocks in the East Coast offshore area since 1991. Of these 21 blocks have been awarded to private/joint ventures (JVs) and 13 blocks to National Oil Companies (NOCs). In addition, exploration work has also been carried out in one discovered field Ravva awarded to JV. Details of exploration activities carried out by the private/JV companies in their blocks and fields are as under:-

2D seismic	—	12348 Line Kilometres
3D Seismic	—	5141 Square Kilometres
No. of exploratory wells drilled	—	24

These efforts have resulted in oil and gas discoveries in the area.

The Government has in July 1998 approved setting up of a grass root refinery at Paradip, Orissa by Indian Oil corporation Limited having an installed capacity of 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA).

[Translation]

Withdrawal of Shatabdi Train between Delhi and Bhatinda

3334. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had recently introduced a new Shatabdi train between Delhi and Bhatinda;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to withdraw the above train;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the above train is likely to be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) Due to poor patronisation, 2033/2034 New Delhi-Bhatinda Shatabdi Express, which had been introduced on 16.08.2002, has been replaced by an intercity Express with effect from 10.02.2003.

[English]

Movie Theatre Coaches with Long Distance Trains

3335. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start movie theatre coaches with long-distance trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the trains to which such coaches are to be attached; and

(d) the fare to be charged from the passengers on account of this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for manufacturing a mini-Air-conditioned Cinema Theatre Car is under consideration and the techno-economic feasibility of providing such services is being examined.

(c) and (d) The routes, timeframe, costs and income for introducing these services can be deliberated upon only after the technical feasibility and economic viability is established.

*[Translation]***Disappearance of Pilots**

3336. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3665 dated December 12th, 2002 regarding Disappearance of Pilots and to state:

(a) whether the exact cause of the accident has been established;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which exact cause of the accident is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The wreckage of the accident has not been found till date. Hence the exact cause of accident can not be established.

Grant of Recognition as Backward Classes

3337. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

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

(a) whether National Commission for Backward Classes scrutinize all the applications for grant of recognition as backward classes;

(b) if so, the number of the applications at present pending with the National Commission for Backward Classes in this regard;

(c) the State-wise break-up thereof;

(d) the details of the applications received from various States for the purpose, State-wise; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government for speedy disposal of the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requests for including of 26 castes/communities in the Central Lists of OBCs are pending with the Commission.

(c) and (d) The details of these pending cases, State-wise, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) The Government of India initiate action for the modification/inclusion/exclusion of castes/communities in the Central Lists of OBCs only after the receipt of Advice from the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of applications pending	Name of the caste/ community	Request received from
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	1. Sikligar 2. Siddula 3. Toorpuchalukya	President, Sant Bhavan, Hyderabad President, A.P., Siddula Caste Society Siddipet, Medak Distt. President, Toorpu Chalukya Kapu Welfare Society, Warangal
2.	Bihar	3	1. Bakho 2. Kurmi 3. Soyar	President, Bihar Rajya Bakho "Aubi" Samaj Seva Sangh, Patna Convenor, Bihar Rajya Kurmi Chetna Maharally, Patna President, Bihar Rajya Soyar Jati Sangh, Saharasa, Bihar

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Delhi	1	Jat	Jat Samaj, Najafgarh, Roshan Garden, New Delhi
4.	Gujarat	6.	1. Jagari	Representative, Jagari Samaj, Banaskantha Distt.
			2. Dangar	All India Dangar Samaj Mahasangh, Baroda
			3. Khavas	Shri Samast Khavas Gnati Madhyast Mandal, Bhav Nagar.
			4. Sagar	President, Shri Samasta Sagar Gnati Mandal, Ahemdabad
			5. Kansara	President, Shri Samast Kansara Samaj, Rajkot
			6. Chaki	Chaki Muslim Jamat, Jam Nagar
5.	Maharashtra	3	1. Twashta Kasar, Kasar as synonym of Tambat	Ms. Prajakata Pravin Salvi, Mumbai
			2. Sindhi Sonar	Vice-President, Sonara Navjawan Mandal Panchayat, Ulhasnagar.
			3. Kurmi	Maharashtra Kurmi Kshatriya Samaj, Mumbai.
6.	Orissa	2	1. Asini Patara/Aswini and Ashwini Patara	Shri Gopi Nath Das, Cuttack
			2. Rangini Hansi as synonym of Hansi/Tanti	Shri Golak Nayak, Minister of State (Planning and Cdn.), Bhubaneshwar and Shri Jitendra Kumar Sahu, District-Mayurbhanj
7.	Punjab	1	Yadav/Ahir	President, National Union of Backward Classes, SCs, STs and Minorities, New Delhi.
8.	Rajasthan	1	Ramgarhia as a synonym of Khati, Tarkhan	Shri Baryam Singh, District- Shri Ganga Nagar
9.	Uttar Pradesh	5	1. Kurmi, Sainthwar	Shri Kedar Nath Singh, Ex. MLA, Gorakhpur
			2. Sanwat	President, Sanwat Samaj, Lucknow
			3. Katua	President, Katua Uthan Samiti, Mau
			4. Bariai, Chaurasia synonyms of Tamoli	Shri Anil Kumar Chaurasia, Goyan, District-Ballia
			5. Herufia as a synonym of Halalkhor	Dalit Muslim Halalkhor Kalyan Parishad, Varanasi
10.	Chhatisgarh	1	Pinjara (Hindu)/Kesaria/ Kosaria	President, Chhatisgarh Pinjara (Hindu) Kesaria Samaj Bhilai, District-Durg.

Amount Allocated by Government for the Welfare of Handicapped

3338. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) the State-wise amount allocated by the Government for the welfare of handicapped during the last three years;

(b) whether the amount has been fully utilized during the above said period;

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

(d) the State-wise number of handicapped benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY

PASWAN): (a) to (c) Allocation under various schemes for the welfare of the disabled is not made State-wise. However, State-wise releases made during the last three years under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme), Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme), National Programme of Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) and Scheme of Employment of Handicapped are given in the enclosed Statements I to IV.

(d) The approximate number of beneficiaries under Umbrella Scheme and ADIP Scheme is as under:-

	(in lakhs)		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Umbrella Scheme	1.18	1.42	1.23
ADIP Scheme	1.47	1.53	1.95

Data regarding State-wise beneficiaries under these schemes is not maintained.

Statement I

The Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with disabilities

(Rs. in lakhs)

States/UTs	Amount Released		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1208.35	1283.57	1151.64
Arunachal Pradesh	13.00	6.32	18.98
Assam	30.56	40.11	51.41
Bihar	57.68	162.47	225.42
Chandigarh	1.42	6.57	5.22
Chhatisgarh	—	9.08	12.49
Dadra Nagar Haveli	—	—	1.53
Delhi	679.04	649.54	527.78
Goa	17.68	12.64	24.07
Gujarat	75.36	114.52	125.83
Haryana	59.51	95.44	73.42
Himachal Pradesh	32.42	15.85	24.49
Jammu & Kashmir	7.24	12.23	4.36

1	2	3	4
Jharkhand	—	—	7.00
Karnataka	571.99	640.58	658.89
Kerala	442.04	483.72	539.83
Madhya Pradesh	17.43	39.32	79.19
Maharashtra	263.72	197.99	209.39
Manipur	57.06	56.38	59.89
Meghalaya	17.41	46.38	60.10
Mizoram	25.31	29.52	30.06
Nagaland	—	2.83	1.78
Orissa	193.96	252.26	313.47
Pondicherry	1.44	6.59	5.85
Punjab	64.94	91.39	79.85
Rajasthan	88.13	93.99	155.81
Sikkim	—	—	1.94
Tamil Nadu	325.69	396.07	426.57
Tripura	6.83	6.02	6.50
Uttar Pradesh	772.39	873.19	715.33
Uttaranchal	—	95.85	35.18
West Bengal	365.53	492.52	448.64

Note: Grant is released to voluntary organizations only after utilization certificate for previous releases has been received.

Statement II

The Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Amount Released		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Uttar Pradesh	1015.30	1052.94	1768.51
2.	Rajasthan	348.78	360.00	382.92
3.	West Bengal	169.48	256.21	380.65
4.	Andhra Pradesh	134.25	211.09	325.65

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Maharashtra	149.85	159.98	144.33
6.	Haryana	19.04	121.37	21.86
7.	Orissa	135.61	120.87	231.34
8.	Gujarat	101.25	119.37	155.92
9.	Delhi	376.17	117.65	401.68
10.	Himachal Pradesh	19.80	98.29	6.25
11.	Punjab	55.19	98.29	63.96
12.	Madhya Pradesh	110.87	76.30	60.68
13.	Tamil Nadu	86.01	61.27	104.23
14.	Bihar	31.76	22.16	63.31
15.	Kerala	28.00	19.00	57.45
16.	Manipur	25.00	19.00	—
17.	Karnataka	28.51	10.50	75.78
18.	Goa	0.98	1.04	1.95
19.	Tripura	1.45	0.72	4.15
20.	Assam	4.47	—	2.25
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	1.95
22.	Chhatisgarh	—	—	7.54
23.	Jharkhand	—	—	1.00
24.	Uttaranchal	—	—	94.51

Note: Grant is released to voluntary organizations only after utilization certificate for previous releases has been received.

Statement III

Scheme of National Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with Disabilities

S.No.	States/UTs	Amount Released		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12.50	136.40	108.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12.50	198.35	156.05
3.	Assam	12.50	260.30	203.90
4.	Bihar	25.00	322.25	251.75
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	207.00	156.05
6.	Goa	12.50	74.45	60.35

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Gujarat	12.50	198.35	156.05
8.	Haryana	12.50	136.40	108.20
9.	Hamachal Pradesh	12.50	136.40	108.20
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	12.50	135.40	108.20
11.	Jharkhand	—	210.85	156.05
12.	Karnataka	25.00	198.35	156.05
13.	Kerala	12.50	136.40	108.20
14.	Madhya Pradesh	25.00	384.20	299.60
15.	Maharashtra	25.00	198.35	156.05
16.	Manipur	12.50	136.40	108.20
17.	Meghalaya	12.50	136.40	108.20
18.	Mizoram	12.50	74.45	60.35
19.	Nagaland	12.50	136.40	108.20
20.	Orissa	25.00	198.35	156.05
21.	Punjab	12.50	136.40	108.20
22.	Rajasthan	25.00	198.35	156.05
23.	Sikkim	12.50	74.45	60.35
24.	Tamil Nadu	25.00	198.35	156.05
25.	Tripura	12.50	74.45	60.35
26.	Uttar Pradesh	25.00	446.15	347.45
27.	Uttaranchal	—	148.90	108.20
28.	West Bengal	12.50	136.40	108.20
29.	Andman & Nicobar	12.50	74.45	60.35
30.	Chandigarh	12.50	74.45	60.35
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	12.50	74.45	60.35
32.	Daman & Diu	12.50	74.45	60.35
33.	Delhi	12.50	74.45	60.35
34.	Lakshdweep	12.50	74.45	60.35
35.	Pondicherry	12.50	74.45	60.35

Statement IV**Scheme of Employment of Handicapped**

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Amount Released		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.90	8.17	0.00
2.	Gujarat	0.00	14.25	0.00
3.	Haryana	0.25	0.52	0.00
4.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	14.44
5.	Kerala	7.96	0.00	64.46
6.	Madhya Pradesh	8.94	0.00	0.00
7.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	15.21
8.	Orissa	1.61	0.00	0.00
9.	Punjab	0.00	6.46	6.27
10.	Rajasthan	11.33	39.26	10.41
11.	Uttar Pradesh	16.50	17.63	29.05
12.	Chandigarh	8.32	4.56	5.72
13.	Delhi	21.90	0.00	6.03
14.	Pondicharry	0.00	8.71	1.97

Note:- Under the scheme of Employment of Handicapped, expenditure incurred by the States/UTs (Central share) is re-imbursed. However, in some cases, funds have been released for setting up of Special Employment Exchanges/Cells. Funds have been utilized except in the cases of Andhra Pradesh (2000-01) and all States/UTs listed above (2001-2002).

*[English]***Building of Submarines**

3339. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had finalised the Project 75 in 1997-1998 for building 20 submarines at a cost of Rs. 15,000 crores with German Technology from German Design Group of HDW at Kiel has been shelved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons for entering into an agreement to purchase 6 Scorpene Class submarines for Rs. 12,500 crores from French Consortium, Thomson when this class of submarine is neither cost effective nor fulfills the military effectiveness;

(d) whether the Government are aware that this French Consortium Thomson even sold and is now building submarines in Pakistan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The original proposal to build submarines based on the design of the German company, HDW, as modified to suit Indian Naval requirements but validated by a foreign vendor which had access to the original design data, was shelved mainly due to non-availability of the required weapon system which was to be acquired from a French company. The French submarine meets the technical and operational requirements of the Indian Navy and has the advantage of fitment of the required weapon system. The choice of the French vendor was strictly on the basis of its assessed technical competence in transferring the build

technology and the commercial offer that it has made. The French Consortium, being a vendor to Pakistan also, is not a relevant factor.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of SCs/STs In Various Departments

3340. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of SCs/STs under various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings in the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various categories of the employees working in these departments and undertakings under his Ministry have been given promotion and fresh recruitments have also been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of fresh recruitment made under various categories during this period and so far in the current year;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed with regard to the recruitment and promotion of persons belonging to SCs/STs categories; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Policy Matter on Disabilities

3341. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Co-ordination Committees (SCC) constituted to formulate policy matters on disabilities under the Person With Disabilities (PWD) Act, have become defunct in most of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any steps to make these coordination committees functional; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) All State Governments (except the States of Delhi, Jharkhand, and Uttranchal) have constituted the State Coordination Committee (SCC). Meetings of the SCC have been reportedly held in many States, though not regularly. The matter regarding convening of the meeting of the SCC comes under the purview of the State Government concerned.

Requirement of Power in West Bengal

3342. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of power in West Bengal at present and the quantity of production being carried out by the public sector companies and other companies;

(b) the total requirement of power in the State and measures taken to meet the same;

(c) the number of Memorandums of Understanding signed by the Government of West Bengal to increase the production of power and their present status; and

(d) the increase in power production reported in West Bengal during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Details of power generation by the generating agencies of different sectors in West Bengal during the current year (April, 2002-February, 2003) are as under:-

Sector	Generating Agency	Generation (MU)
State	West Bengal State Electricity Board	474
State Public	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited Durgapur Projects Limited	12,565 1,335
Private	Calcutta Electricity Supply Co.	5,807
Central Public	National Thermal Power Corporation* Damodar Valley Corporation**	8,054 4,015
Total		32,250

* In power generations from Farakka STPS, other beneficiaries of Eastern Region also have shares.

** In power generation from Durgapur TPS, Mejia TPS and Maithon HPS, Jharkhand also has shares.

(b) Details of power supply position prevailing in the State of West Bengal during the current year (April, 2002-February, 2003) are as under:-

Energy		Peak	
Requirement (MU)	18,775	Demand (MW)	3752
Availability (MU)	18,507	Met (MW)	3418
Shortage (MU)	268	Shortage (MW)	334
%Shortage	1.4%	%Shortage	8.9%

Eastern Region as a whole (of which West Bengal is a constituent) is having surplus power on sustained basis and power to the tune of 1200-1300 MW round the clock and over 2000 MW during off peak period is being exported to neighbouring regions. WBPDCL is also exporting power to beneficiaries in the Northern Region.

(c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed in May, 2001 between Ministry of Power, Government of India and Government of West Bengal to undertake reforms and restructuring of the power sector in a time bound manner and linking the support of the Government of India to achievement of predetermined milestones.

(d) Details of power generation in the State of West Bengal during last three years are as under:-

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Generation (MU)	27,104	30,427	32,653
%increase over previous year	9.5	12.3	7.3

Privatisation of T&D

3343. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high power committee set up by the Orissa Government has rejected the World Bank perception that the privatisation of transmission and distribution reduces losses;

(b) the details of the other recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether the Government propose to suggest to 'go slow' to those States which are vigorously following the policy of privatizing the power transmission and distribution;

(d) whether in the light of Committee's recommendations, the Ministry of Power wants to appoint

a high powered committee to look into the issue from national perspective; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Government of Orissa constituted a Committee of independent experts with Shri S. Kanungo as Chairman to review the power sector reforms in the State.

The main recommendations of the Committee are as follows:-

- (i) Keep in abeyance the upvaluation of assets undertaken during the time of asset transfer as it has needlessly added to the cost of power and made the task of achieving commercial viability more difficult. Upvaluation in respect of Orissa Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC) needs to be set aside.
- (ii) Arrange financial support during transition for financing the revenue gap till commercial viability is achieved.
- (iii) Make OERC fully operational.
- (iv) Key to revival of sector is in improving efficiency and bringing down costs. Launch as concerted drive to remove illegal connections such as hooking and effective measures to convert them into regular connections followed up by systematic billing and collection of energy charges. Police protection to be provided for teams carrying out drives to prevent unauthorised use of electricity. Ensure 100% consumer metering within a year.
- (v) A rural Electrification Planning Organization (REPO) should be set up to complete the work of rural electrification.

In the Conference of Chief Minister/Power Ministers held in March, 2001, it was resolved *inter alia* that commercial viability has to be achieved in distribution in 2-3 years through any or all of the following:

- Creating Profit Centres with full accountability.
- Handing over of local distribution to Panchayats/ Local Bodies? Franchisees/Users Association, wherever necessary.
- Privatisation of distribution.
- Or any other means.

The Distribution Policy Committee constituted by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Secretary

(Power) in its report, taking into account the recommendations of Kanungo Committee, has recommended, *inter alia*, that:

- (i) For privatisation to succeed, support of the State Government in the transition period has to be provided by ensuring that:-
 - Government departments/agencies and municipal bodies are able to pay for their electricity bills and accept the commercial discipline that electricity cannot be supplied without timely payment.
 - Governance and law enforcement support is provided for assisting the privatized utilities in bringing about the necessary change in deep-rooted attitudes among their employees as well as customers so that all energy flows are metered and audited and supply discontinued in the absence of timely payment.
- (ii) The various stakeholders including the State Government need to acknowledge that privatisation may not result in commercially viable entities immediately and there would be a transition phase.

Rail Track

3344. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether railway safety is very poor in our country;
- (b) whether poor railway tracks are the cause of frequent train accidents;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Repair and maintenance of Railway track is an on-going 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. Speed restrictions are also imposed for ensuring safety, if the situation so warrants. Track renewals are also undertaken depending

upon the need of renewal and availability of funds. The following steps have been taken, for improving safety on Indian Railways as far as track is concerned:

- (i) Regular inspection of track at various levels is undertaken.
- (ii) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of track, sophisticated track recording cars and oscillograph cars are being used.
- (iii) Training to railway staff is provided immediately after their recruitment and thereafter their knowledge is refreshed periodically. Seminars/workshops/field demonstrations are also organised for Permanent way staff from time to time to enhance/update their knowledge.
- (iv) Patrolling of railway track by gang men is carried out at vulnerable locations during monsoon, summer and winter.
- (v) The specifications of rail steel have been upgraded and are in conformity with the International Union of Railways (UIC) specifications.
- (vi) Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors are used to detect hidden flaws in the rail.
- (vii) Mechanized maintenance of track is being introduced progressively, for better and improved maintenance.
- (viii) The track structure is being upgraded on a planned basis.
- (ix) To keep the track in good condition, track renewals are carried out whenever it becomes due for renewal subject to availability of funds.

Production of Bofors Guns

3345. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the government plans to produce Bofors Guns and its spares indigenously;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be produced?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) At present, there are no plans to produce Bofors Guns indigenously. However, Spares for Bofors guns are being produced indigenously.

(b) Certain critical spares of the 155 FH 77B Bofors guns required for maintenance and upkeep of the existing Bofors guns are being produced indigenously.

(c) Does not arise.

ONGC Investment in Overseas Oilfields

3346. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC will benefit from the shift to a three-tier *ad-valorem* royalty regime on crude oil instead of present fixed tax regime;

(b) if so, the extent of benefit to ONGC;

(c) whether ONGC proposes to invest such windfall profits in overseas oilfields;

(d) if so, whether any overseas oilfields have been identified by ONGC for investment; and

(e) if so, the details of plans of ONGC to invest increasing amounts in overseas oilfields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government have recently approved the new royalty dispensation applicable with effect from 01.04.1998 to the areas granted to National Oil Companies (NOCs) on nomination basis, the exploration blocks awarded to Pvt./JV contractors prior to New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), and the onland discovered fields awarded to Private/Joint Venture (Pvt. JV) contractors. Royalty for production from such areas will now be fixed on an *Ad valorem* basis. As the crude oil price is now market determined, and the same has shown wide fluctuations in past, it is not possible to quantify the benefits accruing to Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).

(c) to (e) For enhancement of India's oil security and in fulfillment of the "India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025", ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL), the fully owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) set up for Exploration & Production of hydrocarbons abroad, is active in a number of countries. At present, OVL has projects in Iran, Iraq, Myanmar, Russia and USA. OVL is also pursuing opportunities in Algeria, Sudan, Oman, Libya, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Venezuela, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Construction of New Railway Stations

3347. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the new railway stations constructed in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct new Railway stations in the country in the near future specially in Gujarat;

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

(d) the total amount spent on the maintenance of various stations in the country during the above period, State-wise, particularly in Saurashtra-Kutch regions of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The names of new Railway stations constructed on new lines, gauge conversion and doubling projects completed and the stations commissioned on the existing lines during the last three years are as under:

Achuara, Ajitkheri, Ajjakallu, Ajra, Amjanga, Arabagatta, Bamanigaon, Banchari, Barh Court, Barhapur, Bassampallo, Bayad, Boko, Budhev Chak Yadav Nagar, Campapur, Chaygaon, Darauli, Deepnagar, Dekpura, Demai, Dergaon, Deviliya, Dhansura, Dhupdhara, Donta, Duan, Dudhnoi, Gandhi Halt, Gangasahai, Gangraul, Gauchhari, Gazole, Gomti Nagar, Gondwana Visapur, Gurazala Gate, Hati, Imli Bigha, Indirahagar, Jagjivan Halt, Jaiprakash Mahuli Halt, Jalalpur, Jamadoba, Jamira, Jaroli, Jath Dumri, Jeonara, Jite, Juchandra, Kadki Bazar, Kakkdweep, Kamjara, Karatwadi, Karauna, Karauta-Patri, Karimnagar, Karnauti, Kashinagar, Kashipura, Khandeshwar, Kharagar, Kharuara, Khutbav, Kolikhad, Kondaprolu, Kotgaon, Kottacheruvu, Kottur, Krishnai, Kukurmara, Mahawan Khor, Mahendrala Nagar, Maheshleta, Malanpur, Mandawali-Chander Vihar, Mirza, Modasa, Mukundwadi, Munshirhat, Narah, Narayanpuram, Navalpura, Neema, Ner, Pagidi Rai, Pamidi, Pangrasindhe, Pantihal, Patel Halt, Petrapole, Pura, Rahiyol, Railey English, Ramgovind Singh Mahuli, Rampuri, Ranayal Jasmiya, Rangjuli, Sadala, Sahari, Sarla, Satish Samanta, Shivnar, Silakheri, Singra, Somatane, Sri Satyasai Prasanti Nilayam, Sukhpur, Sultanabad, Talcher Jn., Taticherla, Tenari, Tungi, Turkapalli, Udaypur Khurd, Umroli, Vadali, Yedapalli.

(b) and (c) The new Railway stations are constructed as part of projects as per the requirement. Accordingly, stations are proposed to be provided on projects likely to

be completed during the current year and during 2003-2004. New stations are also provided on existing lines from time to time based on traffic requirements and other demands. In the State of Gujarat, three new stations, namely, Rajula City Cabin, Pipavav and Somnath are proposed to be provided in next one year period.

(d) Expenditure details are maintained zonal railway wise and not state/region wise. Further, the expenditure incurred on maintenance of stations is also not separately maintained. However, expenditure incurred on maintenance and repairs of all service buildings and approach roads etc. are indicated under relevant minor heads of expenditure under Demand No. 4 of the "Demands for Grants for Expenditure of the Central Government of Railways, Part-II" presented annually to the Parliament alongwith Budget Documents.

Special Package for Expansion of DD/AIR In Jammu and Kashmir

3348. CHOWDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the implementation of a special package for expansion of

Doordarshan and AIR services in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds provided to DD/AIR to create such facilities and the amount spent so far, year-wise, location-wise?

• THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Special Plan for expansion and improvement of AIR and Doordarshan services in Jammu and Kashmir at a cost of Rs. 430. crores was approved in July, 1999. Details of projects envisaged to be set up, as part of this package alongwith the present status are given in the enclosed statement. Year-wise expenditure incurred on the above projects is as under:-

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in Crores)	
	AIR	Doordarshan
1999-2000	0.80	29.31
2000-2001	14.68	54.26
2001-2002	23.56	52.24
2002-2003	5.32 (till Feb., 03.)	29.35 (till Feb., 03.)

Statement

Status of projects under J&K Special Plan

Sl. No.	Project	Present Status
1	2	3
Doordarshan		
1.	HPT, Srinagar (Kashmir channel)	Commissioned
2.	HPTs (DD1 & DD2)—6	Interim HPT set ups at Naushera, Kupwara, Samba, Amritsar & Gurez completed. Remaining project at Tithwal expected to be completed in 2003-04.
3.	HPT (DD2), Poonch	Commissioned
4.	Mobile L.P.Ts—12	12 L.P.Ts commissioned
5.	VLPTs—60	59 VLPTs commissioned, Remaining VLPT project expected to be completed in a month's time.
6.	VLPT—8 (Upgradation)	8 VLPTs upgraded
7.	Studio, Leh	Commissioned
8.	Studio & playback equipment for Kashmir channel	Equipment installed and commissioned

1	2	3
9.	DSNG units—2	2 DSNGs operationalised
10.	Sat. Earth Stations—3	3 Earth Stations at Srinagar, Jammu & Leh commissioned.
11.	studio, Rajouri (added later in 2001-02)	Building taken over. It is required to be modified. Project expected to be completed during 2003-04.
All India Radio		
12.	10 KW FM, Kathua	Commissioned
13.	300 KW MW, Srinagar	Commissioned
14.	10 KW MF, Rajouri	Commissioned
15.	20 KW MW, Naushera	Commissioned
16.	20 KW MW, Kupwara	Commissioned
17.	1 KW MW, Khalisi	Commissioned
18.	1 KW MW, Tiessuru	Technically Ready
19.	1 KW MW, Nyomarap	Technically Ready
20.	1 KW MW, Diskit	Technically Ready
21.	1 KW MW, Padum	Technically Ready
22.	1 KW MW, Drass	Technically Ready
23.	200 KW MW, Kargil	Targeted for completion in 2003-2004.

Quilon-Shenkottai-Virudhunagar Gauge Conversion Work

3349. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the works relating to gauge conversion of the Quilon Shenkottai-Virudhunagar Metre Gauge Line in Southern Railways;

(b) whether the suggestion to simultaneously start the work from Quilon and Virudhunagar has been considered and approved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) On Virudhunagar-Tenkasi, Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Quilon-Punalur sections, earthwork and bridge works are

in progress. The track linking on Virudhunagar-Rajapalayam section has almost been completed. On Punalur and Sengottai section, final location survey has almost been completed and detailed estimate etc. is in progress.

(d) Virudhunagar-Rajapalayam section is targeted for completion by 31.03.2003 and Rajapalayam-Tenkasi section during 2003-04. No target date has been fixed for completion of the work on remaining sections.

Private Investment in Defence Sector

3350. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the defence production has been opened to the private sector with FDI upto 26%; and

(b) if so, the names of the States which have been identified for creation of Defence Industrial Base under the Government and private sector capable of producing world class equipment with highly competitive prices?

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

(b) Identification of specific states for this purpose is not considered necessary, as a variety of factors are taken into account by the investor when an investment decision is taken.

Computerised Passenger Reservation Locations

3351. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of computerised passenger reservation locations opened in the country so far, as on December 31, 2002, zone-wise; and

(b) the number of such reservation centres are likely to be opened in the country, locations-wise including Maharashtra during 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) As on December 31, 2002, computerised reservation facilities were available at 822 locations in the country. Zone-wise number of these locations is given in statement-I.

(b) There are 162 locations in the country where work is underway for providing computerised reservation facilities. Zone-wise list of these location is given in statement-II. List of such locations in the State of Maharashtra is given in statement-III. In addition, this Ministry has sanctioned 209 location in the Annual Budget 2003-04 which includes 8 locations of Maharashtra State.

Statement I

Zone-wise number of locations having computerised reservation facilities as on 31.12.2002

S.No.	Location	Number
1	2	3
1.	Central Railway	97
2.	East Central Railway	63
3.	Eastern Railway	65
4.	Northern Railway	131
5.	North Western Railway	41
6.	N.E. Railway	38
7.	N.F. Railway	36

1	2	3
8.	Southern Railway	125
9.	S.C. Railway	84
10.	S.E. Railway	81
11.	Western Railway	61
Total		822

Statement II

List of sanctioned Computerised Reservation locations where work is underway and are likely to be commissioned in the year 2003

S.No.	Name of Work
1	2
Central Railway	
1.	PRS at Karjat
2.	PRS at Buldhana
3.	PRS at Alibagh
4.	PRS at Usmanabad
5.	PRS at Chhatarpur
6.	PRS at Tikamgarh
7.	PRS at Bhind
8.	PRS at Sheopur Kalan
9.	PRS at INS Hamla
10.	PRS at Pandharpur
11.	PRS at Ghodadongri
12.	PRS at Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha
Eastern Railway	
1.	PRS at Vishwabharati CBO
2.	PRS at Madhupur
3.	PRS at Godda
4.	PRS at Chuchura
5.	PRS at Deoghar
6.	PRS at Dumka

1	2
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Eastern Central Railway

1. PRS at Anpara
2. PRS at Sindri
3. PRS at Arwal
4. PRS at Garhwal
5. PRS at Bagha
6. PRS at Shivhar
7. PRS at Taregna
8. PRS at Japla
9. PRS at Dumraon
10. PRS at Siswa Bazar
11. PRS at Ghorashan Road

Northern Railway

1. PRS at Khurja Jn.
2. PRS at Jind Jn.
3. PRS at Firozabad
4. PRS at Shikohabad
5. PRS at Shahganj
6. PRS at Nihalgarh
7. PRS at Giddarbaha
8. PRS at Chakkibank
9. PRS at Faridkot
10. PRS at Unchahar
11. PRS at Janghai
12. PRS at Kalpa/Reckong Peo
13. PRS at Bilaspur
14. PRS at Baramula
15. PRS at Kullu
16. PRS at Bijnor
17. PRS at Jhajjar
18. PRS at Panchkula

1	2
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19. PRS at Palam Airport (Domestic)
20. PRS at North Block-Delhi
21. PRS at Aligarh University
22. PRS at Hathras
23. PRS at Mohali
24. PRS at Dhrampur
25. PRS at Pilkhua
26. PRS at Garmukteshwar
27. PRS at Chunar Jn.
28. PRS at Khanna
29. PRS at Rudraprayag
30. PRS at Gopeshwar
31. PRS at Srinagar
32. PRS at Pauri
33. PRS at Amroha

North Western Railway

1. PRS at Palam
2. PRS at Merta Road
3. PRS at Nokha
4. PRS at Sujangarh
5. PRS at Jawai Bandh
6. PRS at Beawar
7. PRS at Bhachau
8. PRS at ZTC-Udaipur (Sat.)
9. PRS at Ratangarh
10. PRS at Narnaul
11. PRS at Phalodi
12. PRS at Karoli
13. PRS at Marwar Jn.
14. PRS at Sirohi Rd.

1	2
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North Eastern Railway

1. PRS at Udhamsingh Nagar (Rudrapur City)
2. PRS at Ramnagar
3. PRS at Almora
4. PRS at Ekma
5. PRS at Khorasan Road
6. PRS at Dholi
7. PRS at Naugarh

Northeast Frontier Railway

1. PRS at Lower Haflong/Haflong
2. PRS at Rangapara
3. PRS at Badarpur
4. PRS at Barsoi
5. PRS at Arariya
6. PRS at North Lakhimpur
7. PRS at Haiber Gaon
8. PRS at Aluabari
9. PRS at Karimganj
10. PRS at Mariani
11. PRS at Malbazar
12. PRS at Harishchandrapur
13. PRS at Kaliyanganj
14. PRS at Diphu
15. PRS at Kumarghat
16. PRS at New MLA Hostel Dispur

Southern Railway

1. PRS at Bhadravathi
2. PRS at Austin Town (SBC Sat.)
3. PRS at Kengeri (SBC Sat.)
4. PRS at Paramakudi
5. PRS at Jolarpettai

1	2
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6. PRS at Manamadurai
7. PRS at Pollachi
8. PRS at Karunagappally
9. PRS at Ottapalam
10. PRS at Mangalore Sat.
11. PRS at Calicut Sat.
12. PRS at Podanur
13. PRS at Angadipuram
14. PRS at Namakkal
15. PRS at Chamrajnagar
16. PRS at Kanhangad
17. PRS at Varkala
18. PRS at Pamba
19. PRS at Kottarakara
20. PRS at Gummidi Poondi
21. PRS at MLA Hostel Chennai
22. PRS at Angamaly
23. PRS at Pathanamthitta
24. PRS at Wayanadu
25. PRS at Idukki
26. PRS at Malappuram
27. PRS at Porur
28. PRS at Chaipak

South Central Railway

1. PRS at Bhadrachalam Road
2. PRS at Nagarsol
3. PRS at Kavali
4. PRS at Ghataprabha
5. PRS at Akividu
6. PRS at Adilabad

South Eastern Railway

1. PRS at Kendrapara Town

1	2
2.	PRS at Jaipur-Keonjhar Road
3.	PRS at RDC Office/Cuttack
4.	PRS at Jagdalpur
5.	PRS at Raipur Town
6.	PRS at Chas Bokaro
7.	PRS at Gumla
8.	PRS at Angul
9.	PRS at Annuppur
10.	PRS at Champa
11.	PRS at Dalli Rajhara Station
12.	PRS at Burnpur Railway Station
13.	PRS at Sini Station
14.	PRS at Paralakhemudi
15.	PRS at Ambikapur
Western Railway	
1.	PRS at Dhrangandhra
2.	PRS at Dahod
3.	PRS at Billimora
4.	PRS at Vastrapur
5.	PRS at Sehore
6.	PRS at Jhalawar
7.	PRS at Amreli
8.	PRS at Santacruz Airport
9.	PRS at Siyaganj
10.	PRS at Baran
11.	PRS at Bundi
12.	PRS at Himmatnagar
13.	PRS at Shamgarh
14.	PRS at Rajendranagar

Statement III

List of sanctioned Computerised Reservation locations of Maharashtra where work is underway for commissioning these locations

S.No.	Location
1.	Karjat
2.	Alibagh
3.	Buldhana
4.	Osmanabad
5.	Pandharpur
6.	Ghoradongri
7.	Nagarsol
8.	INS Hamla

[*Translation*]

Increase in General Coaches in Express and Superfast Trains

3352. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan to increase the number of general coaches in the Express and Superfast trains;

(b) whether the Ministry is satisfied with the number of general coaches in the trains at present;

(c) whether the trains have been identified in which it is imperative to increase the number of coaches; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) Augmentation of trains, including general class coaches, on the Railways is an ongoing process depending upon traffic pattern, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

[*English*]

Cancellation of IOC Depots at Forbeshganj

3353. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for cancellation of services of Indian Oil Corporation's depot at Forbeshganj;

(b) whether due to cancellation of this service the cost of diesel and petrol has been increased by 16 paise per litre;

(c) whether there is some conspiracy between dealers and Indian Oil to create artificial scarcity in the border areas to earn extra cost from the consumers;

(d) whether the Government are aware that farmers are facing lot of problems there and it also affect the productivity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Forbeshganj Depot had been receiving petroleum products by metergauge (MG) rail from Siliguri. Railways have taken up rail guage conversion from MG to Broad Guage (BG) between New Jalpaiguri to Forbeshganj section with effect from December, 2002. Since no input is received through rail, markets earlier attached to Forbeshganj Depot, are now fed from Barauni Terminal.

(b) Out of 21 markets attached to Barauni, there is an increase in retail selling price of petrol/diesel in 7 markets only. The increase in retail selling price in these markets is between 3 paise to 16 paise for petrol and between 3 paise to 15 paise in diesel. There is a reduction in retail selling price in balance 14 markets. The reduction is between 5 paise to 24 paise in petrol and between 4 paise to 23 paise in diesel.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) No such report has been received by the Government.

Basic Amenities on Platforms

3354. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that more than 75% of platforms need basic amenities on sanitary consideration;

(b) if so, whether the platforms short and narrow, have been surveyed so far;

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

(d) if not, the steps taken to rectify them and provide basic amenities at these platforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) Railways have been able to provide minimum essential passenger amenities in qualitative terms as per the laid down norms, like availability of water, toilets etc. at stations including the platforms.

The deficiencies, wherever existing, are in quantitative terms. For example, 10 taps may be available at a station as against requirement of 12 etc. Railways are endeavoring to make up for these quantitative deficiencies also.

The length of platforms are provided/extended based on length of longest stopping train at the station and such works are accordingly proposed in Annual Works Programme. On some stations, the width of the platform is less than the prescribed norms. This is mostly unavoidable because of the space constraints imposed by the yard layout. However, such platforms are also winded whenever yards are remodelled for operational requirements. Such works are identified and prioritized Railway-wise and not State-wise.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Medical Facilities

3355. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average monthly expenditure on the medical treatment of a railway employee and their dependents;

(b) whether the fund provided under the head of medical facility is considered sufficient;

(c) if not, whether any proposal to increase this allocation is under consideration;

(d) the average per capita medical expenditure in the Dhanbad Division of Central-East Railway;

(e) the expenditure incurred on the purchase of drugs in this railway division during the last three years as on 15th February 2003; and

(f) the reasons for the gap between demand of Drugs and departmental supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The average monthly expenditure on medical services being

provided by Railway is Rs. 242/-(approx.) per employee (including dependents).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Per capita expenditure on Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway is Rs. 266/-per month.

(e) The expenditure booked on procurement of drugs in Dhanbad division of E.C. Railway during the last three years upto 15/02/2003 is given below:-

Year	Expenditure
2000-2001	Rs. 39,28,527/-
2001-2002	Rs. 54,19,816/-
2002-2003	Rs. 40,71,483/-*

*The expenditure is upto 15th Feb. 2003 only. Most of the Expenditure is booked during the month of March every year.

(f) From time to time, based on the need, budget allocations are made and this is working satisfactorily.

[English]

Production of Renewable and Non-Renewable Energy

3356. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) the total amount of renewable and non-renewable energy produced in the country during the year 2001-2002, State-wise;

(b) the measures being taken by the Government to increase energy production;

(c) whether the energy production unit causing environmental health hazards; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Details of State-wise power generation capacity added through renewable and non renewable sources during 2001-02 are given in the

enclosed statement. To increase the production and use of renewable energy in the country, the Government is providing various fiscal and financial incentives, including interest subsidy and soft term loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a public sector undertaking.

(c) and (d) The renewable energy power generation plants and systems/devices are non-polluting and environmentally benign.

Statement

State-wise, renewable and non-renewable energy power generation capacity added, during 2001-02

S.No.	State/UT	Renewable 2001-02 (MW)	Non-Renewable 2001-02 (MW)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	64.55	1028.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	270.00
3.	Assam	0.00	1.50
4.	Bihar	0.00	3.10
5.	Gujarat	7.10	97.00
6.	Haryana	0.00	210.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3.56	85.30
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.11	79.80
9.	Karnataka	51.05	544.70
10.	Kerala	0.10	50.20
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	40.00
12.	Maharashtra	227.80	57.30
13.	Manipur	0.00	0.00
14.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00
15.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00
16.	Nagaland	16.00	16.00
17.	Orissa	0.00	1.50.00
18.	Punjab	1.00	150.00
19.	Rajasthan	8.85	500.00
20.	Sikkim	0.00	4.00

1	2	3	4
21.	Tamil Nadu	55.20	482.50
22.	Tripura	1.00	0.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	6.70	0.00
24.	West Bengal	2.31	18.70
25.	Delhi	0.00	90.60
26.	Lakshwadeep	0.20	0.00
27.	Pondichery	0.00	0.00
28.	Chhattisgarh	6.00	0.00
29.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00
30.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00

MW = Megawatt; UT = Union Territory.

[Translation]

Kargil Fund

3357. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received from Chief Minister Relief Fund and public contribution for the welfare of soldiers and or by way of assisting in war measures during the Kargil war or after Kargil war, separately, State-wise;

(b) the amount utilised therefrom;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the amount collected in Madhya Pradesh during Kargil war;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the above said amount of contribution has been deposited with the Government or distributed among the families of the Kargil Martyrs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Ministry of Defence have not received any amount from Chief Minister Relief Fund and public contribution for the welfare of soldiers and or by way of assisting in war measures during the Kargil war or after Kargil War. Ministry of the Defence also do not have details of the amount collected or deposited with the Government in Madhya Pradesh and its disbursement among the families of the Kargil Martyrs.

Trains between Delhi-Jaipur via Alwar

3358. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being experienced by the passengers in the absence of a train between Delhi-Jaipur via Alwar;

(b) if so, the reasons for not introducing a train on this route via Alwar; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Presently, 2413/2414 Delhi-Jaipur Express, 2015/2016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express, 9263/9264 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Porbandar Express, 4311/4312 Bareilly-Bhuj Ala Hazrat Express, 9265/9266 Dehradun-Okha Uttaranchal Express, 2915/2916 Delhi-Ahmedabad Ashram Express, 4759/4760 Delhi-Jaisalmer Express, 2461/2462 Delhi-Jodhpur Mandore Express and 9105/9106 Delhi-Ahmedabad Mail are available between Delhi area and Jaipur via Alwar. Introduction of additional trains in this sector is not feasible at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

Setting up of DD/AIR in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu

3359. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI ADHI SANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu and Gujarat Government and various institutions have demanded for setting up more T.V. and Radio Centres in various districts of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat including Jamnagar and Porbandar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said demand is likely to be met;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the locations where T.V., Radio and Relay Centres have been set up recently and the relay capacity of each of these centres, centre-wise;

(e) the plan, project and estimate to augment their capacity;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up new T.V., Radio and Relay centres in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat during 2003; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Request for establishment of TV centres are received from time to time from various State Governments and institutions etc. Requests for establishment of TV transmitters in the district of Amreli, Banaskantha, Kutch and Panchmahal have been received from the Government of Gujarat. No request from Government of Tamil Nadu appears to have been received in the recent past.

No request from the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat has been received for setting up of Radio Stations. However, some requests have been received from others including some VIPs.

(d) Details of Radio Stations/TV transmitters commissioned in the States of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat during 2002-03 (till February, 03) are as under:-

(i) Gujarat : AIR: 1 KMW Transmitter at Himmatnagar DD: HPTs at Surat (DDI & II-interim); Rajkot (DDI-int) and LPTs (DD-II) at Jamnagar, Vadodara and Bhavnagar.

(ii) Tamil Nadu : AIR: 10 KW FM Transmitter at Dharmapuri, Doordarshan: DD2 LPTs at Tirupattur, Madurai, Erode and Tirunelveli.

(e) Existing HPTs (1KW-interim) at Surat (DD I & II); Rajkot (DDII) and LPT, Vadodara (DDII) are envisaged to be upgraded to 10KW HPTs.

During the 10th Plan, the following AIR centres have been proposed in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu:

Gujarat: (i) Surat (10 KW FM), (ii) Junagarh (5 KW FM), (iii) Jamnagar (10 KW FM), (iv) Bhuj (10 KW FM), (v) Rajkot (1000 KW MW), (vi) Ahmedabad (Digital uplink)

Tamil Nadu: (i) Teni (5 KW FM), (ii) Madurai (10 KW FM), (iii) Chennai (20 KW FM), (iv) Tirunelveli (10 KW FM), (v) Madurai (New uplink)

(f) and (g) In addition to the above projects, the following TV projects are under implementation in the States of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

(i) **Gujarat:** HPT Radhanpur

(ii) **Tamil Nadu:** HPTs at Kodaikanal (DDII); Dharmapuri (DDI) and Tirunelveli

(DDI) and VLPTs (DDI) at Thiruvannamalai and Kanchipuram.

DDII HPT at Kodaikanal and DDI VLPTs at Thiruvannamalai and Kanchipuram are expected to be commissioned during 2003.

[English]

Threat to Railway Property

3360. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the threat posed to Railway property by banned organisations and other people; and

(b) if so, the measures adopted by the Government to save the Railway property from damage and destruction?

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

(b) "According to the provisions of para 03.18 of the Union War Book {1971 item (h)}, the agency primarily responsible for providing protection to bridges and railways is the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the RPF, whenever necessary, and when requested by the State Police, extend help by any of providing manpower and infrastructure facility for organising joint track patrolling, anti-sabotage checks at station, guarding vital installations, etc.

Vacant Posts

3361. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a substantial shortage of officers in the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, whether several posts of officers in the three services of Defence have not been filled up since long;

(c) if so, the vacancy positions of Army, Air Force and Navy separately; and

(d) the steps taken to fill up those vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) There has been some shortage of officers in the Armed Forces. The present shortage of

officers in the Army, Air Force and Navy is given below:

Army	Air Force	Navy
12554	515	1098

Several steps have been taken by the three Services to fill the vacant posts. 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 organised by the Recruiting Officers 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.

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.

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.

In addition, the valiant image of the Armed Forces is consistently projected through the electronic and the print media. The Directorate of Public Relations of Ministry of Defence, regularly interacts with the media persons while giving Defence related information and endeavours to ensure positive publicity of the same. Regular coverage of defence related events in the print and electronic media goes a long way in creating awareness among the masses and motivating the youth to join the armed forces. Websites are also operative on the Internet providing career information on the three Services.

Progress of Tipaimukh Dam

3362. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far on Tipaimukh Project;

(b) whether the concerned States Manipur, Assam and Mizoram have signed the Memorandum of Understandings with NEEPCO;

(c) whether the mandatory environmental clearance has been given to this project;

(d) the amount of funds allocated so far this project;

(e) whether this Tipaimukh Dam Project has been included in the 10th Five Year Plan; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANT MEHTA): (a) to (f) The Techno-Economic Appraisal for Tipaimukh Hydro-electric project (Multipurpose) being implemented by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) was considered by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 9.1.2003 and found in order at a cost of Rs. 5163.86 crores including IDC of Rs. 757.26 crores at December 2002 price level. NOC from Government of Mizoram and Government of Assam has been obtained in August, 2001 and July, 2002 respectively. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has also been signed with Government of Manipur on 09.02.2003. The first state site clearance from MOE&F was obtained in May, 2002. Work on comprehensive environment impact studies for obtaining environmental clearance has been awarded on 14.02.2003 with a completion period of 30 weeks. An application for environment clearance will be submitted to the MOE&F on completion of the above studies. During the year 2002-03, Rs. 7.00 crore has been allotted to the project. The project has not been included in the 10th Five Year Plan as the project is planned to be commissioned within 7 years and 3 months from the date of investment approval by the Government of India.

Computerised Railway Reservation Facility

3363. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways intend to introduce computerisation of reservation facility at Neyyathakara Railway Station under Trivanduram Division; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the extant policy, computerized reservation facilities are provided at the stations registering a reservation workload of 100 transactions per day or more, all District Headquarters, important tourist centres and other important stations. Neyyathakara Railway station

does not qualify for computerized reservation facility under any of the provisions of PRS (Passenger Reservation System) Policy.

[Translation]

Setting up of School for Deaf, Dumb and Blind

3364. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Bihar Government for setting up of school for deaf, dumb and blind;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Reservation for Muslims

3365. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Muslims were provided 39 per cent reservation in Government services before independence which has now been reduced to 2 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to provide 10 per cent reservation in Government services to the Muslims; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[English]

Shortage of Power in U.P.

3366. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of power in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the power generated by U.P. State through its internal sources and total consumption *vis-a-vis* total supply of power from neighbouring States and Central Grids;

(d) the details of the power projects being run with the World Bank assistance in Uttar Pradesh for the last three years; and

(e) the details of concrete steps taken by the Government to improve the supply of power in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) details of power supply position in Uttar Pradesh during the period of April, 2002-February, 2003 are as under:

	Energy (MU)		Peak Demand (MW)	
	February, 2003	April, 2002- February, 03	February, 2003	April, 2002- February, 03
Requirement	2905	41341	6100	6700
Availability	2643	33518	5061	5750
Shortage	262	7823	1039	950
(%)	9.0	18.9	17.0	14.2

(c) Details of generation and availability in the State, source-wise, are as under:

1. State's own generation	— 1417 MU
2. Drawal of Central Sector Generating Stations including assistance from NTPC stations in Eastern Region and Tanda TPS (Operated by NTPC and fully dedicated to Uttar Pradesh)	— 1226 MU
Total availability	— 2643 MU

(d) The following three power generation projects of NTPC located in UP which have been constructed with

the assistance of World Bank, are presently under operation:

Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	State/Executing Agency	Foreign Funding Agency
1. Auraiya Gas based Project	652	UP/NTPC	IBRD
2. National Capital Region Power Project, Dadri.	840	UP/NTPC	IBRD
3. Singrauli Thermal Power Project	2000	UP/NTPC	IDA

(e) Supply and distribution of electricity in a state is the responsibility of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned. Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments by setting up of power projects through Central Public Sector Undertakings to augment power availability in the region.

2000-01 and Rs. 30.12 crores in 2002-03 have been released to Uttar Pradesh for strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution system etc. in the State.

Assistance to Widows

However, in order to mitigate power shortage in UP, the following actions have been taken:

3367. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (i) With the commissioning of Biharsharif-Sasaram-Allahabad HVDC link, import from the Eastern Region has been increased from 300 MW to 450-500 MW resulting in additional assistance to the constituents of Northern Region including Uttar Pradesh.
- (ii) Besides, a capacity addition of 710 MW in the State Sector, 7090 MW capacity has been planned during 10th plan in Central Sector in which UP will have entitlements.
- (iii) Renovation, Modernisation and Life Extension of following old generating units is proposed during the 10th Plan to improve availability from the existing Plants.

(a) whether the Government have launched a scheme to give one time assistance to widows;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount allocated to States for the purpose, State-wise, UT-wise; and

(d) the number of widows likely to be benefited as a result thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Power Generation

3368. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the details of target fixed and achievement made in regard to power generation from hydel and other sources during the current financial year, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): The details of electricity generation target *vis-a-vis* actual generation from hydel and other sources for the period April, 2002 to February, 2003 are as under:-

(a) Units identified for Life Extension:

- All units of Obra TPS (Total capacity 1442 MW)
- Units 3 & 4 of Panki TPS (210 MW)
- Units 1,3,4,5, & 7 of Harduaganj TPS (325 MW)

(b) Units identified for Renovation & Modernisation:

- Units 1 & 2 of Parichha TPS (110 MW each)

(iv) Energy conservation and demand side management etc.

- (v) Under Accelerated Power Development & Reform Programme (APDRP), Rs. 101.46 crores in

(Figures in Million units)

	Target 2002-03	Generation		
		April, 2002 to February, 2003		
		Target	Actual	Percentage (%) of Target
Thermal	445558	405533	408353	100.7
Nuclear	17180	15616	17460	111.8
Hydro	82814	76905	59250	77.0
Total	545552	498054	485063	97.4

Bhatinda Oil Refinery

3369. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to scale down the capacity of the Bhatinda Oil Refinery from 9 million tonnes per annum to 6 million tonnes;

(b) if so, the reasons for scaling down the capacity of the refinery, particularly when the Government are contemplating to create additional storage capacity of oil;

(c) whether the work on the refinery has already been taken in hand;

(d) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be completed and commenced; and

(e) the amount already spent on the construction of this refinery and the total amount anticipated for the completion of this refinery?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The project is under implementation and is expected to be completed by December, 2006.

(e) An expenditure of Rs. 280.32 crore has been incurred on the project upto 28.2.2003. The approved Project cost of 9 MTPA refinery project is Rs. 9,806 crore (at June, 1998 prices).

Rail Accident at Palghat New Mumbai

3370. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether enquiry and investigation of the recent Rail accident at Palghat New Mumbai on Western Railway completed;

(b) if so, the *prima facie* reasons therefor;

(c) the loss and problems caused to the commuters;

(d) the number of days for Western Railway traffic was disrupted;

(e) the steps taken against the erring staff of Railways; and

(f) the further corrective action Railways propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle has conducted the inquiry into the derailment of 117 Dn Bandra Terminus-Dahanu Road Shuttle between Palgarh and Boisar stations on Virar-Dahanu Road Section of Mumbai Division of Western Railway on 31.01.2003. As per provisional findings in the Preliminary Report, this accident occurred due to 'rail fracture'.

(c) and (d) Due to disruption of through traffic for about 42 hours services of 28 mail/express trains and 19 passenger trains were cancelled, partially cancelled or rescheduled and another 10 Mail trains had to be diverted.

(e) Action can be taken on receipt of the final report only.

(f) Following necessary action on the recommendations of Commissioner of Railway Safety is being taken:-

(i) Visual examination of rails from Mumbai Central to Vadodara to identify rails with severe local corrosion and hair line cracks and replacement of defective rails.

(ii) Ensuring that Section Engineer (P. Way) accompanies the USFD PWI during rail testing.

(iii) Inspection of fittings including guard rail fittings of all major bridges to ensure that complement of fitting of complete and in good state of maintenance.

Handicapped Population

3371. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total handicapped population in the country;

(b) the effect of environment degradation to increase their population; and

(c) the Government's budget expenditure on them during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) According to the sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 1991, approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be suffering from some kind of disability.

(b) No impact study has been conducted to determine the correlation of environmental degradation with the increase in population of persons with disabilities.

(c) The expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for programmes related to the disabilities sector during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 is Rs. 164.09 crores, Rs. 246.64 crores and 272.25 crores, respectively.

Disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL

3372. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there will be any control of the Government on H.P.C.L. and B.P.C.L. after disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amount which comes through disinvestment are the money of the Ministry; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Adequate Government control is envisaged through the residual Government share holding in these companies under the provisions of the Companies Act and provisions to be incorporated in the Share Holders Agreement and Share Purchase Agreement. In addition, control would also be exercised through other regulatory

bodies/Law, such as the Department of Company Affairs, Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and provisions of the Competition Act.

(c) and (d) The proceeds from disinvestment are deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.

Introduction of Holiday Special Train from Delhi to Kerala

3373. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to enhance/start Holiday Special trains from Delhi to Kerala to cater to the demands of about 10 lakh Malayalees residing in Delhi only;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the arrangements made earlier were low little to save the passengers as above during the previous seasons; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. To clear the extra rush of traffic, Railways run special trains subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and traffic justification.

Metro Rail Project In Karnataka

3374. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Canadian firm, Bombardier, has offered to execute metro rail project in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Canadian firm has already submitted a proposal to the State Government in this regard;

(c) whether the State Government and the Centre have considered the Canadian firm's offer for metro rail project; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Acquisition of Land In Gurgaon

3375. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land acquired in sector 4 and 6 in Gurgaon by his Ministry as published in Gazette Notification dated November 23, 1979 and March 14, 1980 along with the details of the land owners;

(b) whether the land owners had gone in appeal against the award given by the land acquisition collector on November 11, 1980;

(c) if so, whether Lok Adalat appointed by High Court had given an award on October 17, 2001 in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Estate Officer, Delhi circle, Delhi Cantonment had deposited the amount in the Court as per the award; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the compensation is likely to be paid/deposited?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 76.71 acres of land in villages Gurgaon, Inayatpur, Daulatpur and Nasirabad of District Gurgaon were acquired for Indian Air Force. The details of all the land owners are not available with the Ministry of Defence, as these are not maintained by the Ministry. These would be available with the Land Acquisition Officer Gurgaon.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The amount has not been deposited as Government has decided to appeal against the order.

Extension to Gujarat Queen and Inter-City Express upto Vapi

3376. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by the Government to extend Gujarat Queen and Inter-city Express upto Vapi station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Some representations, including from Shri Manibhai R.

Choudhari, MP, have been received for extension of 9109/9110 Ahmedabad-Valsad Gujarat Queen and 9057/9058 Vadodara-Valsad Inter-city Express to Vapi.

(c) The proposal was examined, but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Social Security Fund for Disabled

3377. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "social security fund for disabled demanded" appeared in the 'Hindu' dated February 22, 2003;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A proposal to evolve a Social Security fund for the benefit of disabled persons from middle and low income families has been received from the National Trust for Welfare of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities and same is under process.

Supply of Petroleum Products to SRCs at Concessional Rates

3378. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the frequent changes in the prices of diesel had affected the road transport, undertakings and passengers;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has urged the Union Government to supply high-speed diesel at concessional and fixed rates to State road transport undertakings as reported in the 'Hindu' dated February 22, 2003 under the heading, "Centre urged to cut diesel prices for RTCs";

(c) if so, the details of representations made by State Government in this regard; and

(d) the response of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the price of diesel has been decontrolled. The oil marketing companies are now fixing the price of diesel after taking into account the prevalent international oil prices. Thus, the variations in the international oil prices are likely to be reflected in the domestic prices of diesel. Further, the selling price of diesel vary from state to state mainly because of differences in the freight element and in the rates of taxes levied by various State Governments.

Vacant Posts in Nagpur Railway Division

3379. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of posts of gangmen, gatemen, loco running and traffic running staff are vacant in Nagpur Railway and it is effecting day to day work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to fillup these vacant posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) There are some vacancies, the details of which are given below:-

Category	Vacancies
Gangmen	300
Gatemen	27
Loco Running	181
Traffic Running Staff	111

It may be mentioned that arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and there are bound to be some vacancies at any given point of time.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Central Railway proposes to fillup these posts for which requisite indents have already been placed on Railway Recruitment Boards. Selections

are also under process for filling up the departmental quota vacancies.

(e) Does not arise.

ONGC Agreement with IOCL for Crude Oil

3380. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC have signed an agreement with IOCL regarding supply of crude oil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) have indeed signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for sale of crude oil by ONGC to the latter and its subsidiary companies namely, Chennai Petrochemicals Ltd. (CPCL) and Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL). The MOU is for the period 1st April, 2002 to 31st March 2004.

Transportation Contracts of Bulk POL

3381. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether four Oil PSUs finalise the transportation contracts of Bulk POL products through Public Tenders and TCC;

(b) if so, whether this said TCC is empowered to change the Terms and Conditions of prescribed tenders;

(c) whether the said TCC is using different Tactic and Rule for finalising these Transportation contract for Leh, Himachal Pradesh and Ambala in Ex-Ambala contract and different Tactic for Ex-Haryana and Delhi contracts;

(d) if so, whether the said TCC and IOCL has receive some complaint by HPTO regarding the integrity and character of some of the transporters of Ambala and the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Oil PSUs against such transporation mafia involved in theft and adulteration during enrout;

(f) the time by which this action shall be taken to ensure that none of the culprit may get such contracts; and

(g) the efforts made to ensure proper transportation of products?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Tender Consideration Committee (TCC) evaluates all the officers as per the Terms and Conditions of the Tender.

(d) A complaint has been received by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) regarding alleged malpractice by two tank trucks plying ex-Ambala terminal. It has been alleged that these tank trucks were tanking out product enroute while on way to consignees.

(e) and (f) Both tank trucks have been suspended from the operation.

(g) POL transportation tenders are finalised through public tender in open and transparent manner. Transport contractors have to abide by the transport agreement signed with contracting companies. In order to curb theft and adulteration oil marketing companies have introduced locking arrangement for the tank trucks. The keys of these locks are available only at oil company's arrangement for the tank trucks. The key of these locks are available only at oil company's loading location and at dealers end for receiving the product.

[*Translation*]

Monetary crisis in A.I.R.

3382. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Radio is in monetary crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the annual funds allotted by the Government to All India Radio during the last three years and till date;

(d) whether All India Radio is unable to pay the artists and writers in time;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The details of Revenue Non-Plan Budget allotted by the Government to Prasar Bharati (All India Radio) is as follows:

Year	Sanctioned Budget Grant (Rs. in crores)
1999-2000	691.28
2000-2001	525.55
2001-2002	527.81
2002-2003	515.64

(d) All India Radio has informed that no such complaints are there any more.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Regularization of Casual Employees in Praga Tools Limited

3383. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether representation have been made to the Government for regularizing the services of casual employees of Praga Tools Limited who have put in more than 10 years of services or in the alternative they should be treated on par with temporary and permanent employees who have been given option for voluntary retirement scheme; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to these representations?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Praga Tools Limited has been incurring continuous losses since 1990. It has been declared sick under the Sick Industrial Companies Act and referred to the BIFR in the year 1998. The company has excess manpower and is implementing the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) as per the guidelines issued by the Government. Manpower has been reduced from 1552 in 1999 to 814,

at present. In view of the excess manpower and sickness in the company, services of casual employees were not regularized. As regard the VRS option, this is not applicable to casual employees as per the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises.

Mangalore-Hassan Rail Link

3384. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether while embarking on uni-gauge conversion of the existing metre-gauge lines in mid-nineties, the Government had set deadlines for restoration of traffic on dismantled lines;

(b) whether Mangalore Hassan link was taken up for gauge conversion with a definite time frame for completion;

(c) whether there has been undue delay in completion of the project thereby prolonging the agony and miseries of the people of the region for want of conductivity;

(d) whether the Government abandon new projects until old and on-going projects are completed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No such dead line was fixed. However, the traffic on the metre-gauge/narrow gauge lines, dismantled during conversion, is to be restored in a reasonable period after conversion into broad gauge.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, the work could not be completed as the funds under gauge conversion plan head got reduced due to lesser availability of resources.

(d) and (e) In view of large shelf of ongoing projects and limited availability of resources, it may, normally, not be feasible to take up new projects.

Growing Drug Addiction among Students and Youths

3385. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing drug addiction among the school and college students and youth in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken to control drug addiction among College, University students and School children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The various studies and reports indicate a rising incidence of alcohol and drug abuse amongs certain vulnerable sections of the society which include students and youth.

(c) Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse, the Ministry is providing financial support to the Non-Government Organizations for awareness programmes in different settings including educational institutions, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services. During the Ninth Plan, on an average, an amount of approx Rs. 18 crores has been disbursed annually to NGOs to provide these services all over the country. An amount of Rs. 25.50 crores has been allocated during this financial year.

[Translation]

Power Generation in Bihar

3386. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of power being generated in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh as on date;

(b) the total demand of power by States; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet power demand of both the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During the period April, 2002-February, 2003, the electricity generation in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh was 5011 MU and 67585 MU respectively.

(b) During the period April, 2002-February, 2003, the peak demand in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh was 1389 MW and 6700 MW respectively.

(c) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by setting up power projects through Central Public Sector Undertakings to augment power availability in the region.

However, in order to mitigate power shortage in the country including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the following steps are being taken:

- (i) Besides capacity addition of 135 MW in State Sector in Bihar and 710 MW in State Sector in Uttar Pradesh, generation capacity of 7090 MW in Northern Region and 5650 MW in Eastern Region has been planned to be set up in The Central Sector during 10th Plan Period in which the States will have entitlements.
- (ii) Implementation of Renovation, Modernization and Life Extension (R&M & LE) Schemes for old and inefficient generating units for overall improvement in generation performance. PFC disburses loan with interest subsidy of 3% under Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme for this purpose.
- (iii) Enhancement in evacuation of surplus power from Eastern Region to other regions including Northern Region of which Uttar Pradesh is a constituent by setting up of inter-regional links. recently, Sasaram HVDC back-to-back station has been commissioned which has facilitated transfer of 500 MW from Eastern Region to Northern Region in a synchronous mode.
- (iv) Promoting energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.
- (v) Government of India is striving for achieving financial turn around of State Electricity Boards/ Utilities so as to enable them to become commercially viable. To bring about reforms in distribution, Ministry of Power in Government of India has launched Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) as a major step towards reduction in aggregate transmission and commercial losses and attaining commercial viability of the power sector. The release of funds for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh under APDRP during 2000-01 and 2002-03 is as under:-

	2000-01 (Rs. in Crores)	2002-03 (Rs. in Crores)
Bihar	21.25	16.11
Uttar Pradesh	101.46	30.12

[English]

Arrears Payable to States

3387. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outstanding arrears payable to various State Governments by the Railways as on date on account of expenditure incurred on the Government Railway Police, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for not making payment of the said amount so far; and

(c) the time by which the full payment is likely to be cleared by the railways?

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

(b) The State Governments are required to create the Government Railway Police posts only after prior approval of the Railway administration and should raise bills on account of their deployment on Railways along with Audit Certificate issued by Accountant General of their States. The outstanding is mainly on account of operation of unsanctioned Government Railway Police posts and non-receipt of certificate of Accountant General of State Government concerned.

(c) This is a continuous process and Railways have standing instructions for payment of all clearly admissible claims accompanied by Audit Certificate after exercising necessary internal check.

Statement

(a) Position is as on 28-02-2003

(figures in lakhs of Rs.)

States	Amount outstanding
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	383.03
Bihar	2811.74
Chhatisgarh	232.00

1	2
Gujarat	706.00
Haryana	0.39
Karnataka	532.30
Kerala	564.31
Maharashtra	2707.70
Madhya Pradesh	129.14
Orissa	1341.00
Rajasthan	0.11
Tamil Nadu	441.05
Uttar Pradesh	700.95
West Bengal	3357.95
Total	13907.67

Development of Railways

3388. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for development, strengthening and expansion of rail traffic, both passenger and goods in terms of traffic growth projections in the country, especially in the Southern and Western regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action plan finalised/under active consideration for Southern and Western regions in general and Karnataka and Maharashtra in particular for the current year and the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Railways formulates its plan towards growth of passenger and freight traffic, for the entire network across the country and not region-wise or state-wise. In terms of X Five Year Plan formulated, the annual compound traffic growth rate projected for X Five Year Plan for the entire Indian Railways is as follows—
(i) Freight Traffic in terms of Net Tonne Kms.—2.5%,
(ii) Passenger Traffic in terms of Passenger Kms.—5.3%.

For the current year i.e. 2002-03, the projected growth rate as per revised estimated of 2002-03 are as follows—

- (i) Freight Traffic in terms of Net Tonne Kms.—7.2%,
- (ii) Passenger Traffic in terms of Passenger Kms. (-) 1.9%.

[*Translation*]

Running of Train with Bio-Diesel

3389. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to give the railway land to the public sector oil company Indian Oil for cultivation of the plants used in producing bio diesel;

(b) if so, whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Railways and Indian Oil in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total railway lands in acres likely to be used initially for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Railways have decided to offer 500 Hectares of land to M/s Indian Oil Corporation on a token lease of Re. 1 per year for plantation of *Jatropha Curcas* which can produce bio-diesel.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding for launching the Pilot Project has been signed between Indian Oil Corporation and Railways.

(c) A copy of salient features of the Pilot Project on Bio-diesel is enclosed as statement.

(d) 1235 Acres (500 Hectares) approximately.

Statement

Pilot Project on Bio-Diesel Salient features

- Railways will offer about 500 hectare of compact land to IOC on a token lease of Re. 1 per annum for plantation of *Jatropha Carcus*. Possible locations for such land are—Rajkot (647 Hectare), Bhavnagar (727 hectare), Jaipur (440 hectare).

- IOC will take up plantation, extraction, transesterification, (Refining as Bio-diesel) blending, testing at their own expense. IOC will out source some/all the activities.
- IR will use Bio-diesel supplied by IOC. Starting with 5% Bio-diesel they will go up to 20% after gaining field experience and confidence.
- Plantation of 500 Hectare of Jatropha is expected to give 500-800 tons of Bio-diesel per year beginning 3rd year of plantation.
- Estimates gathered from NOVAD indicate an expenditure of Rs. 40,000/Hectare on plantation, which includes care of plants for one year.
- Trans-esterification plants of 1-4 T/day capacity are commercially available at an estimated cost of Rs. 8-12 lacs. Alternatively, this activity can be out sourced.
- Considering a production of 500-800 tonnes of Bio-diesel from the pilot project, an estimated 10,000-16,000 tons of blended bio-diesel shall be available to IR.
- The existing estimates by the Ministry of Agriculture indicate a price of Rs. 11-12/litre for bio-diesel. However, there are many assumptions in the estimate as this activity is being taken in hand for the first time in the country. The final prices could be at variance with the estimated price and will be jointly decided by IOC and IR separately.
- Storage/dispensing facilities for the blended product will be arranged at the identified diesel loco shed.
- Railways will exclusively procure Bio-Diesel from IOC for a period of 8 years from the date of signing of MOU or 6 years from the date of supply of Bio-Diesel from the pilot project, whichever in earlier.
- In case IOC is not able to meet full requirement of IR, it will be free to take Bio-Diesel from elsewhere.
- If, any vendor is willing to supply Bio-Diesel at a lower price he will be directed to IOC who in turn will supply the oil so procured to the Railways.

- IOC and the Railways through negotiation will mutually decide Price of Bio-Diesel.
- The Pilot Project is for a period of 15 years extendable through mutual consent.

[English]

Strength of Contract Employees in EIL

3390. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of contract employees in Engineers India Limited (EIL) recruited on three year contract basis from the 1993 onwards;

(b) the number of contract employees in EIL so recruited and have resigned or released on completion of their period of contract or released on fore-closure of their period of contract and number of them continuing in service at present;

(c) the details of above employees, year-wise SC/ST/OBC and designation-wise; and

(d) the policy of the ELI to be followed for recruitment/re-appointment of contract engineers in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The total strength of contract engineers recruited for construction management in Engineers India Limited (EIL) since 1993 is 538. Out of this, 537 contract engineers have resigned or have been separated on account of completion of contract period/foreclosure of contract. Only 1 contract engineer is now continuing in EIL because of his disability during an accident.

(c) Information is given in statements I & II.

(d) ELI in June, 2000 had decided to fill up 50% of the vacancies/requirement of management Trainees on an annual basis from contract engineers. Such vacancies were to be filled up from the contract engineers working in the company or who have left the service of the company on completion of contract period/foreclosure of contract, and meet the selection criteria.

Statement-I*Details of Contract Engineers Recruited for Construction Management in Engineers India Limited*

Year	Designation	General	SC	ST	OBC	Total
1993	Engineer	2	1	—	—	3
1994	Engineer	15	5	—	2	22
1995	Engineer	41	6	—	17	64
1996	Engineer	34	10	2	12	58
1997	Engineer	71	42	4	23	140
1998	Engineer	15	10	20	27	72
1999	Engineer	—	—	10	—	10
2000	Engineer	—	—	—	—	—
2001	Engineer	—	—	—	—	—
2002	Engineer	—	—	—	—	—

Year	Designation	General	SC	ST	OBC	Total
1993	Sr. Engineer	14	3	—	—	17
1994	Sr. Engineer	54	7	—	6	67
1995	Sr. Engineer	11	—	—	1	12
1996	Sr. Engineer	20	4	—	14	38
1997	Sr. Engineer	17	1	—	9	27
1998	Sr. Engineer	1	—	—	5	6
1999	Sr. Engineer	2	—	—	—	2
2000	Sr. Engineer	—	—	—	—	—
2001	Sr. Engineer	—	—	—	—	—
2002	Sr. Engineer	—	—	—	—	—

Statement-II*Details of Contract Engineers Resigned/Separated from Engineers India Limited*

Year	Designation	Resigned				Contract completion				Foreclosure of contract				Total			
		Gen.	SC	ST	OBC	Gen.	SC	ST	OBC	Gen.	SC	ST	OBC	Gen.	SC	ST	OBC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1993	Engineer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1994	Engineer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1995	Engineer	9	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	2	—	3
1996	Engineer	12	5	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	5	1	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1997	Engineer	15	4	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	4	—	7
1998	Engineer	14	4	4	9	5	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	20	4	4	13
1999	Engineer	16	3	4	5	5	2	—	1	1	1	2	1	22	6	6	7
2000	Engineer	11	4	2	8	57	30	1	16	2	5	5	8	70	39	8	32
2001	Engineer	1	—	—	1	18	10	4	3	12	3	13	13	31	13	17	17
2002	Engineer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Year	Designation	Resigned				Contract completion				Foreclosure of contract				Total			
		Gen.	SC	ST	OBC	Gen.	SC	ST	OBC	Gen.	SC	ST	OBC	Gen.	SC	ST	OBC
1993	Sr. Engineer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1994	Sr. Engineer	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
1995	Sr. Engineer	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1996	Sr. Engineer	5	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	2
1997	Sr. Engineer	21	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	1	—	4
1998	Sr. Engineer	16	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	16	3	—	1
1999	Sr. Engineer	9	2	—	3	7	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	16	3	—	6
2000	Sr. Engineer	3	1	—	1	38	4	—	10	3	2	—	3	44	7	—	14
2001	Sr. Engineer	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	3	4	1	—	4	13	1	—	7
2002	Sr. Engineer	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Programmes from Kokrajhar AIR Kendra

3391. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the local programmes are broadcast for less than four hours a day from Kokrajhar AIR Kendra;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the time from 4 hours for local programmes with a view to promote local Bodo culture;

(c) whether the range of this Kokrajhar AIR Station is 50 Km. only;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to enhance its range from 50 Km. to at least 200 Km, so that Bodo people living throughout North-Eastern Region may avail of this facility; and

(e) if not the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that AIR, Kokrajhar is presently broadcasting 4½ hours of programmes daily which includes 3½ hours of local origination. At present, there is no proposal to increase the origination of local programmes due to various infrastructural and administrative constraints.

(c) to (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that the range of Kokrajhar AIR Station is around 70 kms. and it is not possible to enhance the range of the transmitter to 200 Kms., due to technical reasons.

Scholarships to Children

3392. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army has got an offer from the Coca-Cola Company to give educational scholarships to children of army employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the government to utilise the said offer?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Coca Cola Company, India has made an offer to provide 500 scholarships of Rs. 5,000/- each to the children of Army personnel studying in Classes X to XII of Army Schools, being run by the Army Welfare Education Society, registered under the Societies Act. Applications will be called from the wards of army personnel and a list of children on merit cum means will be drawn up for consideration of award of scholarships.

Transmission Line from Talcher to Kolar

3393. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether POWERGRID'S East South inter-connector-II HVDC Bipole Transmission system has been commissioned very recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the 2000 MV Talcher-Kolar-KV HVDC Bipole are likely to provide sufficient power supply to Karnataka and all other Southern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b): POWERGRID has recently commissioned East-South Interconnector-II HVDC Bipole Transmission System. This system comprises a 2000 MW HVDC bipole transmission line from Talcher in Orissa to Kolar in Karnataka. Pole I of the system was commissioned in September, 2002 and Pole II was test charged in December, 2002.

(c) and (d) The transmission system has been planned and implemented for evacuation of entire 2000 MW of power to be generated at Talcher II (4x500 MW) generation project and its delivery to the states in Southern Region (including Karnataka) in accordance with

their share of power after progressive commissioning of the generation project one Unit (500 MW) has already been synchronized in February, 2003. Subsequent to commissioning of Talcher-Kolar HVDC link, special allocation of 90 MW each has been made to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu from NTPC's generating stations of Eastern Region exclusively for pooling with allocation of 90 MW each from Kayamkulam Power Station of NTPC. Besides, surplus power from Eastern Region has also been made available to the various States (including Karnataka) of Southern Region. Karnataka is entitled to draw 100-250 MW surplus power from Eastern Region during off peak periods. This would help to mitigate power shortage of Karnataka and the other states of Southern Region.

[Translation]

Projects for Disabled

3394. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the projects recommended by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi under the scheme to promote the voluntary works for the benefit of disabled people during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities provides for inspection and recommendation by the State Governments and Nodal Agencies for considering release of grant in aid. These recommendations are reviewed to assess the quality of the programme as well as for compliance of requirements of guidelines of the Scheme. Availability of funds and need for balanced regional and spatial development are also kept in view. This procedure is extended to all the States/UTs including Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Amount of assistance given to voluntary organizations in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh (UP) during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03 are given below:

State/UT	Year 2001-02		Year 2002-03	
	No of NGOs	Amount Rs. in Lakh	No of NGOs	Amount Rs. in Lakh
Delhi	36	527.78	32	489.61
UP	59	715.33	60	676.81

*[English]***Solar Energy Programme in A.P.**

3395. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some solar energy programmes are being implemented in Andhra Pradesh with central assistance/ grants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds released to the State for these programmes during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the result achieved in the State so far under these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) The Ministry is implementing various solar energy programmes such as solar photo voltaic (SPV) programme, SPV water pumping programme, solar thermal extension programme and solar cooker programme in all the states of the country, including Andhra Pradesh. Under these programmes, installation of solar energy based systems such as solar home systems, street lighting systems, power plants, solar pumps, solar lanterns, solar water heating systems and solar cookers is being supported through central subsidy, soft loan package and other incentives. In addition, the Ministry is supporting the establishment of 'Aditya' solar shops in selected cities of the country.

The solar energy programmes are being implemented in Andhra Pradesh by the State nodal agency for renewable energy programmes i.e. Non-Conventional Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NEDCAP), the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and some banks.

The Ministry released Rs. 58.80 lakhs during 1999-2000, Rs. 200.18 lakhs during 2000-01 and Rs. 154.71 lakhs during 2001-02 for the implementation of solar energy programmes in the State.

The following solar energy systems have been installed in Andhra Pradesh, so far:

- (a) 33,167 solar lanterns.
- (b) 1,016 solar home lighting systems.
- (c) 927 solar street lighting systems.

(d) 603 solar pumps.

(e) 9.60 kWp SPV small power plants.

(f) 100 kWp grid connected SPV power plants.

(g) 16,624 sq.m. of collector area for solar water heaters.

(h) 1,146 box solar cookers.

(i) 43 dish solar cookers.

(j) 6 community solar cookers for indoor cooking.

(k) the World's largest solar steam cooking system at Tirumala.

(l) Solar steam cooking system at Rishi Valley School, Chittoor.

An 'Aditya' solar shop for promoting the sales of solar energy systems has also been set up at Hyderabad.

System of Changing Telescopic Fares

3396. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have resume the system of charging telescopic fares from passengers who wish to extend their journeys while travelling;

(b) if so, the reasons for abandoning this fair system of ticketing;

(c) whether railways are reverting to ancient practices in such commercial matters;

(d) whether railways are unconcerned about the needs of passengers who actually pay for tickets;

(e) whether there is discrimination between the railway policy for ticket paying travellers and pass holding free travellers;

(f) if so, the steps proposed to make the railways friendly to people who actually pay for their travel?

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

(b) Prior to 1994, passengers were given the benefit of telescopic rates if they wanted to extend journey beyond the original destination station. On receipt of reports about misuse of this facility, the method of

charging telescopic fares for extended journeys was revised with effect from 29.7.1994.

(c) to (e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Electrification by Renewable Energy

3397. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast potential for the renewable energy sources to meet the requirements of the unelectrified villages in the hilly and forest areas of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether I.R.E.D.A. has made any assessment regarding potential of renewable energy in each State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) According to statistics of November 2002 of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) there are 19,684 villages (1991 census) still to be electrified in Uttar Pradesh. Renewable energy sources can be effectively used for the electrification of villages in remote and difficult areas. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a programme for electrification of villages in remote areas in the country, including the state of Uttar Pradesh. Under this programme, renewable energy systems like solar photovoltaic systems & power plants, small hydro units and biomass grassfires are installed in these villages to provide lighting and other services. The programme for electrification of villages in Uttar Pradesh is being implemented through the state renewable energy development agency i.e. the Non-Conventional Energy Development Agency of Uttar Pradesh (NEDA), Lucknow. A project for electrification of 14 remote villages through installation of solar photovoltaic power plants is presently under implementation by NEDA. Further, 211 sites have been identified in the state for setting up small hydro projects of aggregate 267 MW capacity. There is also some potential for setting up biomass gasifier based systems for electrification of villages in the state. The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has not made any separate assessment of the potential of renewable energy in the state.

Unsatisfactory State of Sanitation on Railway Station

3398. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of complaints regarding pitiable and unsatisfactory state of sanitation on railway stations and passenger trains has increased recently;

(b) if so, the details and number of such complaints received during the last six months; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to improve sanitary condition on railway stations and trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Complaints received by Railways, on account of poor and unsatisfactory condition of sanitation and cleanliness on Railways stations and in passenger trains, have increased marginally during the recent months. During the period April, 02 to Sept., 02, 179 complaints regarding cleanliness at stations and 294 complaints regarding cleanliness/maintenance of coaches have been received by the Railways.

(c) Various actions taken to improve sanitation on Railway stations and in trains include strengthening of monitoring and supervision, introduction of 'Pay and Use' Scheme of toilets, emphasis on mechanized cleaning processes, provisions of washable aprons and additional dustbins, regular removal of garbage, spraying of insecticides, repairs to drains, monthly intensive cleaning of coaches, use of high pressure jet cleaning plants at coaching depots and mobile jet cleaning machines at stations enroute, use of improved and eco-friendly cleaning agents, use of various media to educate the passengers & seeking their cooperation to keep Railway areas and trains clean, developing identified stations as "Clean Train Stations" to provide effective enroute cleaning of long distance trains etc.

[English]

LPG Outlets in Tamil Nadu

3399. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plans to supply small 5 kg LPG cylinders for the consumers in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plans to start new LPG outlets in Tamil Nadu in the next marketing plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and also the details of LPG outlets in Tamil Nadu, Company-wise, district-wise;

(e) whether many of the newly started LPG retail outlets in Tamil Nadu have recorded sales below optimum level of viability;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the total quantity and value of LPG sold in Tamil Nadu in the last three years, company-wise; and

(h) the details of individual LPG retail outlets sales recorded of Rs. 50 lakhs and above in the last three years, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government have allowed Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to sell 5 kg LPG cylinders for domestic purpose to low income group customers in the country. OMCs have identified certain markets particularly in rural and hilly areas in the initial phase, including Tamil Nadu, to sell 5 kg cylinders.

(c) and (d) Consequent upon the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) OMCs will set up LPG distributorships as per their commercial considerations in all the States including Tamil Nadu.

(e) and (f) At present, 61 LPG distributorships are operating below viability level in the Tamil Nadu.

(g) The total sale of LPG by OMCs in the State during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Total sale of LPG (in TMT)
1999-2000	512.45
2000-2001	643.51
2001-2002	716.39

(h) In Tamil Nadu, 384 distributors of OMCs have recorded their annual sales more than Rs. 50 lakhs during the year 2001-2002.

LPG Distributorships

3400. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government was to commission over 3400 LPG distributorship during Ninth Five Year Plan under various plans;

(b) if so, the number of LPG distributorships set up during Ninth Five Year Plan in the country;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the target; and

(d) the measures taken to achieve the same in rural areas and in small and medium cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have commissioned 2,115 LPG distributorships during the 9th Five Year Plan. However, there is no co-relation between the marketing plan approved by the Government and the Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) Consequent upon the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), OMCs will set up the LPG distributorships as per their commercial considerations in all the States.

Incident of Beating Dalit Students in Hindu College in Delhi

3401. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government the incident in Hindu College in Delhi where three Dalit students were beaten up on December 20, 2001;

(b) whether it is true that the Commission on SC/ST had to intervene to get the FIR registered by the police;

(c) if so, whether any inquiry conducted to ascertain facts in both the incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereon and the action taken against the police personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have informed

that a clash between two groups of students took place in the premises of the student Hostel of the Hindu College of Delhi University on 20th & 21st December 2002.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have further informed that the incident has been enquired into by a retired Senior Police Officer on behalf of the Governing Body of the Hindu college. A first Information Report dated 23.12.2002 under Section 342/323/506/34IPC along with appropriate provision under Section 3 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 has also been registered by Delhi Police at Police Station Maurice Nagar at the intervention of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The victims have been medically examined and same accused have been arrested.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Group-D Employees

3402 DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision of the Railway Board in regard to recruitment of group 'D' employees through the Railway Recruitment Board instead of recruitment thereof at the division level is endorsed by the Cabinet;

(b) if not, the authority under which the Railway Board has taken decision in this regard;

(c) whether despite the said decision it is still obligatory that only the people living in any division would be recruited for that particular division; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Ministry for Railways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Raids on DD Officials

3403. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether raids were conducted at the residences of some Doordarshan Officials during the last three years and till date;

(b) if so, the details of illegal property recovered therefrom; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The nature and amount of the property unearthed by CBI during raids will be decided on conclusion of judicial/departmental proceedings.

Determining of the Creamy Layer in OBC

3404. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cut off figure was Rs. 1 lakh for determining creamy layer in 1993;

(b) whether there is any provision to revise the said amount every year;

(c) if so, the number of times this amount has been revised since then; and

(d) if so, the stand of the Government in this regard along with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No revision in income ceiling has been made since 1993.

(d) The Government of India has decided to constitute a Review Committee to revise the existing income ceiling. The constitution of the Committee is under process.

Programmes to Improve the Living Standard of SCs/STs

3405. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are implementing several programmes to improve the standard of living of the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and financially weaker sections living in rural Adivasis and urban slum localities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of the persons belonging to SC/ST benefited from these programmes during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the details of the projects being implemented with World Bank assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A *statement* indicating the schemes being implemented by this Ministry and Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the improvement of SCs/STs is annexed. Requisite details of the schemes for the economic and social upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last three years are given in the Annual Reports 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(d) No assistance has been taken from World Bank for implementing any project.

Statement

S.No	Schemes implemented by the Ministry of SJ&E and Ministry of Tribal Affairs for improvement of SCs/STs	
	Scheme for Scheduled Castes	Scheme for Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3
1.	Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan
2.	Post Matric Scholarship	Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution
3.	PCR and Atrocities	Girls Hostel for Scheduled Tribes
4.	Hostel for SC boys & Girls	Boys Hostel for Scheduled Tribes
5.	State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations	Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas
6.	National Safai Karamcharis Finance Development Corporation	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs.
7.	Book Banks.	Research and Training
8.	Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers	Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations
9.	Pre-Matric Scholarship	Educational Complex in Law Literacy Pockets for Development of ST Girls in Tribal Areas
10.	Coaching & Allied for SCs	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
11.	Upgradation of Merit of SCs/STs students	Village Grain Bank Scheme
12.	State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups
13.	National Overseas Scholarship Scheme	Post Matric Scholarship

1	2	3
14.	Assistance to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of SCs.	National Overseas Scholarship Scheme
15.	Special Educational Programme for SCs	Coaching & Allied for STs
16.	National Scheduled Castes Finance Development Corporation	Upgradation of Merit of STs
17.	—	Book Bank Scheme
18.	—	State Tribal Development Finance Corporations
19.	—	Exchange of Visits by Tribals

Proposal submitted by Rajasthan

3406. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals of railway project submitted by the Government of Rajasthan which are still pending for approval;

(b) the time by which the pending projects are likely to be cleared by the Government; and

(c) the details of the estimated cost thereof, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The details of the proposals of the railway projects received from Government of Rajasthan for which the works have not been approved are as under:—

(a) where surveys have been conducted but in view of unremunerative nature of the project and acute constraint of resources, it has not been found feasible to take up the work.

S. No.	Name of project	Year of completion of survey	Km.	Cost (Rs. in crore)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
New Lines					
1.	Gangapur City-Dholpur	1998	144.60	153.445	A survey for gauge conversion of Dholpur-Sirmuttra narrow gauge line to broad gauge and its extension from Sirmuttra to Gangapur City was conducted.
2.	Dungarpur-Banswara-Rattlam new line and extension to Nimbahara	2003	176.47	920.56	Survey for new line from Dungarpur to Rattlam via Banswara was conducted.
3.	Bilara to Bar	1997	49.00	54.00	—
4.	Ajmer-Merta Rd. via Pushkar	1999	65.00	209.00	The work of construction of new line between Ajmer to Pushkar has been taken up in the Budget 2000-01.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gauge conversion					
1.	Phulera-Ringas-Rewari, Jaipur-Ringas-Sikar-Churu, Sikar-Loharu	1998	673.00	645.82	—
2.	Bikaner-Ratangarh-Churu-Sadulpur-Loharu-Rewari, Ratangarh-Degana.	1999	605.49	542.65	The work of gauge conversion of Rewari-Sadulpur has already been taken up. Gauge conversion of Hisar-Sadulpur has been approved as a part of this project.

(b) *Where surveys have been sanctioned and are in progress.*

(i) To link Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad line (27 km.)

(ii) Jaisalmer-Barmer new line (170 Km.)

(iii) Udaipur (Umra)-Ahmedabad via Dungarpur gauge conversion (346.09 Km).

(c) *Where no survey has been conducted.*

S. No.	Project	Km.
1.	New line between Jaisalmer and Sonu via Hamira	50.00
2.	New line between Bhiwani and Churu via Loharu, Pilani, Mandrela Alsisar and Bisau	165.00
3.	New line between Jaipur and Nathdwara via Ganganagar, Bhilwara, Baneda, Shahpur, Kekri, Malpura, Diggi, Fagi and Sanganer	365.00
4.	New line between Anupgarh and Jaisalmer via Khajuwala and Ramgarh.	390.00

The approximate cost in the case of construction of new line is about Rs. 3 crore per km.

[English]

Recommendations of Safai Karamchari Commission

3407. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

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

(a) the composition of present National Commission for Safai Karamcharis;

(b) the details of recommendations made by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis;

(c) the details of recommendations on which the Central Government have taken action to step up the

welfare measures for the Safai Karamcharies in the country, during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the details of recommendations which relate to scavengers;

(e) the details of recommendations implemented by the Government December 31, 2002; and

(f) the details of cities from where the Central Government have been able to remove manual scavenging in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The composition of National Commission for Safai Karamcharies is as:-

1. Shri Panna Lal Tambay — Chairman
2. Smt. Manju Chandra — Vice Chairperson

3. Shri Girja Shankar Prasad — Member
 4. Shri Subhas Dawre — Member
 5. Shri Ganga Ram Teja — Member
 6. Shri Chinta Sambha Murthy — Member
 7. Shri Ram Prasad Balmiki — Member

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	From Coal India Limited	From Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.	Total
1999-2000	56.75	10.29	67.04
2000-2001	62.67	10.15	72.82
2001-2002	67.93	8.67	76.60

(b) to (e) National Commission for Safai Karamcharis has so far given 5 Annual Reports. Out of these 4 Reports alongwith action taken memorandum have been laid on the Table of Lok Sabha as per provision in Section 12 (1) of National Safai Karamcharis Act,1993.

Details about period covered and the date of laying of Annual Report in Lok Sabha are as:—

Report	Laid in Lok Sabha on
1st Report 1994-95	13.3.2000
2nd Report 1995-96	13.3.2000
3rd Report 1996-97 & 1997-98 (combined)	23.11.2001
4th Report 1998-99 & 1999-2000 (combined)	23.11.2001.

The 5th Annual report for the period 2001-2002 has been received on 7.3.2003 only.

(f) All cities of all Union Territories and States of Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura have been declared as scavenger free.

Ash in Coal Purchased by NTPC

3408. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal purchased by NTPC from Coal India Limited annually along with the annual cost of the coal purchased during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the ash content is also available in the coal purchased from Coal India Limited; and

(c) if so, the percentage of ash occurred in this coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The total quantum of coal purchased by NTPC during the last three years is as under:

The annual cost of the coal purchased by NTPC during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are Rs. 5492.91 crores, Rs. 6208.64 crores and Rs. 7176.60 crores respectively.

(b) and (c) The percentage of ash in the coal purchased by NTPC ranges from 30-42%.

Coal Bed Methane in West Bengal and Jharkhand

3409. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has signed an agreement with Coal India Ltd. to exploit Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in West Bengal and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details of this agreement;

(c) the commercial gains to ONGC from this agreement; and

(d) the investment made by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Coal India Ltd. (CIL) on the 16th April, 2001 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for joint working in the field of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) activities and submitted a joint proposal for award of two CBM blocks, one in Raniganj Coalfield in West Bengal and other in Jharia Coalfield in Jharkhand. Subsequently, the Government has awarded these two blocks to the ONGC-CIL consortium and the Contracts have been signed on the 6th February, 2003.

(c) The MOU envisages pooling of the experience, expertise and knowledge of these two companies which will help in harnessing of CBM and in developing further strategies in this field. Also, as per the CBM Policy, the consortium will have the freedom to market the CBM produced from these blocks.

(d) Signature Bonus for Rs. 2.85 crores has been paid by the Consortium as per the terms of the CBM Contract.

Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons

3410. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new schemes or taken new initiatives during last two years for rehabilitation of disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds released along with the number of persons benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) A new scheme entitled National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities has been started during the current financial year. Under this scheme, 250 scholarships each for male and female disabled students for pursuing post matric/post secondary professional and technical courses of duration not less than one year are provided. A sum of Rs. 19,72,324/- has been released benefiting 171 disabled students this year. In order to generate awareness and dissemination of information on the facilities available through the institutional mechanism, an awareness campaign was launched on pilot basis in 12 districts in the country in 2001-2002.

Allotment of LPG Agencies/Retail Outlets by Oil Companies

3411. CHAUDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications under different reserved categories received by oil companies for allotment of retail outlets/LPG distributorships/SKO-LDO dealerships for the past three years and the cases sanctioned, State-wise;

(b) whether Scheduled Tribes of Jammu and Kashmir applied in response to the advertisements for retail outlets/agency;

(c) if so, the number of applications approved during the said period; and

(d) the reasons for rejecting the remaining applications, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) 1364 retail outlet dealerships, 1853 LPG distributorships and 176 SKO-LDO dealerships were allotted under the different categories in various States/Union Territories in the country, after selection by the erstwhile Dealer Selection Boards, during the last three years, i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

(b) to (d) No dealerships/distributorships under the 'ST' category were advertised in the State of Jammu & Kashmir during the last three years.

[*Translation*]

Joint Venture Project of BSES and DVC

3412. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far to complete the Maithan Right Bank Thermal Power Project a joint venture of BSES and DVC;

(b) the details and reasons for non-completion of the project within the prescribed time;

(c) the efforts made so far to remove those reasons;

(d) whether the coal mines of the Bharat Coking Coal Limited will be able to cater to the requirement of coal for this project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Various inputs/clearances except environmental clearance, acquisition of land, required for obtaining Techno-Economic Clearance of Central Electricity Authority have been obtained for the Maithan Right Bank Thermal Power Project. The project developers are pursuing with the concerned authorities for obtaining the pending clearances/inputs so that the project could be taken up for execution at the earliest.

(d) to (f) Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) have informed that coal blocks identified for the project were no longer available. The alternative source for supply for coal is to be identified by Coal India Limited.

**LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Gujarat
and Tamil Nadu**

3413. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI ADHI SANKAR:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether demand for setting up more LPG Agencies and petrol pumps in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat have been received by the Government in the past three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps allotted in both the States in the last three years; and

(d) the number of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies targeted to be allotted during the year 2003 in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have allotted 74 LPG distributorships and 57 Retail Outlets in Tamil Nadu during the last 3 years. Similarly, during the same period, 90 LPG distributorships and 51 Retail Outlets have been allotted in Gujarat. The demand of Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) are being met in both the States, adequately.

(d) Consequent upon the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), OMCs will set up the LPG distributorships and Retail Outlets as per their commercial considerations in all the States.

[English]

Leakage of Oil and Gas from Pipelines

3414. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) the details of cases reported by public sector oil companies about leakage of oil or gas from the pipelines during the year 2001, 2002 and till date;

(b) the total loss of amount and life in each of such incident;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to modernise the pipeline network and to make secure; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Transportation of oil and gas through the pipelines is being carried out by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL), Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and to some extent by other oil companies whose operations are spread out through the country. These companies have been taking various steps to prevent occurrence of leakage of oil and gas.

With a view to ensure safety and security in operations, oil companies have taken a number of measures, which, inter alia, include carrying out a campaign to educate the local people about dangers involved in attempting pilferage/theft, intensification of inspection of oil wells and installations and constant review and monitoring of this situation.

Government of India had constituted a Committee in November, 2001 headed by Maj. General (Retd.) S.C.N. Jatar, former Chairman & Managing Director of ONGC Videsh Limited and Oil India Limited to look into the aspects of security and safety of installations of oil industries in the upstream sector. The final reports of the Committee were received in June, 2002. The reports have been accepted by the Government "in-principle". The Government have given necessary directions to Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL), Director General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) and Oil Industries Safety Directorate (OISD) to take necessary measures in light of the recommendations of the Committee.

As regard details of cases of oil companies about leakage of oil and gas from pipelines during year 2001, 2002 and till date, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discontinue of Goods Train Movement on Katihar-Siliguri Section

3415. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have discontinued the Goods Traffic movement on 8 km stretch of Meter Gauge on Kathihar-Siliguri Rail Section;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware about the problems being faced by the local people of Siliguri, Jogbani, Forbeshganj, Arariya, Purnea, Kathihar, Supoul and Saharsa due to non-operational of Goods Traffic on above stretch;

(d) whether Railways is losing revenue of approximately Rs. 300 crores p.a. from discontinuation of this service;

(e) if so, whether Railways has any plan to re-start this service till conversion of the above section in B.G.; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Meter Gauge link between Siliguri Junction to New Jalpaiguri has been disconnected for gauge conversion.

(c) Goods traffic handling is feasible from Bagdogra instead of New Jalpaiguri/Siliguri. Bagdogra is about 18 kms away from Siliguri. There is no disruption of traffic between Jogbani and Bagdogra via Purnea, Forbeshganj, Arariya.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Corrupt Railway Employees

3416. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI ADHI SANKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Railway employees and officers have been found involved and arrested in corruption cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof during January, 2002 to till date, zone-wise and category-wise;

(c) the action taken against those employees/officers; and

(d) the measures taken or likely to be taken to check corruption in Railways?

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

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) The measures taken by the Railways to check corruption are as under:

- (i) Preventive checks and decoy checks are carried out intensively in corruption prone areas.
- (ii) Speedy and effective investigation of complaints.
- (iii) Strict vigil is kept on the officials borne on Agreed/Secret List.
- (iv) System improvements and procedure amendments to improve transparency and reducing possibility of corruption.
- (v) Educating and training of officers in the matter of tenders and contracts.
- (vi) Stringent exemplary action against those found guilty of corruption.
- (vii) Man the Railway Recruitment Boards by officials of proven integrity.
- (viii) Delegate more powers to field organizations to enable speedy decisions as delay breeds corruption.
- (ix) Wide publicity for seeking assistance of the public not to succumb to their desire of achieving favours by greasing palms of corrupt staff and instead bringing up such matters to the notice of vigilance organization of Indian Railways.
- (x) Bridge the gap between demand and supply by augmentation of capacity of trains.
- (xi) Periodical transfer of officials working on sensitive posts.

Statement

The details of the Railway employees and officers found involved and arrested in corruption cases, zone-wise and category-wise and action taken against them

S.No	Zonal	No. of officials category-wise				Total	Action Taken Against	
		Gr. A	Gr. B	Gr. C	Gr. D		Gr. A+Gr. B	Gr. C
1.	Central Railway	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Prosecution	—
2.	Eastern Railway	1	1	1	Nil	3	Major Penalty to both the officers	Major Penalty
3.	Northern Railway	Nil	1	3	Nil	4	Prosecution	Prosecution against all three.
4.	N.E. Railway	1	Nil	2	Nil	3	Under Investigation by CBI	Prosecution against both
5.	N.F. Railway	Nil	1	1	Nil	2	Under Investigation by CBI	Prosecution
6.	Southern Railway	Nil	Nil	11	Nil	11	—	Against 6 officials, prosecution and major penalty and against 5 officials, major penalty
7.	Western Railway	Nil	Nil	13	Nil	13	—	Against 10 officials, investigation by CBI is under progress and against 3 officials, prosecution
8.	North Western Railway	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1	—	Investigation by CBI under Progress
Total		3	3	32	Nil	38		

Rail Service from Aurangabad to Tirupati

3417. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway service is proposed to be introduced from Aurangabad to Triupati;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the lone railway service between Delhi and Aurangabad is proposed to be run all the seven days of the week; and

(e) if not, the alternative service likely to be provided to link Ajanta-Ellora with Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

(d) No, sir.

(e) There is no proposal at present to provide alternative train between Aurangabad and Delhi.

[English]

Loktak Down Stream Project

3418. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work in Loktak Down Stream Project in Manipur;

(b) the amount of money spent so far on this project;

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the security expenditure for this project is included in the project cost; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Loktak Downstream Hydro-electric Project (90 MW), in Manipur was accorded investment sanction by the Government of India in December, 1999 at an estimated cost of Rs. 578.62 crores April, 1999 price level with the completion schedule as 78 months. However, due to adverse law & order situation prevailing in the State and non-availability of adequate security coverage, which is the responsibility of the State Government, the project could not take off and has been delayed inordinately. The expenditure incurred at the project till February, 2003 is Rs. 20.56 crores. The project is expected to be completed within six and a half years from the date of start of work.

(d) and (e) The security expenditure for the project is not included in the present sanctioned cost estimates.

Praga Tools Limited

3419. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration in the Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL), Hyderabad to take over Praga Tools Limited, Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend financial help to the Praga Tools Limited by BDL; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Taking Over of Power Projects by NTPC from SEBs

3420. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has been taking over power projects from SEBs against settlement of old outstanding dues;

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

(c) the total power generating capacity of these power projects which were taken over by NTPC from SEBs of different States during the last three years;

(d) whether there is any increase or decrease of power generation after taking over of these power plants;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total expenditure incurred by NTPC on these power plants during the last three years for renovation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has taken over three thermal power stations from State Electricity Boards towards settlement of old outstanding dues as given below:

Name of Power Station	Capacity (MW)	Taken over from the State	Date of taking over
Unchahar Thermal Power Station	420	Uttar Pradesh	13.02.1992
Talcher Thermal Power Station	460	Orissa	03.06.1995
Tanda Thermal Power Station	440	Uttar Pradesh	14.01.2000
Total	1320		

(c) to (e): During the last three years, NTPC has taken over Tanda Thermal Power Station having capacity of 440 MW. Before taking over, the generation and Plant Load Factor (PLF) from this station was 767 million units (MU) and 19.8% respectively during the year 1999-2000. However, after taking over, the generation and PLF improved considerably. During the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (upto January, 2003) the generation figures were 1189.8 MU, 2101.3 MU and 1887.7 MU respectively and the PLF were 30.9%, 54.92% and 58.40% respectively.

(f) The expenditure incurred by NTPC on renovation and modernization of Tanda Thermal Power Station during 1999-2000 was nil, during 2000-2001 was Rs. 45.46 crores and during 2001-2002 was Rs. 66.49 crores.

[Translation]

Appointment of Educated Unemployed Youths

3421. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to accord priority to the educated unemployed youths while making appointments for STD booths, stalls and travel agency etc. on railway stations in view of the growing unemployment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise number of beneficiaries during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Detailed guidelines for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO/FAX/Internet Booths at Railway stations covering various categories of persons such as Educated Unemployed Youth, Physically Handicapped and Ladies has been issued and are being followed by the Railways. Policy guidelines have also been issued for allotment of Bookstalls to educated unemployed youths and for allotment of catering stalls to physically handicapped and war widows. For granting licence to Rail Travellers' Service Agents and Rail Tourist Agents, no priority is accorded to educated unemployed youths.

(c) No such statistics are maintained.

[English]

Flight Operation from Kargil Airfield

3422. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kargil airport is presently being managed by the Defence Authorities;

(b) if so, whether the Kargil airfield has been augmented for the operation of regular air service between Kargil and Srinagar;

(c) if so, whether this airport is also proposed to be connected with other important airports for the use of civilians; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airport services at Kargil have been augmented for operation of service to and for Jammu and Srinagar.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Accidents at Railway Crossing at Vikhroli and proposal for ROB

3423. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has taken note of recent Railway accident at Vikhroli, Mumbai at Railway Crossing;

(b) whether a local train and a truck collided at the crossing;

(c) if so, the details about the accident alongwith reasons;

(d) the steps taken/to be taken to avoid such accidents in further;

(e) whether there is any proposal for ROB at that junction which is delayed since long;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There was no train accident at Vikhroli, Mumbai on Central Railway at Railway crossing. However, there were two unusual incidents only, which are as under:

(i) On 15.1.2003 one truck was parked parallel to the Up local line inside the level crossing at

Vikhroli station at km 22.85 for unloading platform shed materials and 1020 Up was passed on Up local line after closing the level crossing gate. There was no dashing against the train but the movement was unsafe.

- (ii) On 5.2.2003, one truck infringed the down local line between Ghatkopar and Vikhroli stations at km 20/2 and dashed against the side of Dn Titwala-23 EMU train. However, there was no injury to any passenger and the train crew.

(d) In order to prevent such unusual occurrences, following measures have been taken:

- (i) Train drivers whistle continuously while approaching level crossings to alert the road users.
- (ii) Road users are regularly educated through media publicity for taking necessary precautions.
- (iii) Ambush checks are conducted by officers and supervisors to check the alertness of road users and train drivers at level crossing gates.

(e) to (g) There is a proposal for Road over bridge (ROB) at Vikhroli. The work of Road over bridge was sponsored by Briham Mumbai Municipal Corporation on cost sharing basis. This work is sanctioned under Works Programme 2001-2002.

Permission has been given to execute the work of road over bridge and the Corporation has appointed Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority as consultant to prepare plan and estimate of the above work.

Contractual Labourers at Vizag Port

3424. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regular workers are decreasing in Naval ports especially who are making ships at Vizag Ports;

(b) whether the Government propose to engage more contractual labourers in shipbuilding job;

(c) if so, the difference of payments/benefits between contractual labourers and permanent labourers; and

(d) the reasons for which contractual jobs are awarded to foreign companies instead of domestic companies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Naval ports, including Vizag, are not engaged in Shipbuilding.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

ONGC Exploration in Karnataka

3425. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited has ruled out any scope for oil exploration in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in the State by the ONGC so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any concrete decisions for oil exploration in the State has been finally rejected; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Except for Bhima-Kaladgi basin which falls in North-North-Western part of the State of Karnataka with very poor perceived hydrocarbon potential; the remaining part of the State comprises hard rocks and is not considered to be conducive from the point of view of hydrocarbon generation and accumulation. Thus, no exploration for hydrocarbons has been carried out so far. In the offshore areas of Karnataka, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has carried out approximately 42,000 Line Kilometer (LK) of Two-Dimensional (2-D) seismic surveys and two wells were drilled, which proved to be devoid of hydrocarbons. In addition, ONGC holds two blocks, namely KK-DWN-2000/2 and KK-DWN-2000/4, in the deep water area under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) wherein it carried out about 6,000 LK each of 2-D seismic, gravity and magnetic surveys.

(d) and (e) Under 'India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025', 100% of the sedimentary basins are to be appraised by 2025, which will be implemented through pre-exploratory surveys, offers of blocks under NELP, etc.

Debts Incurred on Sick PSUs

3426. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have pumped in more than Rs. 40,000 crores for 35 sick PSUs on revival packages during the last decade;

(b) if so, whether the Government are paying almost 17% of its Central revenue towards servicing debts incurred on sick PSUs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which the Government are likely to protect the chronically sick PSUs at the cost of the tax payer, and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) As per available information, 68 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) were registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as on 31.12.2002. The revival packages for sick CPSUs are sanctioned by the BIFR on case to case basis and administrative sanction in this regard is issued by the concerned administrative Ministry/department. However, such information is not maintained centrally.

(d) and (e) Government's policy towards CPSUs are announced in the Union Budget 2000-01 is to:

- bring down Government equity in all non-strategic CPSUs to 26 percent or lower, if necessary;
- restructure and revive potentially viable CPSUs;
- close down CPSUs which can not be revived; and
- fully protect the interests of the workers.

In view of this policy, enterprise specific steps are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/

Departments and the management in consultation with all stakeholders including workers for revival of sick CPSUs and the closure is considered as the last option. Some of the common steps include periodical review of performance, business and financial restructuring, infusion of fresh funds, improved marketing strategies, implementation of purchase preference policy, cost control measures etc.

[Translation]

Old Age Homes in the Country

3427. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) the number of old age homes being run in the country as on date during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number and names of such old age homes for the running of which various organizations have contacted the Government; and

(c) the expenditure incurred in the operation of old age homes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) State-wise total number of old age homes in the country for which financial assistance has been given during the last three years namely 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-02 under the Plan Scheme of the Integrated Programme for Older Persons is in statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) The details of Non-Governmental Organizations which have been given grant in aid during the last three years namely 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-02 are given in statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

State-wise total number of old age homes in the country for which the financial assistance has been given during the last three years namely 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 under the Plan Scheme of the Integrated Programme for Older Persons

Sl.No.	Name of the State	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	89	81	94
2.	Assam	3	3	5

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	0	0	1
4.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	1
5.	Gujarat	1	3	1
6.	Haryana	2	2	3
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	2
8.	Karnataka	20	19	36
9.	Kerala	2	2	2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4	4	4
11.	Punjab	4	4	5
12.	Pondicherry	3	3	3
13.	Maharashtra	6	3	7
14.	Manipur	22	20	22
15.	Nagaland	0	1	1
16.	Orissa	33	20	38
17.	Rajasthan	0	0	2
18.	Tamil Nadu	33	24	44
19.	Tripura	2	2	2
20.	Uttar Pradesh	28	17	21
21.	Uttaranchal	2	2	2
22.	West Bengal	24	26	28

Statement-II

District-wise, Organisation-wise number of old age homes financially assisted under the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02

Andhra Pradesh

Amount released (Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	District	Name of the Organisations	Project	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Anantpur	Rupa Education Society	OAH-1	1.205	2.65	1.28
2.	Anantpur	Christ Rural Development & Fdu. Society	OAH-1	2.619	1.34	0
3.	Anantpur	Cultural Action in Rural Development	OAH-1	2.522	0	0
4.	Anantpur	Sree Venkateswara Convent Ed. Society	OAH-1	2.341	0	1.34
5.	Anantpur	Mother India	OAH-1	2.152	1.37	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Anantpur	Nav Bharat Socio Economic Dev. Society	OAH-1	2.402	1.33	3.97
7	Anantpur	People's Rural Education Dev. Society	OAH-1	2.472	0	2.47
8.	Anantpur	Socio-Economic Ed. Dev. Society	OAH-1	1.03	0	0
9.	Anantpur	Sangmeshwara Ed. Society	OAH-1	0.989	0	0
10.	Anantpur	Rural Poor Peoples Welfare Society	OAH-1	0.848	0	0
11.	Cuddapah	Chaitanya Ed. & Rural Dev. Society	OAH-1	1.026	2.76	2.76
12.	Cuddapah	Depressed Peoples Dev. Society	OAH-1	3.064	1.24	3.69
13.	Cuddapah	Dr. Ambedkar Dalitha Varga Abh. Sangham	OAH-1	3.462	2.69	2.76
14	Cuddapah	Srinivasa Ed. & Rural Dev. Society	OAH-1	3.063	1.24	1.24
15.	Cuddapah	Sri Pandamwathi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.734	2.76	2.76
16.	Cuddapah	Sri Venkateswara Socio-Economic Dev. Society	OAH-1	0.538	2.64	3.79
17.	Cuddapah	Sree Krishna Devaraya Yuvejana Sangam	OAH-1	0	0	1.29
18	Cuddapah	Khadisilk Gramodyoga Samiti	OAH-1	0.853	2.27	2.37
19.	Chittoor	Mother India Community Dev. Association	OAH-2	5.57	5.57	5.57
20.	Chittoor	Peda Prajasa Seva Samithi	OAH-2	5.528	2.764	7.97
21.	Chittoor	Peoples Action for Social Service	OAH-2	4.49	4.49	4.49
22	Chittoor	Rashtriya Seva Samithi	OAH-2	4.49	4.49	4.49
23.	Chittoor	Sarvodaya Women Welfare Society	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76
24.	Chittoor	Sri Venkateswara Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76
25.	Chittoor	Telugu Bharathi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.151	2.76	2.76
26.	East Godavari	Association for the Care of Aged	OAH-1	1.314	1.05	2.02
27	East Godavari	Help the Women	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76
28.	East Godavari	Ravindra Educational Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.09
29.	East Godavari	Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Orphanage & Boarding Home	OAH-1	2.152	2.76	2.76
30	East Godavari	Sarda Education Society	OAH-1	0.989	2.59	1.38
31.	Guntur	Indira Memorial Weaker Section Dev. Society	OAH-1	2.151	0	2.61
32.	Guntur	Indira Priyadarsini Girijana Backward Class Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	0	1.04
33	Guntur	Kothapeta Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.764	2.76	2.76
34.	Guntur	Narasaraopet Taluk STs/Youth Club	OAH-1	2.15	2.64	2.76
35.	Guntur	Naveen Adarsya Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.756	2.76	1.36
36.	Guntur	Omkar Rural Development Society	OAH-1	0	—	0.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37.	Guntur	SERD, SCs/STs and Christians Welfare Society	OAH-1	1.814	3.65	3.69
38.	Guntur	Social action Rural Rehabilitation Creative Amolearation and Relief	OAH-1	1.382	0	0
39.	Guntur	Soniya Gandhi Harijana Grijana Balheena Vargamula Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	4.14
40.	Guntur	Udayasree Mahila Samajam	OAH-1	2.764	0	2.61
41.	Guntur	Kandrika Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0.738	2.59	2.76
42.	Guntur	Sri Venkateswara Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	0	1.09
43.	Hyderabad	Anuraag Human Services	OAH-1	2.496	2.62	1.38
44.	Hyderabad	Dr. P.N. Hanumantha Rao Charitable Trust	OAH-1	2.712	2.76	2.76
45.	Hyderabad	Hempal Society	OAH-1	2.152	1.33	0
46.	Hyderabad	Old Age Welfare Centre	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	1.38
47.	Hyderabad	Sai Seva Sangha	OAH-1	2.224	1.11	3.02
48.	Hyderabad	Social Integration for Rural Improvement	OAH-1	0.332	3.14	2.49
49.	Hyderabad	Asscn. of Non-Governmental Orgn.	OAH-1	0.697	0	0
50.	Hyderabad	Jyothi Welfare Association	OAH-1	2.197	4.1	1.38
51.	Karimnagar	Santosh Educational Society	OAH-1	0.823	0	4.51
52.	Krishna	A.P. Girijana Sevak Sangha	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76
53.	Krishna	Amma Vayavrudha Seva Sadanam	OAH-1	1.284	2.55	1.27
54.	Krishna	Country Womens Association of India, Vijayawada	OAH-1	2.278	2.28	0
55.	Krishna	Integrated Dev. Agency	OAH-1	1.38	2.76	2.76
56.	Krishna	Mahila Sagharn	OAH-1	0	1.72	0
57.	Krishna	Senior Citizens Forum	OAH-1	2.414	2.36	1.18
58.	Krishna	Bapuji Integrated Rural Dev. Society	OAH-1	0.871	2.76	2.76
59.	Kurnool	Asha Jyothi Edu. Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.33
60.	Kurnool	Nav Bharath Educational Society	OAH-1	0.71	1.38	2.76
61.	Kurnool	Partibha Education Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.24
62.	Kurnool	Priyadarshini Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	0	1.09
63.	Kurnool	Rural Tribal Development Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.03
64.	Kurnool	Rural Upliftment of Health and Educational Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.34
65.	Mahaboobnagar	Bethel Educational Society	OAH-1	2.764	2.76	2.5
66.	Mahaboobnagar	Social Action for Social Development	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
67.	Mahaboobnagar	Navodaya Seva Sangam	OAH-1	0.992	2.72	0
68.	Mahaboobnagar	Gramabhyudaya Seva Sanasthan	OAH-1	0.757	2.22	1.08
69.	Mahaboobnagar	Swarajya Laxmi Organ. for Women	OAH-1	0.833	2.17	2.6
70.	Mahaboobnagar	Sandhya Rural Welfare Society	OAH-1	0.833	2.31	2.34
71.	Mahaboobnagar	S.A.V. Gupta Educational Society	OAH-1	0.827	1.37	2.66
72.	Mahaboobnagar	Rural Social Welfare Assocn.	OAH-1	0.833	1.36	2.66
73.	Nalgonda	Society of Emmanuel Evangelism for Rural Dev.	OAH-1	2.312	2.71	2.69
74.	Nalgonda	Mahalaxmi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	2.35	3.93
75.	Nellore	Arya Dayananda Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.764	2.22	2.76
76.	Nellore	Asthana-A-Christia Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76
77.	Nellore	Bharathi Mahila Voluntary Service Orgn.	OAH-1	3.025	1.25	4.02
78.	Nellore	Divine (India)	OAH-1	0	4.04	0
79.	Nellore	Haritha Mahila Mandali Society	OAH-1	0	0	1
80.	Nellore	Nehru Bharathi Educational Institution	OAH-1	2.151	2.57	2.55
81.	Nellore	Polymer's Educational Society	OAH-1	1.38	2.76	2.76
82.	Nellore	Health Care & Social Welfare Society (Harijan Christian Social Welfare Society)	OAH-1	0.877	2.53	2.76
83.	Prakasam	3 Men Academies	OAH-1	1.27	2.76	1.38
84.	Prakasam	Adarsha Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	4.06	1.38
85.	Prakasam	Chandravamsa Organisation for Rural Development	OAH-1	0	0	1.11
86.	Prakasam	Kastajeevula Jateeya Seva Sangham	OAH-1	2.505	0	1.38
87.	Prakasam	Laxmi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.764	2.75	1.38
88.	Prakasam	Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.152	2.76	1.38
89.	Prakasam	Netaji Yuvak Kendra	OAH-1	0	0	1.11
90.	Prakasam	Prakasam Zilla Balaheena Vargala Colony Varala Seva Sangam	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	1.38
91.	Prakasam	Samatha Mahila Vedika	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76
92.	Prakasam	Sri Kastijeevalaya Jateeya Seva Sangam	OAH-1	2.514	2.66	0
93.	Prakasam	Shri Mahalaxmi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	4.078	2.66	1.38
94.	Prakasam	Valmiki Seva Sangham	OAH-1	3.662	1.38	2.73
95.	Prakasam	Vasavi Educational Society	OAH-1	2.188	2.76	1.38
96.	Ranga Reddy	Forum for Social Upliftment, Secunderabad	OAH-1	0	0	1.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
97.	Ranga Reddy	Golden Environmental Educational Technical Health & Agriculture Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.1
98.	Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad Zilla Mahila Mandaulka Samakya	OAH-1	2.044	0	0
99.	Ranga Reddy	St. Anthony's Educational Society	OAH-1	0	0	0.89
100.	Ranga Reddy	Venketeswara Social Service Assocn.	OAH-1	1.38	1.38	2.76
101.	Vishakhapatnam	Kasturbai Gandhi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.152	1.08	0
102.	Vishakhapatnam	Priyadarsini Service Organisation	OAH-1	2.581	1.26	3.89
103.	Vishakhapatnam	Sri Venkateswara Yuvajana Sangham	OAH-1	0.971	3.51	4.04
104.	Vizianagram	Prema Samajam	OAH-1	2.189	2.15	2.12
105.	Warangal	Kasturbai Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	2.55	5.53
106.	West Godavari	St. Mary Rehabilitation Centre for Orphans, Widows and lapers	OAH-1	2.68	2.76	2.76
Total		106 NGOs	110 OAHs	179.411	189.314	217.52
Assam						
1.	Haila Kandi	Wodwichee	OAH-1	0.872	2.76	2.76
2.	Nagaon	Bahumukhi Krishi Avam Samaj Kalyan Samiti	OAH-2	2.76	2.76	3.91
3.	Nagaon	Global Health Immunisation & Population Cantro Organisation	OAH-1	0	0	1.11
4.	Nagaon	Sadau Asom Gramya Puthibharal Santha	OAH-1	0	0	2.55
Total		4 NGOs	5 OAHs	3.63	5.52	10.33
Bihar						
1.	Patna	Mahila Mukti Vahini	OAH-1	0	0	5.53
Total		1 NGO	1 OAH	0	0	5.53
Chhattisgarh						
1.	Raipur	Chatisgarh Bal Avam Vrid Kalyan Parishad	OAH-1	3.126	3.98	1.28
Total		1 NGO	1 OAH	3.126	3.98	1.28
Gujarat						
1.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat Kalvani Trust	OAH-1	2.233	2.76	1.38
2.	Ahmedabad	Bharatiya Adimiyati Sewak Sangh	OAH-2	0	4.6	0
Total		2 NGOs	3 OAHs	2.233	2.76	1.38
Haryana						
1.	Mahendergarh	Rao Madhav Singh Memorial Trust	OAH-1	0	0	1.69
2.	Rohatak	Chabisee Vikas Sangha	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Sonepat	Samaj Kalyan Shiksha Samiti	OAH-1	1.022	2.68	2.24
	Total	3 NGOs	3 OAHs	3.78	5.44	5.00
Jammu & Kashmir						
1.	Leh	Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre	OAH-1	0	0	1.75
2.	Baramulla	Majli-sun-nisa, Sopore, Baramulla	OAH-1	0	1.34	0
3.	Srinagar	Society for Rural and Urban Development	OAH-1	0	0	1.8
	Total	3 NGOs	3 OAHs		1.34	2.55
Karnataka						
1	Bangalore	Ashaktha Poshaka Sabha	OAH-1	0	8.36	4.62
2.	Bangalore	Dr. Jachani Rastriya Sevapantha	OAH-1	0.645	8.17	2.38
3.	Bangalore	Mattadahally Japajivanram Sarvodaya Sangha	OAH-1	3.033	2.55	1.27
4.	Bangalore	Sri Ambigara Chawdaiah Ed. Society	OAH-2	0.877	0	5.48
5.	Bangalore	Sri Satha Shruna Vidhya Samste	OAH-1	2.114	3.49	6.6
6.	Bangalore	Eshwar Education & Welfare Society	OAH-1	0	0	2.55
7.	Bangalore	Mothers Care Education Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.32
8.	Bangalore	Nightingales Medical Trust	OAH-1	0	0	0.24
9.	Bangalore	Sri Swami Sarva Dharma Shamalaya Trust	OAH-1	0	0	1.02
10.	Bangalore	Vidyaranya Edn. And Development Society	OAH-1	0	0	—
11.	Bangalore	Sri Uma Maheshwara Mandira Trust	OAH-1	0	0	—
12.	Bangalore	R.T. Nagar Education and Charitable Trust	OAH-1	0	0	—
13.	Bangalore	Sarvodaya Service Society	OAH-1	0	0	—
14.	Belgaum	Ramalingeshwar Gramabhiruddi Sangh	OAH-1	0.489	2.65	2.78
15.	Belgaum	Shri Mallikarjun Jana Seva Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.06
16.	Bidar	Chywan Ayurvedic Edu. Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.3
17.	Bidar	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Cultural & Welare Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.28
18.	Bidar	Sangram Ed. Society	OAH-1	0.648	2.44	1.22
19.	Bidar	Nittur Ed. Society	OAH-1	0.669	2.76	2.76
20.	Bellary	Praja Seva Samiti	OAH-1	1.185	0	0
21.	Bellary	Adarsa Ed. Society	OAH-1	0.787	1.34	2.14
22.	Bijapur	Shri Sharana Jyothi Vidya Samsta	OAH-1	1.382	2.76	2.76
23.	Chitradurga	Shri Sadgum Kabeerananda Swamy Vidya Peetha	OAH-1	0.633	2.09	2.28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Chitradurga	Niranthara Jana Seva National Education Reh. And Rural Dev. Organisation	OAH-1	0	0	1.06
25.	Davangere	Adrash Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	0	1.11
26.	Davangere	Sri Mairi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.764	2.76	2.76
27.	Davangere	Sri Shakti Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.764	2.76	2.76
28.	Gulbarga	Mahaboob Subhani Education Trust	OAH-1	0	0	1.31
29.	Gulbarga	Mahadevi Tai Mahila Vidya Vardhaka Sangha	OAH-1	2.044	2.76	1.38
30.	Gulbarga	Shri Mallikarjun Vidhya Vardhak Sangh	OAH-1	0	0	1.11
31.	Gulbarga	Sri Sangameshwam Ed. Society	OAH-1	0.83	2.76	1.38
32.	Gulbarga	Hyderabad Karnataka Palitha Womens Educational Samiti, Gulbarga	OAH-1	0	0.88	0
33.	Gulbarga	Sharanara Nadu Education Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.8
34.	Gulbarga	Sri Jagadguru Gurusiddeshwar Vidhya Vardhak & Sanskritika Sanstha	OAH-1	0	0	1.15
35.	Kolar	Sri Raman Maharishi Trust for Disabled Persons	OAH-1	4.14	5.37	3.91
36.	Kolar	Sri Swami Sarva Dhama Shamalaya Trust	OAH-1	0.143	2.49	2.68
37.	Kolar	Sri Vishnu Education Society,	OAH-1	0	0	1.29
38.	Mandya	Poomima Vidya Sanstha Arakera	OAH-1	0.83	0.48	5.45
39.	Mandya	Jnana Sindhu Education and Cultural Society, Bangalore (Centre at Mandya Distt.	OAH-1	0	0	1.49
40.	Tumkur	Rural Organisation Social and Education Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.1
41.	Tumkur	1. Sri Swamy Sarva Dharm Shamalaya Trust	OAH-1	0.674	2.82	1.34
	Total	41 NGOs	42 OAHs			

Kerala

1.	Kochi	Welfare Services Emakulam	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76
2.	Kollam	International Centre for Study & Dev.	OAH-1	2.708	2.36	2.13
	Total	2 NGOs	2 OAHs	5.408	5.12	4.89

Madhya Pradesh

1.	Indore	Kalyan Mitra Samithi	OAH-1	2.148	1.14	2.27
2.	Khargaon	Asha Gram Trust	OAH-1	1.72	2.15	0
3.	Schore	Gyani Vndhjan Seva Kendra	OAH-1	1.003	0	4.15
4.	Satna	Promod Van Anand Dham	OAH-1	2.832	2.25	1.14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Indore	Mahila Utkarsh Sansthan	OAH-1	0	0	0
6.	Ujjain	Ujjain Senior Citizens Forum	OAH-1	0	1.61	2.28
	Total	6 NGOs	6 OAHs			
XII. Punjab						
1.	Amritsar	Bhai Vir Sangh Birth Ghar	OAH-1	2.9	2.24	1.12
2.	Bhatinda	All India Guru Nanak Mission	OAH-1	0	1.6	1.6
3.	Faridkot	Indian Red Cross Society	OAH-1	4.32	3.8	0.88
4.	Hoshiarpur	Bhai Ghannaiya Charitable Trust	OAH-1	1.5	1.11	1.02
5.	Mansa	Mahila Kalyan Samiti	OAH-1	0.88	0	3.38
Pondicherry						
1	Pondicherry	St. Joseph of Clunicy, Hospice, Convent	OAH-1	3.113	2.69	1.94
2.	Pondicherry	St. Joseph Convent (Hospice)	OAH-1	6.28	1.93	2.69
3.	Pondicherry	Immaculate Heart of Mary Home for Aged	OAH-1	0.18	2.22	1.09
Maharashtra						
1.	Ahmednagar	Arunoday Bahuddeshiya Gramin Vikas Sanstha,	OAH-1	0	0	1.09
2.	Jalan	Prashar Shikshan Sansthan	OAH-1	0.877	0	2.68
3.	Latur	Bal Vikas Mahila Mandal	OAH-1	0.308	1.71	0.86
4.	Nagpur	Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Technical & Educational Society	OAH-1	0.67	0	2.65
5.	Nanded	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Shikshan Prasarak Sanstha	OAH-1	1.257	0	2.66
6.	Yawatmal	Late Sanjay Rathod Shikshan Sanstha	OAH-1	1.028	1.87	3.9
7.	Yawatmal	Late Ramesh Jadhav Shikshan & Krida Prasarak Mandal	OAH-1	1.028	1.87	3.99
		7 NGOs	7OAHs	5.168	5.45	17.83
Manipur						
1.	Chandel	Centre for Rural Development	OAH-1	0	0	1.34
2.	Chandel	Social Agriculture & Rural Dev. Agency	OAH-1	1.305	2.76	1.33
3.	Churachandpur	Tribal Upliftment Association	OAH-3	1.748	0	6.65
4.	Imphal (East)	The Centre for Upliftment of Rural Women Association	OAH-1	1.808	1.382	2.76
5.	Imphal (East)	Ima Leimarel Women Welfare Asscn.	OAH-1	0.805	2.5	0
6.	Imphal (East)	Rural Downtrodden People Upliftment Society	OAH-1	0.874	0	2.54
7.	Imphal (East)	Community Development Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.22
8.	Imphal (West)	Bashikhong Chanura Shilon Lap	OAH-1	1.206	0	2.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Imphal (West)	The Manipur Deaf & Mute Association	OAH-1	2.764	—	2.68
10.	Imphal (West)	Manipur SC Welfare Association	OAH-1	2.764	2.69	1.35
11.	Imphal (West)	Rural Service Agency	OAH-1	1.07	3.98	0
12.	Thoubal	Jamia Educational Society	OAH-2	1.119	2.474	5.23
13.	Thoubal	Integrated Rural Development and Educational Organisation	OAH-1	2.764	2.764	2.76
14.	Thoubal	New Integrated Rural Management Agency	OAH-2	2.764	8.290	5.52
15.	Thoubal	South Eastern Rural Dev. Organisation	OAH-1	1.382	2.710	3.99
16.	Thoubal	The Rural People's Dev. Orgn.	OAH-1	2.75	1.380	5.4
17.	Thoubal	United Rural Dev. Services	OAH-1	2.611	1.382	1.38
18.	Thoubal	Youth Progressive Orgn.	OAH-1	2.76	2.700	1.63
19.	Thoubal	The United Hill Peoples Dev. Society	OAH-1	1.063	1.70	1.13
20.	Bishnupur	Kumbi Khullakpam Leikai Women's Assocn.	OAH-1	0.447	4.132	4.08
20 NGOs			24 OAHs	32.004	40.828	53.23
Nagaland						
1.	Dimapur	Old Age Home, Dimapur	OAH-1	0	0.87	2.06
1 NGO			10 AH	0	0.87	2.06
Orissa						
1.	Angul	Gram Seva Mandal	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	2.76
2.	Balangir	Gram Mangal Pathagar	OAH-1	2.15	3.88	1.38
3.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa Multipurpose Dev. Centre	OAH-1	1.11	0	5.42
4.	Bhubaneswar	Jankalyan Samithi	OAH-1	2.38	0	2.38
5.	Bhubaneswar	Organisation for Social Change & Rural Dev.	OAH-1	2.2	0	3.94
6.	Cuttack	Association for Social Reconstructive Activities	OAH-1	2.76	0	4.14
7.	Cuttack	Basudev Pathagar	OAH-1	0.87	2.54	3.42
8.	Cuttack	Dr. Ambedkar Rural Olympic Association	OAH-1	0	0	0.76
9.	Dhenkanal	Adarsh Sewa Sangathan	OAH-1	0.88	2.47	1.38
10.	Dhenkanal	Arun Institute of Rural Affairs (AIRA)	OAH-1	0.74	2.7	1.38
11.	Dhenkanal	Maharshi Dayanand Service Mission	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76
12.	Dhenkanal	Society for Rural Advancement & Democratic Humanitarian Action	OAH-1	0.89	2.47	1.34
13.	Ganjam	Institute for Women's Welfare	OAH-1	1.67	0	2.18
14.	Kalahandi	Shree Ramakrishna Ashrama	OAH-1	2.76	1.39	2.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Kendrapada	Jana seva Parishad	OAH-1	2.13	2.14	3.95
16.	Kendrapada	Indian Village Development Organisation	OAH-1	0	0	1
17.	Kendrapada	Lutheran Mahila Samiti	OAH-1	2.65	0	1.32
18.	Kendrapada	Jankalyan Sewa Sanstha	OAH-1	0.88	2.53	1.38
19.	Keonjhar	Bishnupriya Balashram	OAH-1	1.11	0	4.11
20.	Khurda	Bhairabi Club	OAH-1	2.33	2.33	2.44
21.	Khurda	Juba Jyothi Club	OAH-1	2.58	0	2.67
22.	Khurda	Union for Learning Trng. & Reformativ. Activ.	OAH-1	2.54	0	2.54
23.	Khurda	Vishwa Jeevan Seva Sangh	OAH-2	5.21	5.52	5.52
24.	Koraput	Gandhian Institute of Technical Advancement	OAH-1	0	0	1.25
25.	Nayagarh	National Institute of Tribal Welfare & Social Action	OAH-1	0	0	1.09
26.	Nayagarh	Aneth Parityekta Balshram	OAH-1	0.88	2.53	0
27.	Nayagarh	Janvikash	OAH-1	1.84	4.14	1.38
28.	Phulbani	Banabasi Seva Samithi	OAH-1	4.89	2.37	2.36
29.	Phulbani	Subhadra Mehtab Seva Sadan	OAH-1	4.82	0	2.67
30.	Puri	Association for Voluntary Action	OAH-1	2.63	0	2.76
31.	Puri	Bankeswari Jubak Sangha	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76
32.	Puri	Nilachal Seva Pratisthan	OAH-2	2.76	2.76	8.28
33.	Puri	Ratnachira	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	1.38
34.	Puri	Surakhya	OAH-1	3.47	0	0
35.	Puri	Jayakishan Youth Club	OAH-1	0	0	1.51
36.	Puri	Adal Badal Mahila Samiti	OAH-1	0	0	1.52
37.	Mayurbhanj	Rural Development Action Cell	OAH-1	1.24	0	4.72
38.	Sambalpur	National Resources Centre for Women Development	OAH-1	0	0	1.25
38 NGOs			400AHs	71.41	49.43	93.86
Rajasthan						
1.	Kota	Madhu Smriti Mahila & Bal Kaiyan Utthan Sansthan	OAH-1	0	0	1.08
2.	Sri Ganga Nagar	Manohar Bal Mandir Samitee	OAH-1	0	0	1.11
2 NGOs			2 OAHs	0	0	2.19
Tamil Nadu						
1.	Chennai	Annai Iliam	OAH-1	1.72	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Chennai	Indian Instt. for Sustainable Dev.	OAH-1	0.82	2.59	1.3
3.	Chennai	Kalaiselvi Karunalaya Social Welfare Society	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	4.13
4.	Cudalore	Madhar Nala Thondu	OAH-1	2.68	1.38	1.38
5.	Cudalore	Society for the Improvement of Weaker Sections	OAH-2	2.76	2.76	0
6.	Dindigul	Dindigul Multipurpose Social Service Society	OAH-1	0.91	0	1.66
7.	Dindigul	Rural Education for Action & Development (READ)	OAH-1	0	0	1.09
8.	Dindigul	CEDA Trust	OAH-1	1	0	109
9.	Erode	St. Joseph's Home for the Aged	OAH-1	1	0	0
10.	Erode	Rural Welfare Organisation	OAH-1	0	0	1.09
11.	Kanchapuram	Bureau for Integrated Rural Dev.	OAH-1	2.46	2.57	2.71
12.	Kanchapuram	Duraisamy Generous Social Ed. Society	OAH-1	0	0	2.76
13.	Kanchapuram	Life Improvement Trust	OAH-1	2.6	1.3	1.3
14.	Kanchapuram	Annai Karunalaya Social Welfare Society	OAH-2	0	0.88	1.11
15.	Kanyakumari	Home for the Aged	OAH-1	0.85	0	0
16.	Namakkal	Women Org. for Rural Development	OAH-1	1.277	0	2.26
17.	Nagapattinam	Avvai Village Welfare Society	OAH-1	1.18	3.3	1.84
18.	Nagapattinam	Gramiya Social Welfare Society	OAH-1	0.86	2.53	2.76
19.	Nagapattinam	Nehru Social Ed. Centre	OAH-1	2.01	2.76	2.76
20.	Nagapattinam	Society for Rural Dev.	OAH-1	0	0	2.25
21.	Nagapattinam	Karunalaya Saraswathi Nilam	OAH-1	0	0	1.1
22.	Pudukkottai	Grama Suryaraj	OAH-1	2.68	1.34	4.02
23.	Pudukkottai	Vethathiri Maharishi Social Welfare Trust	OAH-1	1.27	0	2.21
24.	Pudukkottai	Oazoane	OAH-1	1	0	4.03
25.	Pudukkottai	Development Education for Rural Mass	OAH-1	0	0	1.54
26.	Pudukkottai	Rural Education for Community Organisation	OAH-1	0	0	0.96
27.	Sivagangai	Singampatty Grama Munetra Sangam	OAH-1	0	0	1.53
28.	Sivagangai	Society for Rural and Urban, Women's Renaissance Activities (SRUWARA)	OAH-1	0	0	0.94
29.	Thanjavur	Mercy Miruna Old Age Home	OAH-1	2.15	1.38	2.76
30.	Thanjavur	Sri Victoria Educational Society	OAH-1	2.15	2.76	3.87
31.	Thiruvarur	Bharathamatha Family Welfare Foundation	OAH-1	0.96	0	5.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32.	Thiruvavur	National Mother & Child Welfare Orgn.	OAH-1	0.727	0	5.52
33.	Thiruvavur	Bharathi Women Dev. Centre	OAH-1	2.69	1.34	4.5
34.	Truchirappalli	The Tamil Nadu Pengal Nala Sangam	OAH-1	3.51	0.93	2.72
35.	Theni	Yuvak Vikas Kendra	OAH-1	0.99	1.88	4.14
36.	Theni	Gramiyam Sangh	OAH-1	1.11	0	2.76
37.	Tirunelveli	Makkal Nalvalu Mantram	OAH-1	1.96	0	2.6
38.	Tirunelveli	Arasan Rural Development Society	OAH-1	0	0	0.89
39.	Tiruvannamalai	Neo Education Social Awarness and Management Society (NESAM)	OAH-1	0	0	0.46
40.	Trichy	Jaya Balwadi Educational Society	OAH-2	1.8	2.76	5.52
41.	Trichy	Krishna's Home	OAH-1	2.15	3.84	1.38
42.	Trichy	Periyar Kudil	OAH-1	2.76	1.8	0.9
43.	Trichy	The Society Organised for Promotion of Rural Tribal & Downtrodden	OAH-1	1.04	2.41	0
44.	Trichy	Thiruchirappalli Rural and Urban Welfare Dev. Education Society	OAH-1	0	0.87	2.76
45.	Trichy	Vidivelli Rural Development Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.75
56.	Villupuram	Annai Karunahaya Social Welfare Association	OAH-1	0	0	1.11
46 NGOs			49 OAHs	52.834	42.76	97.38
Tripura						
1.	West Tripura	Abalamban	OAH-1	2.36	3.97	3.6
2.	West Tripura	All Tripura SC,ST & Minority Upliftment Council	OAH-1	2.75	2.75	2.65
2NGOs			2 OAHs	5.11	6.72	6.25
Uttar Pradesh						
1.	Allahabad	Adarsh Janta Shiksha Samiti	OAH-1	4.61	2.76	4.15
2.	Allahabad	Arya Kanya Vidyalaya Samiti	OAH-1	4.8	0	4.14
3.	Allahabad	Dalit Manav Utthan Sansthan	OAH-1	2.38	0	5.52
4.	Allahabad	Gayatri Devi Shiksha Samiti	OAH-1	2.41	2.76	2.76
5.	Allahabad	Indian Red Cross Society	OAH-1	2.45	2.76	4.14
6.	Allahabad	Mahila Udyog Prashikshan	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	0
7.	Allahabad	Manav Shiksha Prasar Samiti	OAH-1	2.15	0	0
8.	Allahabad	Prakash Gramin Vikas Sansthan	OAH-1	0	0	2.65
9.	Allahabad	Tilak Shakshik Samiti	OAH-1	3.84	1.38	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Allahabad	Gaurav Jan Kalyan Samiti	OAH-1	3.53	2.76	4.14
11.	Basti	Murti Jat Vikas Sansthan	OAH-1	2.02	0	0
12.	Basti	Social Welfare Society	OAH-1	0.87	2.7	0
13.	Barabanki	Nirbal Samaj Kalyan Sansthan	OAH-1	0.88	0	5.45
14.	Deoria	Mahila & Bal Vikas Samiti	OAH-1	0.87	0	0
15.	Ghaziabad	Age Care	OAH-1	1.57	0	0
16.	Ghaziabad	Gurukul Vidyapeeth Pushpavati	OAH-1	2.3	0	4.34
17.	Gonda	Sangam Vikas Sewa Sansthan	OAH-1	0	0	2.5
18.	Gorakhpur	Asahay Vikas Pansad	OAH-1	0	0.86	9
19.	Hamirpur	Shree Kanchanlal Saguna Seva Sansthan	OAH-1	4.564	2.72	2.76
20.	Hardoi	Sarvajanik Shiksonnyan Sansthan	OAH-1	0	0	2.53
21.	Kushinagar	Mahila Evam Bal Vikas Samiti	OAH-1	0.87	0	0
22.	Lucknow	Shaheed Memorial Society	OAH-3	6.6	8.28	8.28
23.	Lucknow	Sarvanik Shiksha Samiti	OAH-1	0.88	0	2.54
24.	Mathura	All India Women's Conference, N. Delhi	OAH-1	4.215	2.43	1.18
25.	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh Mahila Kalyan Avam Shiksha Samiti	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	2.1
26.	Pratapgarh	Ganga Prasad Samarak Mahila Kalyan Sansthan	OAH-1	1.6	0	5.52
27.	Rampur	Jawahar Jyoti Shiksha Evam Gramya Vikas Samiti	OAH-1	1.38	1.38	4.14
28.	Unnao	Adarsh Sanskritik Satsang Kala Kendra	OAH-1	1.1	0	0
29.	Unnao	New Public School Samiti	OAH-1	3.46	4.14	2.76
30.	Sidharthnagar	Gram Vikas Sansthan	OAH-1	0.87	2.76	0
30 NGOs			32 OAHs	65.739	40.45	71.6
Uttaranchal						
1.	Dehradun	Uttarakhand Shoshit Mahila Uthan Samiti	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	1.38
2.	Bageshwar	Pravartiya Nav Jagran Samiti	OAH-1	0.86	2.4	2.58
2 NGOs			2 OAHs	3.62	5.16	3.96
West Bengal						
1.	Burdwan	Central Scheduled Castes & Tribal Welfare Association	OAH-1	0	0.86	2.51
2.	Calcutta	All Bengal Women's Union	OAH-1	0	1.98	1.98
3.	Calcutta	Chandranath Basu Seva Sangha	OAH-1	2.29	2.42	2.24
4.	Calcutta	Janashiksha Prochar Kendra	OAH-1	0	1.12	2.49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Calcutta	Navadiganta	OAH-1	2	2.76	2.76
6.	Calcutta	Women's Coordinating Council	OAH-1	0.89	1.98	0
7.	Hooghly	Kalyan Bharati	OAH-1	0	3.8	3.8
8.	Malda	Rural Health Dev. Centre	OAH-1	3.12	0	0
9.	Midnapore	Amar Seva Sangha	OAH-1	2.89	2.76	1.38
10.	Midnapore	Barabari Netaji Seva Sangha	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	0
11.	Midnapore	Bikramnagar Udayan Sangha	OAH-2	3.73	6.6	5.52
12.	Midnapore	Child and Social Welfare Society	OAH-1	2.76	1.32	2.76
13.	Midnapore	Hitajore Kishonbala Databya Chikitsalya	OAH-1	1.06	2.15	2.2
14.	Midnapore	Netaji Pathachakra	OAH-1	1.08	3.73	2.69
15.	Midnapore	Nimbark Math Seva Samiti Trust	OAH-1	1.72	2.22	1.09
16.	Midnapore	Prabuddh Bharati Shishutirtha	OAH-1	0.653	2.94	1.95
17.	Midnapore	Roychalk Morning Star Club	OAH-1	2.57	0	0
18.	Midnapore	Sainpukar Matri Sabika Samiti	OAH-2	4.41	4.97	2.49
19.	Midnapore	Shibarampur Milan Tirtha	OAH-1	2.45	2.76	1.38
20.	Midnapore	Social Welfare and Rural Dev. Society	OAH-1	2.36	1.38	2.76
21.	Midnapore	Vivekananda Lok Shiksha Niketan	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	1.3
22.	Midnapore	West Bengal SCs, STs & Minority Welfare Association	OAH-2	4.8	4.77	4.7
23.	Midnapore	Seulipur Uddyan Club,	OAH-1	0	2.76	2.76
24.	Midnapore	Nepura Rural Development Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.59
25.	Nadia	Karmpur Social Welfare Society	OAH-1	1.05	0	2.72
26.	North 24-Parganas	Shree Ramakrishna Satyananda Ashram	OAH-1	3.749	2.22	0
27.	North 24-Parganas	Jirakpur Sister Nivedita Seva Mission	OAH-1	1.289	0	2.76
28.	South 24-Parganas	Bango Dev. Centre	OAH-1	0	0	0
29.	South 24-Parganas	Ganeshnagar Laxminarayana Club & Pathagar	OAH-1	0	0	2.76
30.	South 24-Parganas	Vivekanand Child Welfare Home	OAH-1	0	2.15	2.41
31.	South 24-Pargannas	People Service Institute,	OAH-1	0	0	1.08
31 NGOs			34 OAHs	50.391	61.77	62.08

*[English]***Indigenous Air Defence Ship**

3428. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy's proposal to build an Indigenous Air Defence Ship (ADS) has since been cleared by the Union Government;

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

(c) whether any foreign assistance has been sought in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in regard to building of an indigenous Air Defence Ship?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Government have accorded approval for construction of a 37,500-ton Air Defence ship at Cochin Shipyard Ltd, Kochi. The Shipyard would need to enter into contracts with external agencies for undertaking specific design modules, including that for an aviation facility complex, system integration etc. on as required basis. The concept and structural designs, general arrangement drawings and hydrodynamic model tests have been completed.

*[Translation]***Recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee**

3429. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a committee of senior officers of Railway Board to study various recommendations made by the Rakesh Mohan Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) if not, the time by which the said Committee is likely to submit its report?

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

(b) Six member Committee has been formed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Rakesh Mohan Committee has raised certain major vital policy issues which need indepth study. Due to the complexity of the matter it would be difficult to indicate the time by which the Committee's report will be submitted.

*[English]***Blacklisted Producers Honoured by Doordarshan**

3430. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Doordarshan have decided to re-assign programmes to private producers, who were earlier blacklisted for not paying dues as reported in The Times of India dated February 11, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;

(c) whether the Government/Prasar Bharati propose to reconsider its decision not to permit defaulters again;

(d) whether there is also a huge amount of outstanding dues from producers of serials in Doordarshan;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of such producers in each regional DD and National DD Channels, who have huge dues till date;

(f) the action taken/likely to be taken by the Government to realise those dues; and

(g) the arrangements the Government have to make to check such dues in future and not to permit manipulated defaulters again?

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

Freight Charges on Transportation of Salt

3431. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRI ADHI SANKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from various Salt Manufacturers Associations and other Organisations regarding downfall in loading of Salt Wagons due to abnormal hike in freight on transportation of Salt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken a decision to reduce the freight charges on Salt;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from salt manufacturers associations of Gujarat requesting for reduction in freight rates for edible salt.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In the rationalised freight structure effective from April 1, 2002 certain commodities of common use, including edible salt, have already been kept in class-90, for which the freight rates are the lowest. In the Railway Budget 2003-04 no change has been proposed in respect of freight rates for edible salt.

Construction of Dormitories

3432. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct more Dormitories at the railway stations throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when these are likely to start functioning;

(c) whether the Government also propose to improve facilities available at the Dormitories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the facilities provided to the passengers at Dormitories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Retiring rooms/dormitories at stations are provided depending upon the requirements and availability of funds and it is an on-going process.

(c) and (d) The basic facilities are provided in dormitories at Railway stations, which include Bed, one, toilets, bathrooms, light & fans, etc. However, some additional facilities like water coolers/room coolers, lockers etc. are provided in dormitories keeping in view the local conditions such as climate etc.

DD Facilities in Scheduled Districts

3433. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide better Doordarshan facilities in the scheduled districts;

(b) if so, the details of Doordarshan Kendras in the Scheduled district in various States proposed to be upgraded during 2003-04; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Fifteen (15) Studios and 430 Transmitter are presently functioning in the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) districts. For further expansion of Doordarshan network in TSP districts, 4 (Four) Studio and 27 Transmitter projects (including projects of upgradation of 2 Studios and 18 Transmitters) are under implementation.

(b) By the end of 2003-04, 15 existing transmitters in TSP district are envisaged to be upgraded.

(c) The above projects are at different stages of implementation. It is Doordarshan's endeavour to complete them at the earliest possible time.

Projects for Education of Physically Impaired

3434. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are special projects for the education of the physically impaired in Kerala and various other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the institutions meant for the hearing impaired and the blind in different States including Kerala;

(c) if so, the names of the agencies (including the Governmental) conducting institutions for the hearing impaired;

(d) whether the Government have received projects for the setting up of model schools based on model curriculum for the education of the hearing impaired from the NGOs in the State of Kerala and other States if any; and

(e) the details of the projects and the present status of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is releasing Grant-in-aid assistance under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities to voluntary organizations working in all States including Kerala. Besides, six National/Apex Institutes for different disabilities are functioning under the aegis of the Ministry. The details of these institutions are available in the annual reports and the website (www.socialjustice.nic.in) of the Ministry.

(d) and (e) A proposal from National Institute of Speech and Hearing, Trivandrum, Kerala was received through the State Government of Kerala for setting up a model school for education of hearing impaired for assistance under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities. The proposal has been referred to Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Impaired, Mumbai for a technical evaluation report.

India-Bhutan Transmission Link

3435. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press news-item captioned, "India-Bhutan Transmission link" as reported in 'The Statesman' dated January 15, 2003;

(b) if so, whether Tata Transmission has set up transmission link between Bhutan and India;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has since accorded approval to the link project;

(d) if so, the total investment likely to be made in the proposed transmission link project; and

(e) the extent to which the Northern States are likely to be benefited by this proposed power transmission link?

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

(b) to (d) The Tala Hydro-electric Project with an installed capacity of 1020 MW is being established in Bhutan by Tala Hydro Electric Project Authority (THPA), Bhutan. Power which will be surplus over and above the requirements of Bhutan would be purchased by India from Bhutan. A transmission system has been planned by POWERGRID to transmit this power to India at an estimated cost of Rs. 2007.29 crore. It is proposed to implement a part of this project through a Joint Venture of POWERGRID with M/s. Tata Power. The project is at advanced stage of processing for investment approval.

(e) Power from Tala HEP is proposed to be absorbed in Eastern Region. Surplus power from eastern Region would be transmitted to the important load centres of Northern Region. The quantum of power surplus in the Eastern Region available for transfer to Northern Region is expected to be of the order of 1000 MW, which may vary from time to time depending upon actual operating conditions.

Non-Functional Community Centres in Various States

3436. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of senior citizens community centres are non-functional in various States including Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of such centres along with the date of their being non-functional, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plan to make them functional; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) For the senior citizens the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment gives financial assistance to the non governmental organizations for maintenance of old age homes, day care centres, mobile

medicare units and non-institutional service centres. This Ministry does not maintain any record about the senior citizens community centres.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Recovery of Royalty Licence Fee

3437. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been recovering a royalty licence fee at the rate of 3 to 4 percent on gross sales turnover since long continuously from A.H. Wheeler and Company, a big book stall contractor;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to enhance the rate of royalty/licence fee of the above firm on the pattern of catering/vending contract i.e. 12 per cent and 15 per cent on the gross sales turnover; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) (a) to (c) No. Sir. The royalty of M/s A.H. Wheeler & Co. had been reviewed from time to time and the royalty at the rate of 4% on the sales turnover is being charged at present.

[Translation]

Retail Outlets/LPG Dealers in U.P. and Delhi

3438. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets/LPG distributors appointed by each of the public sector oil companies in U.P. and Delhi during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase LPG connections in the said States; and

(c) if so, the targets fixed for the year 2002-03 and 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) 298 retail outlet dealerships and 208 LPG distributorships in the State of Uttar Pradesh and 48 retail outlet dealerships and 9 LPG distributorships in the National Capital Territory of Delhi were commissioned by the Public Sector Oil Companies during

the last three years, i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

(b) and (c) The Government has permitted the Oil Companies to release new LPG connections across the counter (on demand) throughout the country, including Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Accordingly, new LPG connections are released on demand by the LPG distributors.

[English]

Attaching of AC Compartment to Narsapur Express

3439. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an additional AC compartment will be attached to Narsapur Express to meet the demands of passengers;

(b) whether South Central Railway's are not changing the other outdated and old compartments in this train;

(c) the steps proposed to review the needs of passengers on this train in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps proposed to bring about an equitable policy towards allotment of new bogies to all zones in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The vacuum brake coaches of 7055/7056 Hyderabad-Narsapur Express have been converted into air brake w.e.f. 1.3.2003 ex. Hyderabad and w.e.f. 2.3.2003 ex. Narsapur.

(d) Coaches are allotted to the Railways keeping in view the requirement and availability of coaches.

[Translation]

Closure of Power Projects

3440. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have closed a number of power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor during the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government in order to prevent the power projects from closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) During the last two years, the following Power Generating Units have been retired from operation:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Capacity (MW)	Date of retirement
1.	Dhuvaran TPS Gas Turbine Unit No. 2, GEB	27 MW	04.09.2001
2.	Utran Stage-I Unit No. 4, 5, 6 of GEB	Derated (3x13 MW) Rated (3x15 MW)	23.10.2002

Gas Turbine Unit No. 2 of 27 MW capacity at Dhuvaran Thermal Power Station of Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) was 30 years old and the Gas Turbine was of obsolete model. The Company Fiat Italy closed down the manufacture of such Turbine and as such spares for repair and maintenance were not available. Since the unit remained un-operational w.e.f. 15.6.1992, its vital components and parts were taken out and were consumed for running the Unit No. 1 of 27 MW in Operation State. All the possibilities for revival of the unit became futile and unit was declared retired.

The Gas Fired Boiler Unit No. 4, 5, and 6 (3x13 MW) of Utran TPS Stage-I of GEB were 40 years old and were out of operation since 1994, 1996 and 1997 respectively due to heavy damages/deterioration both in Turbine and Boilers. One of the steps being taken by the Government to prevent the old thermal power projects from closure is to carry out the Life Extension (LE) works. During the 10th Plan, 106 old thermal units installed at 32 Power Stations having a capacity of 10413 MW have been identified for Life Extension (LE) works. Implementation of LE works result in the increase of the life of the plant as also the operational efficiency.

[English]

Reservation Policy

3441. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether one posts of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes under various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various categories of the employees working in these departments and undertakings have been given promotion and fresh recruitment have also been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of fresh recruitment made under various categories during this period and so far in the current year;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed with regard to the recruitment and promotion of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) One post of Scientist-B (Group 'A') reserved for Scheduled Tribes category is lying vacant in the Ministry. One post of peon reserved for Scheduled Castes is lying vacant in Regional Office, Bhopal, a subordinate office of this Ministry. The recruitment for these two posts is in process. In so far as the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of this Ministry, is statement-I.

(c) and (d) The details of promotion and fresh recruitment, year-wise and category-wise, pertaining to the Ministry and IREDA are given in the statement-II.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement I

Post(s) lying vacant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), a Public Sector Undertaking, under the administrative control of this Ministry.

Sl. No.	Post	Number lying vacant	
		Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1.	Asstt. Technical Officer level* (TS)/E-1	01	—
2.	Technical Officer/E-2 level*	01	—
3.	General Manager (MS)/-8 level*	01	—
4.	Asstt. Executive Secretary/E-1 level*	01	01
5.	Asstt. Law Officer/E-1 level*	—	01
6.	Sr. Officer Secretary/NE-5 level**	01	—
7.	Office Secretary/NE-4 level**	—	01
8.	Finance Officer/E-2 level*	01	—
9.	Asstt. System Analyst/E-1 level*	01	—
Total		07	03

*Executive ** Non-Executive.

Statement-II

(A) Fresh recruitment and promotion in the Ministry and its Subordinate Offices.

Year/ Category	Group				Remarks
	A	B	C	D	
1	2	3	4	5	6
2000					
SC	—	—	—	01	On promotion.
ST	—	—	—	—	
OBC	—	—	01	—	Fresh recruitment through the Staff Selection Commission.
GEN	—	01*	—	02**	*On promotion **Fresh Recruitment
Total	—	01	01	03	
2001					
SC	—	—	—	—	On promotion.
ST	—	—	—	—	Being a Scientific
OBC	—	—	—	—	Ministry the

1	2	3	4	5	6
GEN	07	—	—	—	promotion was done under the Flexible Complementary Scheme under which reservation is not applicable for Group 'A' posts.
Total	07	—	—	—	
2002					
SC	—	—	02	—	Through Clerk's Grade Examination (GP. 'D' Staff) conducted by the Staff Selection Commission.
ST	—	—	—	—	
OBC	—	—	—	—	
GEN	—	—	—	—	
Total	—	—	02	—	
2003					
SC	—	—	01	—	Fresh Recruitment
ST	—	—	—	—	
OBC	—	—	—	—	
GEN	9#	—	—	—	On promotion. Being a Scientific Ministry the promotion was done under Flexible Complementary Scheme under which reservation is not applicable for Group 'A' posts.

#Out of nine scientist who were promoted to different grades, four scientists in the grade of Scientists-G is submitted to ACC for approval.

(B) Fresh recruitment made in the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)

Year/ Category	Group				Total
	A	B	C	D	
1	2	3	4	5	6
2000					
SC	02	01	01	—	04
ST	01	—	01	—	02
OBC	—	01	02	02	05
GEN	05	08	03	02	18
2001					
SC	—	—	01	—	01
ST	—	—	01	—	01
OBC	—	01	—	01	02
GEN	02	05	—	01	08

1	2	3	4	5	6
2002					
SC	—	—	—	—	—
ST	—	—	—	—	—
OBC	—	—	01	—	01
GEN	—	03	—	—	03
2003					
SC	—	—	—	—	—
ST	—	—	—	—	—
OBC	—	—	—	—	—
GEN	—	—	—	—	—

(C) *In terms of Recruitment, Seniority Promotion Rules, IREDA has been considering their employees for promotion on completion of eligibility period. Details of employees promoted in various categories during the last three years are as under:*

Year	SC	ST	OBC	Gen.	Total
2000	02	01	02	08	13
2001	06	06	07	22	41
2002	—	01	02	13	16
2003	02	—	01	06	09

[Translation]

Fake LPG Cylinders

3442. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PENDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale circulation of fake cylinders in the country;

(b) the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any steps to check the circulation of fake cylinders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have detected following number of fake cylinders during the last three years:-

Year	Number of fake cylinders
1999-2000	10,310
2000-2001	7,698
2001-2002	6,652

(c) and (d) OMCs have instituted stringent measures and inspection procedures to ensure that only genuine cylinders of the company are filled at bottling plants and distributed in the market. The oil company officials also carry out surprise checks at bottling plants and distributors' premises to check the genuineness of the cylinders. The spurious cylinders identified at the bottling plants are segregated and de-shaped to avoid their-recalculation in the system.

NTPC's Units

3443. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of NTPC units set up in the country;

(b) the details of snags developed in these units during the last three years, year-wise and unit-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop the recurrence of snags in the units of NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The details of units set up by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in the country are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) During operation of power plants, technical problems encountered by National Thermal Power Corporation from time to time are rectified.

Statement

Details of Units set up (year-wise) in the country by National Thermal Power Corporation.

Year	Project/Unit	Capacity in MW
1	2	3
1981-1982	Singrauli Stage-I Unit 1	200
1982-1983	Singrauli Stage-I Unit 2	200
	Singrauli Stage-I Unit 3	200
	Korba Stage-I Unit 1	200
1983-1984	Singrauli Stage-I Unit 4	200
	Singrauli Stage-I Unit 5	200
	Korba Stage-I Unit 2	200
	Korba Stage-I Unit 3	200
1984-1985	Ramagundam Stage-I Unit 1	200
	Ramagundam Stage-I Unit 2	200
	Ramagundam Stage-I Unit 3	200
1985-1986	Farakka Stage-I Unit 1	200
1986-1987	Singrauli Stage-II Unit 6	500
	Farakka Stage-I Unit 2	200
1987-1988	Singrauli Stage-II Unit 7	500
	Korba Stage-II Unit 4	500
	Korba Stage-II Unit 5	500

1	2	3
	Farakka Stage-I Unit 3	200
	Vindhyachal Stage-I Unit 1	210
	Rihand Stage-I Unit 1	500
1988-1989	Korba Stage-II Unit 6	500
	Ramagundam Stage-II Unit 4	500
	Ramagundam Stage-II Unit 5	500
	Vindhyachal Stage-I Unit 2	210
	Vindhyachal Stage-I Unit 3	210
	Anta Gas Turbine Unit 1	88
	Anta Gas Turbine Unit 2	88
	Auraiya Gas Turbine Unit 1	112
1989-90	Ramagundam Stage-I Unit 6	500
	Vindhyachal Stage-I Unit 4	210
	Vindhyachal Stage-I Unit 5	210
	Ridhand Stage-I Unit 2	500
	Anta Gas Turbine Unit 3	88
	Anta Steam Turbine	149
	Auraiya Gas Turbine Unit 2	112
	Auraiya Gas Turbine Unit 3	112
	Auraiya Gas Turbine Unit 4	112
	Auraiya Steam Turbine Unit 1	102
1990-1991	Vindhyachal Stage-I Unit 6	210
	Auraiya Steam Turbine Unit 2	102
1991-1992	Unchahar Stage-I (taken over from Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB)	420
	Dadri Coal Unit 1	210
	Kahalgaon Stage-I Unit 1	210
	Dadri Gas Turbine Unit 1	131
	Dadri Gas Turbine Unit 2	131
	Kawas Gas Turbine Unit 1	106

1	2	3
1992-1993	Farakka Unit 4	500
	Dadri Coal Unit 2	210
	Dadri Coal Unit 3	210
	Dadri Gas Turbine Unit 3	131
	Dadri Gas Turbine Unit 4	131
	Kawas Gas Turbine Unit 2	106
	Kawas Gas Turbine Unit 3	106
	Kawas Gas Turbine Unit 4	106
	Kawas Steam Turbine Unit 1	110.5
	Kawas Steam Turbine Unit 2	110.5
1993-1994	Farakka Unit 5	500
	Dadri Coal Unit 4	210
	Kahalgaon Stage-I Unit 2	210
	Dadri Gas Steam Turbine Unit 1	146.5
	Dadri Gas Steam Turbine Unit 2	146.5
	Gandhar Gas Turbine Unit 1	131
	Gandhar Gas Turbine Unit 2	131
1994-1995	Kahalgaon Stage-I Unit 3	210
	Talcher Stage-I Unit 1	500
	Gandhar Gas Turbine Unit 3	131
	Gandhar Steam Turbine	255
1995-1996	Kahalgaon Stage-I Unit 4	210
	Talcher Stage-I Unit 2	500
	Talcher Thermal Power Station (taken over from Orissa State Electricity Board)	460
1998-1999	Kayamkulam Gas Turbine Unit 1	115
	Kayamkulam Gas Turbine Unit 2	115
	Unchahar Stage-II Unit 3	210
	Vindhyachal Stage-II Unit 7	500
1999-2000	Kayamkulam Steam Turbine	120
	Unchahar Stage-II Unit 4	210

1	2	3
	Vindhyachal Stage-II Unit 8	500
	Faridabad Gas Turbine Unit 1	143
	Faridabad Gas Turbine Unit 2	143
	Tanda (taken over from the then UPSEB)	440
2000-2001	Faridabad Steam Turbine	144
2001-2002	Simhadri Unit 1	500
2002-2003	Simhadri Unit 2	500
	Talcher Stage-II Unit 3	500
Total		20935 MW

[English]

Project under National Rail Vikas Yojana

3444. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has selected 18 projects under the National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY);

(b) if so, the names of all these 18 projects;

(c) the respective estimated cost of each of these projects alongwith the funds allocated therefor;

(d) the present status of all the projects under National Rail Vikas Yojana; and

(e) the target fixed for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) comprises of three components: (1) Strengthening of Golden Quadrilateral and its diagonals; (ii) Strengthening of rail conductivity to ports and development of multimodal corridors to hinterland; and (iii) Construction of four Mega Bridges. Certain projects have been identified under this initiative out of which 51 are sanctioned. The list of these projects along with their estimated cost and allocation of funds proposed for 2003-04 is attached as statement.

(d) Action is being taken to carry out project preparatory studies for the unsanctioned projects. The sanctioned projects are being progressed as per the allocation of funds.

(e) NRVY projects except the mega bridges are scheduled for completion in 6 to 7 years time frame scheduled for completion in five years. Mega bridges are subject to availability of resources.

Statement

List of Projects included under National Rail Vikas Yojana

I. Strengthening of Golden Quadrilateral

(All figures in Rs. crores)

S. No.	Name of Project	Latest Anticipated Cost	Proposed Allocation during 2003-2004
1	2	3	4
Railway Electrification			
1.	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep	317.35	40.00
2.	Bhubaneswar-Kottavalasa Railway Electrification	321.07	15.00
3.	Guntakal-Renigunta	168.34	30.00
Doubling			
1.	Pakni-Solapur Doubling	38.52	15.00
2.	Thane-Mumbra 5th & 6th Line	49.34	0.01
3.	Diva-Kaylan doubling of 5&6 line	48.06	10.00
4.	Chandanpur-Gurup 3rd line	42.30	0.01
5.	Gurup-Shaktigarh: 3rd line	52.39	20.00
6.	Kanpur-Chandari	11.85	1.16
7.	New Delhi-Tilak bridge: 5th and 6th line	33.74	10.00
8.	Kanpur-Panki: 3rd Line (Phase-I)	63.36	5.50
9.	Attipattu-Korukkupettai	70.55	30.00
10.	Gooty-Renigunta Sec: Doubling of Balapalle-Pullampet (Phase-I)	74.77	40.00
11.	Gooty-Reniguta: Patch Doubling	304.50	40.00
12.	Talcher-Paradeep (Second bridge on Mahanadi & Birpua)	109.81	20.00
13.	Bilaspur-Urkura	227.36	40.00
14.	Tikiapara-Santragachi IV line	22.50	10.00
15.	Pattabhiram-Thiruvallur: 4th Line and Thiruvallur-Arakkonnam: 3rd Line	71.94	35.00
16.	Rajatgarh-Barang	166.16	10.00

1	2	3	4
17.	Aligarh-Ghaziabad: 3rd Line	230.73	30.00
18.	Raichur-Guntakal: Doubling	136.62	20.00
19.	Cuttack-Barang: Doubling	127.13	10.00
20.	Khurda-Barang: 3rd Line	133.41	10.00
21.	Sahibabad-Anand Vihar: 3rd and 4th lines	49.22	10.00
22.	Pakni-Mahol Doubling	42.73	15.00
23.	Chennai Beach-Korukkupettai	59.57	5.00
Traffic Facilities			
1.	Anand Vihar: Passenger Terminal	83.00	0.10
II. Port Connectivity Works			
Doubling			
1.	Panvel-JNPT	53.25	20.00
2.	Rajatgarh-Nargudi	82.86	1.00
3.	Nargundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur	112.86	15.00
4.	Rahma-Paradeep	63.47	15.00
5.	Panskura-Haldia: Phase-I (Panskura-Rajgoda)	26.02	20.00
6.	Hospet-Guntakal	154.14	35.00
7.	Barauni-Tilrath	13.85	1.00
Gauge Conversion			
8.	Hasan-Mangalore	312.42	2.00
9.	Surendranagar-Pipavav	372.00	15.00
10.	Salem-Cuddalore	198.68	10.00
11.	Thanjavur-Villupuram via Cuddalore	231.00	15.00
12.	Gonda-Gorakhpur loop	381.17	20.00
13.	Gandhidham-Palanpur	344.63	100.00
14.	Bhildi-Samdari	244.74	30.00
15.	Katihar-Jogbani (including Katihar-Radhikapur)	403.38	21.00
16.	Mansi-Saharsa	89.50	16.00
17.	Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	324.73	18.00
New Lines			
18.	Banspani-Daitari	590.60	75.00

1	2	3	4
19.	Panvel-Karjat	137.44	20.00
20.	Haridaspur-Paradeep	301.64	20.00
III. Mega Bridges			
1.	Bogibeel Bridge with linking lines between Dibrugarh and North Bank line	1767.36	60.00
2.	Monghyr-Rail-cum-Road Bridge on river Ganga	921.00	30.00
3.	Patna-Ganga Bridge with linking lines between Patna and Hajipur	624.47	50.00
4.	Kosi Bridge	323.41	10.00

Power Generation by NHPC

3445. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the power capacity installed by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the actual power generated during the said period; and

(c) the extent to which it is higher than the power generated during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Rangit Hydro-electric Project (60 MW) in Sikkim was commissioned by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) The total energy generation from hydro-electric projects of NHPC during the Ninth Five Year Plan period was 45091 Million Units (MUs) which was higher by 44.2% as compared to the generation of 25150 MUs during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

[*Translation*]

LPG Bottling Plant at Bokaro

3446. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLUUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of the bottling plant of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited located at Bokaro has been completed;

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

(c) whether this plant could not be commissioned within the stipulated time;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor along with the details thereof;

(e) the monthly expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the said bottling plant at present; and

(f) the total number of people who are likely to get employment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has completed the construction work of the bottling plant at Bokaro. However, the commissioning of the plant has been delayed due to delay in re-deployment of required manpower from other locations of company. It is expected that the plant will be commissioned by April, 2003.

(e) The estimated expenditure at present on the plant for works related to safety, security and other operational activities is about Rs. 5.5 lakh per month.

(f) The bottling plant is to be operated by re-deployment of company's own employees from other locations. However, commissioning of the plant may result in generation of indirect employment due to various activities like haulage, transportation, security etc.

Functioning of Power Plants in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

3447. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various power plants of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are not functioning properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of existing power plants in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, location-wise;

(d) the generation capacity of each of the power plants;

(e) the steps taken so far to increase the power generation; and

(f) the requirement and the quantity of coal provided to each plant during the last two years and the quantity of coal to be provided during 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b)

The power plants in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are functioning properly. However, performance of power plants starts deteriorating due to ageing or equipment deficiencies/problems. In order to improve/sustain performance, Renovation & Modernisation (R&M) and Life Extension (LE) works are taken up.

(c) and (d) Details of existing power plants and its capacity located in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are given the enclosed statement-I.

(e) One of the major steps to increase generation from the existing power plants, is by carrying out Renovation and Modernisation/Life Extension programme. R&M/LE works have been carried out/being taken up in respect of the following power stations in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

Tamil Nadu:

- | | | | |
|-------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| (i) | Ennore Thermal Power Station (450 MW) | | |
| | 3x110 MW Units | — | R&M completed. |
| | 2x60 MW Units | — | R&M programmed for 2003-04. |
| (ii) | Tuticorin Thermal Power Station (1050 MW) | | |
| | 3x210 MW Units | — | R&M under implementation. |
| | 3x210 MW Units | — | R&M/LE programmed during 10th Plan. |
| (iii) | Neyveli Thermal Power Station (600 MW)-NLC | | |
| | 6x50 MW+3x100 MW Units | — | LE works completed. |
| (iv) | Mettur Dam (Hydro) | | |
| | 4x10 MW Units | — | R&M/LE works being undertaken. |
| (v) | Papanasam (Hydro) | | |
| | 4x7 MW Units | — | R&M/LE works being undertaken. |
| (vi) | Pykara (Hydro) | | |
| | 3x65 MW+2x11 MW+2x14 MW Units | — | R&M/LE works being undertaken. |

Gujarat:

- | | | | |
|-------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| (i) | Ukai Thermal Power Station (850 MW) | | |
| | 2x120 MW units identified for R&M/LE during 10th Plan. | | |
| (ii) | Gandhi Nagar Thermal Power Station (870 MW) | | |
| | 2x120 MW Units identified for LE during 10th Plan. | | |
| (iii) | Dhuvaran Thermal Power Station (534 MW) | | |
| | 4x63.5 MW=2x140 MW Units | — | EL programmed during 10th Plan. |
| (iv) | Wanakbori Thermal Power Station (1470 MW) | | |
| | 6x210 MW Units | — | R&M under implementation. |
-

(f) Coal requirement vis-a-vis supply to Thermal Power Plants in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat during the year 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (upto February, 2003 is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

The Names of the Existing Power Plants and its Capacity located in Tamil Nadu & Gujarat

Name of Station	Capacity (MW)
1	2
Tamil Nadu	
Thermal	
Ennore	450.0
Tuticorin	1050.0
Mettur	840.0
North Madras	630.0
Basin Bridge GT	120.0
P. Nallur CCGT	330.5
B. Bridge D.G.	200.0
Samalpatti DG	105.7
Samayanallur DG	106.0
Neyveli ST-I (NLC)	600.0
Neyveli ST-II (NLC)	1470.0
Neyveli FST Ext	210.0
Nariman GT	10.0
Valuthur GT	60
Kovilkalappal	107.0
Hydro	
Pykara	70.0
Pyakara Dam	2.0
Moyar	36.0
Kundah	555.0
Mettur Dam	40.0
Mettur Tunnel	200.0
Periyar	140.0
Kodayar	100.0
Sholayar	95.0
Aliyar	60.0

1	2
Sarkarpathy	30.0
Papanasam	28.0
Suruliyar	35.0
Servalar	20.0
Lower Mettur	120.0
Kadampari	400.0
Vaigai	6.0
Lower Bhavani	16.0
Sathnur Dam	7.5
Parsen's Valley	30.0
Neyveli TPS (Z)	250.0
Nuclear	
Madras Atomic Power (NPC)	340.0
Gujarat	
Thermal	
Dhuvaran	534.0
Ukai	850.0
Gandhi Nagar	660.0
Wanakbori	1260.0
G.S.E.C.L.	420.0
Sikka Rep.	240.0
Kutch Lig.	215.0
Utran GT	144.0
Hazira CCCP	156.1
Dhuvaran GT	27.0
A.E.CO.	60.0
Sabarmati	330.0
Surat Lignite	250.0
Vatwa GT	100.0
G.I.P.C.L. GT	305.0
G.T.E. Corp.	655.0
Kawas GT (NTPC)	644.0
Gandhar GT (NTPC)	648.0
Hydro	
Ukai	305.0
Kadana	240.0
Nuclear	
Kakrapar Atomic Power (NPC)	440.0

Statement-II**Coal Requirement Vs. Supply***Fig in '000 Tonnes*

		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03 (Up to Feb. 03)	
		Requirement	Supply	Requirement	Supply	Requirement	Supply
Gujarat							
1.	Gandhinagar	2665	2392	2325	2135	2600	2268
2.	Sikka	660	900	690	784	875	675
3.	Ukai	2760	3293	3000	3362	3865	3333
4.	Wanakbori	660	6872	6175	6039	7340	6602
Tamil Nadu							
1.	Ennore	1485	1096	2310	1037	1720	1480
2.	Mettur	5130	5235	4335	4812	3815	4101
3.	Tuticorin	5115	5591	5220	5193	4775	4456
4.	North Chennai	3315	3476	3330	3654	3285	3157

*[English]***Cases of Lost Railway Property**

3448. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of cases of lost railway property registered with the R.P.F. alongwith the value thereof during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(b) the number of cases in which property has been recovered during the said period;

(c) whether such type of cases are increasing constantly;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent loss of railway property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The number of thefts cases of Railway Property registered and detected alongwith the value of property stolen and recovered during the last three calendar years i.e. 2000, 2001 and 2002 are as under:-

Years	No. of cases		Value of Property	
	Registered	Detected	Stolen (Rs.)	Recovered (Rs.)
2000	13270	5298	44142440	22351973
2001	12558	4942	60781804	32038657
2002	12078	5202	39820455	20883140

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The following preventive measures are being taken to curb such thefts:-

1. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/sections.

2. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the condition of wagons/seals, carrying consignments.

3. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in yards as far as possible.

4. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect criminal intelligence with a view to tracking down offender.

5. Based on criminal intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of criminals/receivers of stolen property in order to bring them to book.

6. Dog squads are deployed for patrolling in yards.

7. Close coordination between RPF, GRP and local police is maintained at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.

Fastest Train at 180 KMPH

3449. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways has conducted a trial run of its fastest train at 180 KMPH in January, 2003;

(b) whether indigenously manufactured engine was used for this train or it was an imported engine;

(c) whether trial was successful or not;

(d) whether the Government propose to run some other trains also at that speed; and

(e) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a trial run of the fastest train was conducted in December 2002 in Konkan Railway at 150 kmph. with WDP 4 Locomotive imported from General Motors U.S.A. The results of trial were satisfactory.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

LNG Import by Petronet

3450. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOCL and GAIL who were debuted to make the regassified LNG import by Petronet have refused to sign the Gas Sole Project Agreement (GSPA) with Petronet;

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

(c) whether Qatar has agreed to bring down the prices at which Petronet sell LNG on the reciprocal basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent this step is likely to affect the LNG project

(e) whether all the users of LNG are demanding lower prices of LNG in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. GAIL (India) Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited have signed Heads of Agreement for Gas Sale & Purchase Agreement (GSPA) with Petronet LNG Limited (PLL). The draft GSPA has also been finalized and initialed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The major consumers of LNG will be Power and Fertilizer Sectors who have represented that the delivered price of LNG should be affordable to these sectors. It may be mentioned that Government does not regulate LNG prices which will be sold at market determined prices by the companies concerned. However, in order to make the prices of LNG affordable, various fiscal concessions have been proposed in the Integrated LNG Policy for consideration of the Government. No decision has been taken in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Production of Films Depicting Violence and Indecency

3451. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of films depicting violence and indecency has increased to a great deal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to save the posterity from the ill effects of showing such films?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The thematic variations in films is a continuous affair and trends are based on new films gaining success at the box office.

(c) Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certifies films in terms of the provisions of the Cinematography Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. The guidelines, *inter alia*, ask CBFC to ensure that:

1. Scenes showing involvement of children in violence or as victims or as perpetrators or as forced witness to violence, or showing children as being subjected to any form of child abuse are not presented needlessly;
2. Pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror, scenes of violence primarily intended to provide entertainment and such scenes as may have the effect of desensitizing or dehumanizing people are not shown;
3. Scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner are not presented.
4. Human sensibilities are not offended by obscenity, vulgarity or depravity.

It has also been stipulated in the guidelines that while certifying films for unrestricted public exhibition, the Board shall ensure that the film is suitable for family viewing, that is to say, the film should be such that all the members of the family including children can view it together.

If the Board, having regard to the nature, content and theme of the film, is of the opinion that it is necessary to caution the parents/guardian to consider as to whether any child below the age of 12 years may be allowed to see such a film, the film, should be certified for unrestricted public showing with an endorsement to that effect.

It has been informed by CBFC that the guidelines are adhered to while certifying the films.

[English]

Tunga Hydrel Power Project in Karnataka

3452. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tunga Hydrel Power Project is likely to be completed by 2005;

(b) if so, the total amount spent so far on this project;

(c) whether the Government is monitoring its progress every year; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government and the State Government to complete this project in stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) According to Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), Tunga Hydrel Power Project (15 Megawatt) is being developed by M/s. Dandeli Ferro Private Limited, who have spent about Rs. 2 crores so far on the project. This project involves construction of dam by the Government of Karnataka, which is not yet completed. Government of Karnataka is monitoring the progress and have accorded extension till 31.12.2005. KREDL has also informed that though the promoters are informing that the project would be completed by 2005 looking at the overall progress, the project may not be completed by the extended date.

[Translation]

Special Component Scheme for Bihar and Jharkhand

3453. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the outcome of the steps taken by the Union Government for upliftment of the women in Bihar and Jharkhand during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

*[English]***Private Investment in Wind Energy**

3454. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more Wind Energy Units in the country through private investments;

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

(c) the amount invested by the private investors in each State, project-wise;

(d) the power generated through wind power during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(e) the target fixed for generation of power through wind power projects in each State through public and private investment for the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A target of 1500 MW has been fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan for wind power capacity addition, mainly through commercial projects with private sector investments. State-wise targets have not been fixed. However, 201 potential sites in 13 States/UTs viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, have been identified which could be considered suitable for wind power generation.

(c) The actual amount invested by the private investors on projects in each State would depend on the location, type of equipment selected, and other infrastructure costs. However, the investment, on average, is in the range of Rs. 4.5 crore to Rs. 5.5 crore per MW.

(d) State-wise energy generated from wind power projects during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) The generation from wind power projects is site-specific and depends upon the availability of winds and grid. No State-wise targets have been fixed for energy generation from wind.

Statement**State-wise Energy Generation from Wind Power Projects (million kWh)**

States	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 till Jan, 2003
Andhra Pradesh	87.0	115.0	91.1
Gujarat	142.2	134.8	112.6
Karnataka	72.3	92.9	153.7
Kerala	2.6	2.5	0.8
Madhya Pradesh	28.9	28.2	28.9
Maharashtra	142.6	332.7	610.4
Tamil Nadu	1,095.9	1,245.8	1,215.6
Rajasthan	5.6	18.6	20.7
West Bengal	0.0	0.3	0.4

Uses of 60 Kg. to 90 Kg. UTS Rails

3455. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether doubts have been raised in the uses of 60 kg. to 90 Kg. UTS rails on the broad gauge lines being brittle and susceptible to rails breakages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Railways to ensure safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. 60 Kg. 90 UTS (Ultimate Tensile Strength) rails have been adopted in view of increasing traffic density, axle load and speed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The established system of rail testing, inspection and maintenance of track on Indian Railways are being followed for all rail track including 60 Kg. 90 UTS rail track, to ensure safety.

Setting up of Bio-Gas Plants by NGO

3456. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has engaged some Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) for setting up bio-gas plants and public toilets;

(b) if so, the name of the NGOs who have been assigned such task;

(c) whether any such NGOs are engaged for the purpose in the State of Orissa and Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have fixed any target for setting up of bio-gas plants in the above States during the current year;

(f) if so, the details thereof and achievements made upto now; and

(g) the measures being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has involved three non-governmental organizations, namely, Sulabh International Social Service Organisation, New Delhi; Sustainable Development Agency, Kanjirapally, Kerala; and BIOTECH, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala for implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Biogas Plants Programme, which envisages, *inter alia*, setting up of night-soil based plants linked with community (public) toilet complexes. In addition, the State nodal departments and nodal agencies and Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai are also involving non-governmental organizations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Sulabh International Social Service Organisation, New Delhi is implementing the programme in different States, including Rajasthan and Orissa during 2002-2003. In addition, the nodal department in Rajasthan, i.e. Department of Rural Development is involving three other non-governmental organizations.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Against a target of setting up of 12 night-soil based biogas plants linked with community toilet complexes in the country fixed for Sulabh International Social Service Organisation, New Delhi for the year 2002-03, so far one plant in Orissa and two plants in Rajasthan have been completed. In addition, the State Government

of Rajasthan has been allocated a target of setting up of 10 community/institutional/night-soil based biogas plants for the year 2002-03 and no progress has been reported so far.

(g) Under the Community, Institutional and Night-Soil based Biogas Plants Programme, the measures taken by the Government include: Central subsidy for setting up of biogas plants; publicity; training; and project contingency to State Governments, Khadi and Village Industries Commission and non-governmental organizations for determining feasibility, providing technical and training support for construction of plants, supervising construction work and providing free maintenance warranty for 20 years in case of 35 and 45 cubic metres capacity night-soil based biogas plants linked with community toilet complexes and for two years in case of other plants.

Reducing the Speed of Superfast Trains

3457. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned Superfast Trains to go slow in the 'Asian Age' dated February 3, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the Government have contemplated or planned to reduce the speed of superfast trains from 120 km per hour to 90 km per hour; and

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

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

(b) In view of the accident of 2301 Up Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express on 09.09.2002, a temporary speed restriction of 75 Km/h had been imposed during night time on Dhanbad, Mughalsarai and Danapur Divisions of East Central railway and on Madhupur-Jhajha section of Eastern Railway as a precautionary measure on security considerations, as a result of which, the speed of some trains including Rajdhani Expresses were reduced. However, the temporary speed restriction of 75 Km/h has been withdrawn with effect from 21.2.2003 on all sections, except Koderma-Dehri-On-Sone section of East Central Railway, where there is need for extra vigilance.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Capital Base of Power Trading Corporation

3458. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Trading Corporation has approached the Union Government for enhancing its capital base;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present capital base of PTC and sources of mobilization of money by them;

(d) whether the Government have considered the demand of PTC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e)

Power Trading Corporation (PTC) was incorporated on April 16, 1999 with an authorized capital of Rs. 150 crores with share of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited at 30% National Thermal Power Corporation at 15% and Power Finance Corporation Limited at 15% and the balance 40% equity to be offered to the Indian Financial Institutions, State Electricity Boards and public at large.

The authorized capital of PTC has since been raised to Rs. 750 crores from the previous Rs. 150 crores. The paid up capital is to be raised to Rs. 750 crores over the next 3-4 years. Four CPSUs of the power sector viz. POWERGRID, National Thermal Power Corporation, Power Finance Corporation and National Hydro-electric Power Corporation will hold 8% each and the balance 68% is to be given to others. In current financial year, PTC has called for further equity from some of the shareholders with the target of reaching a paid up capital of around Rs. 75 crores from the present level of Rs. 53.25 crores. As on date, the paid up capital of PTC is Rs. 53.25 crores as per the details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Shareholders	Amount (in crores)
1.	Power Grid Corporation of India Limited	12
2.	National Thermal Power Corporation	06
3.	Power Finance Corporation	06
4.	National Hydro-electric Power Corporation	08
5.	Damodar Valley Corporation	06
6.	Financial Institutions	
	i. Industrial Development Bank of India	2.5
	ii. Infrastructure Development Finance Co. Ltd.,	2.5
	iii. Life Insurance Corporation.	2
	iv. Industrial Finance Corporation of India	1.25
	v. General Insurance Company	1
		(Financial Institutions Total 9.25)
7.	Tata Power	6
	Total	53.25

Report of Consultant Committee

3459. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received report of Consultant Committee on Central Power Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, whether a number of recommendations of that Committee are yet to be implemented despite acceptance;

(c) if so, the details of such recommendations;

(d) the reasons for not implementing them; and

(e) the steps being taken for expeditious implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) M/s. ICICI and SBI Capital markets were engaged as consultants to study the financial engineering/restructuring of the Central Power Sector Undertakings with a view to enabling them to leverage larger resources for investment. On considering their observations, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has engaged At Kearney, Consultants for undertaking a study with the objective of positioning NTPC as a premier and competitive power utility of international standard which inter-alia includes restructuring of NTPC. The study is in progress. Some of the CPSUs have also decided to explore the possibility of entering the capital market with a public issue of equity.

[Translation]

Expenditure Incurred on Publication of Books

3460. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindi, English, Urdu and other Indian languages books published by the Publication Division during each of the last three years;

(b) the title-wise details of the said books;

(c) the language-wise expenditure incurred on these books;

(d) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to promote the publication of books in Indian languages;

(e) whether the Government have reviewed the working of the Publication Division during the last three years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Statement-I & II showing the number of books published in Hindi, English, Urdu and other Indian languages by the Directorate of Publications Division (DPD) and their title-wise details during each of the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (up to February '03) are enclosed.

(c) Details of expenditure incurred on the publication of books, language-wise, in the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (up to February '03) are given the enclosed Statement-III.

(d) With a view to further promote publication of books in Indian languages, DPD envisages to translate biographies already published under the "Builders of Modern India" series in English to Hindi and vice-versa and also in the regional language of the area where the personality hailed from; translate the books originally published under the series "Cultural Leaders of India" in other languages. In addition to above, DPD has also undertaken the work of bringing out books under the title "Great Classics of Indian Languages".

(e) and (f) The working of DPD is reviewed from time to time in order to introduce new concepts and subjects on which books, journals and CDs. are to be published in Hindi, English and other Indian languages.

Statement-I

No. of books published in Hindi, English, Urdu and other Indian Languages by DPD during the last three years

Languages	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (upto Feb.)
1	2	3	4
1. Hindi	51	79	76
2. English	83	62	27
3. Urdu	8	3	3
4. Punjabi	2	2	2
5. Bengali	—	—	—
6. Assamese	—	3	—

1	2	3	4
7. Oriya	—	—	2
8. Tamil	2	5	3
9. Telugu	7	—	10
10. Malayalam	—	1	—
11. Kannada	2	—	1
12. Gujarati	—	—	—
13. Marathi	—	2	—
Total	155	157	124

Statement-II

*Titlewise Books Published from
April 2000 to March 2001.*

ENGLISH**NEW TITLES**

1. Press in India-1999
2. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Selected Speeches-Vol. I
3. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Selected Speeches-Vol. II
4. President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma Selected Speeches-Vol. II
5. Chittor V. Nagaiah-A Monograph
6. 50 Years of Indian Republic
7. Indian Folk Dances
8. INDIA 2001
9. Presidents Speak to the Nation
10. Mass Media 2001
11. 71 C. W.M.G. Vol. 10-70, 72 Marine Archaeology in India

REPRINTS

1. Social Philosophers
2. Our National Songs
3. Shankaracharya
4. History of Indian Journalism

5. 1857-A Pictorial Presentation
6. A Thought for the Day
7. Composers
8. P.S. Sivaswami Aiyer
9. Bouquet of Stories-Vol. I
10. Bouquet of Stories-Vol. II
11. Bouquet of Stories-Vol. III

HINDI**NEW TITLES**

1. Nobel Puraskar Vijeta Mahilayen
2. Pradhanmantri Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Chune Huye Bhashan Vol. I
3. Pradhanmantri Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Chune Huye Bhashan Vol. II
4. Upagrah Ke Bahar-Bhitar, Bharat Ke Hastaksher
5. Rashtrapati Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma-Chune Huye Bhashan-Part II
6. Charan Singh-Chune Huye Bhashan
7. Samay Ke Paar
- 8-10. C.W.M.G. Vol. 91-93
- 11-14. C.W.M.G. Vol. 94-97
15. Paharh Chade Gajnandan Lal
16. Bharat 2001
17. Pravasi Pakshi

REPRINTS

1. Samata Ki Aur
2. Hamare Bahadur Bachche
3. Asli Jimakade
4. Aaja Hoja
5. Shri Aurobindo
6. Hansi Hansi Mein
7. Kumbha Va Anya Mele
8. Sarojini Naidu
9. Koshika Mein Karigari

10. Rauf Chacha Ka Gadha
11. Bharat Ke Gaurav (Part III)
12. Kabir
13. Vaigyanikon Ki Jivan Kathaen
14. Vishwa Ki Shreshtha Lok Kathaen-Part-3
15. Samrat Ashok
16. Kabbu Rani
17. Yug Pravartak Avishkar
18. Parvat Devta
19. Buddha Gatha
20. Sarthi Ka Beta
21. Lomadi Mausii Aur Natkhat Bandar
22. Jagdish Chandra Bose (BMI)
23. Safar Ka Sathi
24. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule
25. Namak Andolan
26. Swarajya Ke Mantradata Tilak
27. Netaji Subhash Chander Bose
28. Mehnat Ki Mehak
29. Subah Ka Bhula
30. Rajbhasha Hindi
31. Saral Panchtantra
32. Ashok Ke Dharamlekh
33. Rabindranath Thakuer Ki Bal Kahanian
34. Pracheen Kathaen

REGIONAL LANGUAGES**NEW TITLES****TAMIL**

1. Freedom Fighters Remember

TELUGU

1. Yug Purush Ambedkar

URDU

1. Ajakal Aur Drama

2. Ajkal Aur Sahafat
3. Ajkal Aur Safarnama
4. Ajkal Aur Ghubar-e-Kaarwan
5. Ajkal Aur Taz-0-Mazah
6. Common Man's Guide to Rights & Facilities
7. Ajkal Ke Kahaniyan

PUNJABI

1. Desh Videsh Ke Mahapurush
2. Bharat Chodo Andolan

KANNADA

1. Citizens and the Constitution

REPRINTS

1. Children's Panchtantra

TELUGU

1. This India (Dx.)
2. Children's Panchtantra
3. Children's Mahabharata
4. Children's Ramayana
5. Annie Besant
6. Children's History of India

URDU

1. This India (Dx.)

KANNADA

1. This India (Dx.)

Total number of titles released from April, 2000 to March, 2001

English	83
Hindi	51
Regional Languages	21
Total	155
Miscellaneous jobs (Annual Reports, Catalogues etc.) produced	10
Grand Total	165

*Titlewise Books Published from April 2001
to March 2002*

ENGLISH

NEW TITLES

1. A Century of Indian Tennis
2. Two Friends
3. Bonsai
4. March of Time
5. Press in India 2000
6. Empowering the Indian Woman
7. Patel Memorial Lecture 1999
Democracy, Ecology, and Culture: The Indian Experience
8. Wood Carvings of Gujarat (Dx.)
9. Hare Krushna Mahtab (BMI)
10. Press in India 2001
11. India 2002
12. Live Long and Stay Young
13. The Mighty and Mystical Rivers of India
14. The Story of Football
15. C. Rajagopalachari (BMI)
16. Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (BMI)
17. Subhas Chandra Bose
18. Prime Minister-Atal Bihari Vajpayee —
Selected Speeches Vol.-III
- 19-48. C.W.M.G. Volumes 71 to 100

REPRINTS

1. Indian Press Since 1955
2. Swami Vivekanand (BMI)
3. B.R. Ambedkar (BMI)
4. Biological Clock
5. For A United India-Speeches of Sardar Patel
6. Ancient India.
7. Story of the I.N.A.
8. Chetak and Pratap

9. Children's Ramayana
10. Children's Panchtantra
11. Communication, Technology and Development
12. Science Nature's Copycat
13. India: Pre-Historic & Proto-Historic Periods
14. Citizens and the Constitution

HINDI

NEW TITLES

1. Rajasthan
2. Panchang Mein Kaal Ganana (Indian Calenderic System)
3. Ashtachhap Kavi-Krishan Das
4. Bharat Ke Rashtriya Udyan
5. Bharatiya Puratatva: Ek Parichay
6. Aam Nagrik: Adhikar Aur Suvidhaen
7. Haveli
8. Bharat Ke Samachar Patra-2000
9. Bharat-2002
10. Bharat Ke Samachar Patra-2001
11. Pradhan Mantri-Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Chune Huve Bhashan Part-III

REPRINTS

1. Prachin Bharat
2. Bharat Mein Angrezi Raj (Vol-I)
3. Bharat Mein Angrezi Raj (Vol.-II)
4. Gujarat Ki Lok Kathaen
5. Lakshagraha
6. Chetak Aur Pratap
7. Vishwa Ki Shreshtha Lok Kathaen
8. Kabbu Rani
9. Rani Lakshmi Bai
10. Hadl Ram
11. Safar Ka Sathi
12. Kamal Aur Ketki
13. Manu Katha Bharati

14. Bundelkhand Ki Lok Kathaen
15. Subaha Ka Sapna
16. Sapne Sach Huve
17. Telugu Lok Kathaen (Part-I)
18. Telugu Lok Kathaen (Part-II)
19. Avadh Ki Begum
20. Sabbu Satpat
21. Kheer Ki Gudiya
22. Mahabali Rustam
23. Sun Sattavan Ke Bhule Bisre Shaheed (Vol-2)
24. Sun Sattavan Ke Bhule Bisre Shaheed (Vol-3)
25. Sher Ka Dil
26. Bal Bodh Kathaen
27. Anjane Mein Huve Avishkar
28. Hasi Hasi Mein
29. Bajjika Ki Lok Kathaen
30. Bodha
31. Dharati Ka Sapna
32. Mehnat Ki Mahak
33. Kasturba Gandhi
34. Paharh Chade Gajnandan Lal
35. Braj Ki Lok Kathaen
36. Sita
37. Rajasthan Ke Nari Ratan
38. Taraju Ka Karishma
39. Tulsi Ka Byaha
40. Jhalkari Bai
41. Panna Dhay
42. Ustad Bhurelal
43. Delhi: Ateet Ke Jharokhe Se
44. Bachchon Ke Liye Bharat Ka Itihas
45. Everest Ke Shikhar Par
46. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
47. Jain Kahaniyan

48. Guru Ramisingh Aur Kuka Vidroh
49. Hasne Wala Kutta
50. Gopal Krishan Gokhale
51. Chatisgarh Ki Lok Kathaen
52. Choti Choti Chubhan
53. Shradh Ki Dakshina
54. Neeti Kathaen
55. Sarojini Naidu
56. Jawaharlal Nehru Ke Bhashan Vol.-I
57. Jawaharlal Nehru Ke Bhashan Vol.-II
58. Krantikari Mahilaen
59. Lomari Mausii Aur Natkhat Bandar
60. Lo Gubbare
61. Aur Perh Gunge Ho Gaye
62. Rochak Etihask Kahaniyan
63. Koshika Mein Karigari
64. Hamare Bahadur Bachche
65. Sanskritik Ekta Ka Guldasta
66. Rabinder Nath Thakur Ki Bal Kahaniyan
67. Shapit Phalgu
68. Bharat Ki Aadhyatmic Kathaen

REGIONAL LANGUAGES**NEW TITLES****URDU**

1. Jawahar Lal Nehru—A Pictorial Biography
2. Composers (Classiqi Mausikar)
3. 1857

PUNJABI

1. Bharat Chodo Andolan
2. Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha

ASSAMESE

1. An Outline Hisotry of Indian People
2. Swami Vivekananda (BMI)
3. Jyoti Prasad Aggarwal (BMI)

TAMIL

1. Indian Press Since 1955
2. Common Man's Guide to Rights and Facilities
3. Festivals of India
4. Citizens and the Constitution
5. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

MALAYALAM

1. Children's Mahabharata

MARATHI

1. Ganga Dhar Rao Deshpande
2. Scienstists

Total number of titles released from April 2001
to March 2002

English	62
Hindi	79
Regional Languages	16
Total	<u>157</u>

*Titlewise Books Published from April 2002
to February 2003*

ENGLISH**NEW TITLES**

1. Tribal Women in Development
2. The Tail of The Tailor Bird and Other Stories (Revised)
3. The Story of Ayurveda
4. The Story of Swimming
5. Mass Media-2002
6. Arjuna Awardees
7. Common Man's Guide to Rights and Facilities (Revised)
8. Nivedita's New Home & Other Stories (Revised)
9. Beautiful Bulbous Flowers
10. Indian Tribes Through the Ages (Revised)
11. Mumbai
12. India 2003-A Reference Annual
13. C.N. Annadurai (BMI)
14. Folk Tales of Gujarat

REPRINTS

1. Indian Folk Tales
2. Jaina Shrines in India
3. Folk Tales of Kerala
4. India's Struggle for Freedom
5. Sayyid Ahmad Khan (BMI)
6. Festivals of India
7. Indian Explorers of the 19th Century
8. Nehru's Thoughts on National Topics
9. Spritual Stories of India
10. No Time for Fear and Other Stories
11. Mahatma Gandhi: A Great Life in Brief
12. The Story of Kalidas
13. National Parks of India

HINDI**NEW TITLES**

1. Shyamjee Krishan Verma
2. Bhartiya Mahilayen Nai Dishayen
3. Hawa Ki Beti
4. Bhartiya Patrakarita Ka Itihas
5. Bhartiya Press 1955 Se Ab Tak
6. Nandu Bhaiya Ki Patange
7. Jivan Ki Utpati Aur Vikas
8. Loknayak Jai Prakash Narayan (BMI)
9. Meera Mukti Ki Sadhika
10. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Vyakhayanmala-1999
11. Chaudah Chante
12. Hindustani Shastiriya Sangeet Ki Gharana Parampara
13. Man Ka Rishta
14. Kabootar Ud Gaye
15. Bharat Ke Gaurav Granth-Telugu
16. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay (BMI)
17. Bansuir Ki Awaz
18. Do Dost

19. Desh Videsh Ke Chidiaghar
 20. Tantrivadak
 21. Antriksh Mein Bharat
 22. Birsa Munda (BMI)
 23. Sadharan Avishkaron Ki Asadharan Safaltayen
 24. Bharat Ke Gaurav Granth-Marathi
 25. Katha Kathak Ki
 26. Bharat-2003
 27. Lal Phoolon Wala Ped
 28. Bhartiya Samvidhan Aur Aam Adami
 29. Qurbani Anjan Shahidon Ki
 30. Hamare Aaj Ke Cricket Sitare
 31. Number Ek Kaun: Sachin, Waugh Ya Lara
 32-56. CWMG (Revised Volume 1 to 25)

REPRINTS

1. Sukumaliya Ka Tyag
 2. Krantikariyon Ka Bachpan
 3. Betal Kathaen
 4. Videshi Yatrion Ki Nazar Mein Bharat
 5. Adi Kavi Maharishi Valmiki
 6. Pauranik Bal Kathaen
 7. Maharathi Karan
 8. Amar Shahid Bhagat Singh
 9. Lakshadweep Ki Samudri Kathaen
 10. Hamare Scouts Guide
 11. Bharat Ke Mahan Shiksha Shastri
 12. Hamari Jheelein Aur Nadiyan
 13. Bhartiya Sanskriti Ki Jhankiyan
 14. Ek Desh Ek Hirdaya
 15. Apni Hindi Sudharein
 16. Hamare Muslim Sant Kavi
 17. Pauranik Bal Kathaen (Part-II)
 18. Antariksh Yan Ke Karname
 19. Khargosh Ke Seengh
 20. Vishwa Ki Shreshtha Lok Kathaen-(Part-I)

REGIONAL LANGUAGES**NEW TITLES****URDU**

1. Qalam, Qalamkar Aur Kitab
 2. Inventions That Made History
 3. Ped Paudon Ki Dastaan

PUNJABI

1. Bharat Mein Angreji Raj (Vol. I)
 2. Bharat Mein Angreji Raj (Vol. II)

TAMIL

1. A Panorama of Indian Culture
 2. Manas Sanctuary
 3. Indian Classical Dances

TELUGU

1. Aestheticians
 2. An Outline History of Indian People
 3. Videshi Yatrion Ki Nazar Mein Bharat
 4. Hadi Rani
 5. Ravindranath Thakur Ki Bal Kahaniyan
 6. Bapu Ke Sath
 7. Bhartiya Harin
 8. Panna Daadi
 9. Rani Durgavati
 10. Ganit Ke Jadugar

KANNADA

1. Ganesh Vasudeo Mavalankar (BMI)

ORIYA

1. Indian Classics Retold
 2. Indian Classics-Telugu

Total number of Titles released from April 2002 to February 2003

English	27
Hindi	76
Languages.	21
Total	124

Statement-III*Expenditure incurred on Publication of Books, Language-wise in the Last Three Years.**(Rupees in Lakhs)*

Languages	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (upto February)
1. Hindi	30.00	51.47	49.00
2. English	177.00	95.00	31.00
3. Urdu	3.18	1.45	0.61
4. Punjabi	0.35	0.43	1.12
5. Bengali	—	—	—
6. Assamese	—	0.97	—
7. Oriya	—	—	1.14
8. Tamil	0.87	2.15	1.74
9. Telugu	3.56	—	2.31
10. Malayalam	—	0.62	—
11. Kannada	2.07	—	0.70
12. Gujarati	—	—	—
13. Marathi	—	0.47	—
	217.03	152.56	87.62

Construction of ROB near Azamgarh Railway Station

3461. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct an overbridge alongside the Azamgarh railway station of Uttar Pradesh keeping in view the rush of road traffic there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which construction of the overbridge at the above site is likely to be started?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Construction of Transmission Towers by Power Grid Corporation

3462. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Grid Corporation has built transmission towers across rivers all over the country;

(b) if so, whether objections have been raised in different areas to this interference with the free flow of rivers;

(c) whether the Power Grid Corporation consulted any agency of Government on the safety measures to be taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) In accordance with the information received from POWERGRID, every effort is made by them to see that transmission towers are placed on the firm banks of the river falling in the route of the transmission lines and they are not constructed in the river bed. However, in a few cases, where the width of the river is more than 1000 meter, mid-stream towers are provided on pile or well foundation at every 1000 meter interval as against

the large number of piers (generally at every 50 meter interval) over well foundations for road and railway bridges. Shapes of the foundations are normally circular to provide free flow of water. These tower foundations, which are comparatively small structures, do not alter the river currents or the free flow of water in a river and also do not pose any danger. No objection has been raised to POWERGRID in regard to this practice. Since the system is functioning satisfactorily, POWERGRID do not propose to review this practice or to consult any agency on the safety measures in this regard.

Financial Assistance for Procurement of Energy Meters

3463. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) are providing financial assistance to four State Electricity Boards and Distribution Companies of Andhra Pradesh for procurement of Energy Meters;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the total amount being financed to each power utility company;

(c) whether there have been complaints that Boards located at Vijayawada, Warangal and Tirupati have not followed prescribed tender norms and awarded the contracts to firms with no manufacturing background and without testing their energy meters at Government Laboratories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action proposed to be taken by REC and PFC against the above Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (b) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides loan assistance to the State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/State Power Utilities for procurement and installation of energy meters. REC has since 1999-2000 sanctioned Rs. 479.83 crores as loan assistance to Andhra Pradesh Power Transmission Corporation (APTRANSCO). Of these, APTRANSCO has drawn Rs. 274.49 crores upto 31.3.2002. REC has not provided any financial assistance to the Distribution Companies (Discoms).

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is providing financial assistance to four distribution companies in Andhra Pradesh for procurement of energy meters. The details of the amount sanctioned by PFC to the four distribution companies is as under:-

Sl. No.	Utility	Date of Sanction	Sanction Amount (Rs. Crores)	Status
1.	Eastern Power Distribution Co. of A.P. Ltd. (APEPDCL)	22.10.2002	75.30	Documents are yet to be executed
2.	Northern Power Distribution Co. of A.P. Ltd. (APNPDCL)	28.11.2002	79.90	-do-
3.	Southern Power Distribution Co. of A.P. Ltd. (APSPDCL)	04.02.2003	108.60	-do-
4.	Central Power Distribution Co. of A.P. Ltd. (APCPDCL)	04.02.2003	157.70	-do-

(c) and (d) Meters are procured by the State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/State Power utilities themselves in accordance with their prescribed procedures. These include inter alia quality specifications, performance guarantees, testing and inspection procedures as per standard laid down. REC and PFC are not aware of any complaint regarding tendering and contracts awarded by the project executive agency(s).

Filling up of Vacant Reserved Posts

3464. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have strictly followed the reservation policy in providing jobs in the Government Departments and Autonomous institutions as well attached offices coming under his Ministry in as far as the Gazetted jobs or class I and class II employments are concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Autonomous institution-wise, department-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts in the Government Sector and Public Sectors;

(d) whether the Government both in Centre and State find it difficult to fill up the reserved posts (class I and class II in both Government sector and Public Sector) designated for the persons belonging to SC/ST and OBC; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Ministry of Railways is responsible for the implementation of extant reservation policy of the Govt. in the Ministry, attached & sub-ordinate offices and Public Sector Undertakings under its administrative control. The instructions being issued from time to time by the Government of India regarding reservation in services in Group 'A'/Group B (Gazetted) posts are being followed in its right perspective.

(b) The representation of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) as on 31.3.2002 in Group A and B services in the Ministry of Railways and its attached and sub-ordinate offices is as under:-

	Group 'A'	Group 'B'
Total staff Strength	7751	6682
SC	1236 (15.95%)	1042 (15.59%)
ST	500 (6.45%)	352 (5.27%)

In the case of SCs, the prescribed percentage of reservation (15%) could be achieved. However, in the case of STs, the percentage representation is slightly less than the prescribed 7.5% due to non-availability to candidates, inspite of our best efforts.

(c) to (e) Reserved category candidates are generally available to fill up the reserved vacancies. In some cases some difficulties are faced when suitable reserved category candidates are not available to fill up the reserved vacancies. In the event of non-availability to fill up the reserved vacancies. In the event of non-availability of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward class candidates to fill up the reserved vacancies under the Government of India in direct recruitment, the reserved vacancies are kept vacant to be filled up in the subsequent recruitment years by the respective categories. In case of non-availability of suitable reserve category candidates in promotion, reservation is carried forward to the subsequent years.

In order to fill up the vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), various relaxation and concessions are given. In case of direct recruitment, SCs/STs get concessions like relaxation in upper age limit by 5 years, exemption from payment of examination/application fee, relaxation in qualification/experience at the discretion of Union Public Service Commission/Competent authority, relaxation in standards of suitability, etc.

In case of promotion they get concession like extension of zone of consideration to five times the number of vacancies in case suitable SC/ST candidates are not available within the normal zone of consideration, relaxation in qualifying marks/standards of evaluation, relaxation in upper age limit by five years where upper age limit for promotion is prescribed not exceeding 50 years etc. In order to fill up vacancies reserved for Other Backward Classes (OBCs), various concessions like relaxation in upper age limit by three years etc. are given to them. Presently there is a ban on dereservation of reserved vacancies in case of direct recruitment.

Reservation in State services is the concern of respective State Government.

Facilities for Shooting of Films In India

3465. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Film Production Units have shown keen interest for shooting the films in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to simplify the procedures so as to encourage the foreign film makers to have easy access to the country in shooting their films;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to provide incentives to the Indian film industry to extend the required facilities to the foreign film makers;

(d) if so, the details of the proposals finalized by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the extend to which these proposals would help the foreign film units to make India as one of the centres for production of foreign films?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) Proposals for shooting the feature films by foreigners in India received in this

Ministry during the last three years were as follows:

2000	18
2001	14
2002	17

Review of the procedures with a view to facilitate and promote the shooting of foreign films in India, is being done in consultation among this Ministry, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[Translation]

Effect of Power Crisis on Industries

3466. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power crisis is deepening in the country;

(b) whether industrial production has also declined due to power crisis;

(c) whether the Government would make specific efforts to arrest the trend of decline in industrial production; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Details of the energy shortage in the country during April, 2002-February, 2003 as compared to April, 2001-February, 2002 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) There is no indication of any decline in industrial production. The industrial growth rate has been registered as 5.3% during April, 2002-December, 2003 as compared to the growth rate of 2.5% during April, 2001-December, 2002.

(c) and (d) Do not arise. However, Government of India has announced several measures in the Union Budget 2003-04 to boost the industrial production.

Statement

Actual Power Supply Position

(All figures in MU net)

Region/State System	April, 2001-February, 2002				April, 2002-February, 2003			
	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/Deficit (MU)	(-)(%)	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/Deficit (MU)	(-)(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	1034	1032	-2	-0.2	1050	1046	-4	0.4
Delhi	17930	17337	-593	-3.3	18582	18216	-366	-2.0
Haryana	16633	16340	-293	1.8	18592	18070	-522	-2.8
H P	3013	2961	-52	-1.7	3144	3057	-87	-2.8
Jammu & Kashmir	6020	5341	-679	-11.3	6577	5737	-840	-12.8
Punjab	26680	25483	-1197	-4.5	28086	26323	-1763	-6.3
Rajasthan	22470	22249	-221	-1.0	23702	23177	-525	-2.2
U.P	44252	39804	-4448	-10.1	41341	33518	-7823	-18.9
Uttanchal	0	0	0	0.0	3452	3354	-98	-2.8
Northern Region	138032	130547	-7485	-5.4	144526	132498	-12028	-8.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chattisgarh	7291	7074	-217	-3.0	8971	8678	-293	-3.3
Gujarat	48798	43198	-5600	-11.5	55079	48851	-6228	-11.3
M.P.	28178	23856	-4322	-15.3	28823	24312	-4511	-15.7
Maharashtra	73194	66602	-6592	-9.0	79402	68600	-10802	-13.6
Goa	1604	1604	0	0.0	1678	1678	0	0.0
Western Region	159065	142334	—	-10.5	173953	152119	-21834	-12.6
A.P.	43447	39887	-3560	-8.2	43106	40042	-3064	-7.1
Karnataka	29355	25673	-3682	-12.5	29156	26328	-2828	-9.7
Kerala	12079	11225	-854	-7.1	12473	11566	-907	-7.3
Tamil Nadu	41935	39054	-2881	-6.9	42130	39395	-2735	-6.5
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0.0	1095	1095	0	0.0
Southern Region	126816	115839	—	-8.7	127960	118426	-9534	-7.5
Bihar	8564	8211	-353	-4.1	7501	6917	-584	-7.8
D.V.C.	7630	7625	-5	-0.1	7560	7467	-93	-1.2
Jharkhand	0	0	0	0.0	1073	1067	-6	-0.6
Orissa	11241	11233	-8	-0.1	12258	11999	-259	-2.1
West Bengal + Sikkim	18789	18725	-64	-0.3	18775	18507	-268	-1.4
Eastern Region	46224	45794	-430	-0.9	47167	45957	-1210	-2.6
Arunachal Pradesh	124	122	-2	-1.6	147.4	146.4	-1	-0.7
Assam	3186	3163	-23	-0.7	3212	3114	-98	-3.1
Manipur	417	402	-15	-3.6	444.4	440.4	-4	-0.9
Meghalaya	631	636	5	0.8	866.2	864.2	-2	-0.2
Mizoram	260	255	-5	-1.9	269.7	267.7	-2	-0.7
Nagaland	239	239	0	0.0	265.1	264.1	-1	-0.4
Tripura	592	563	-29	-4.9	647.3	611.3	-36	-5.6
North Eastern Region	5449	5380	-69	-1.3	5852.1	5708.1	-144	-2.5
All India	475586	439894	-35692	-7.5	499458	454708	-44750	-9.0

Peak Demand/Peak Met

Region/State System	April, 2001-February, 2002				April, 2002-February, 2003			
	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Surplus/Deficit (-)		Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Surplus/Deficit (-)	
			(MU)	(%)			(MU)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	180	180	0	0.0	206	206	0	0.0
Delhi	3118	2879	-239	-7.7	3417	3101	-316	-9.2
Haryana	3000	2900	-100	-3.3	3411	3325	-86	-2.5
H.P.	562	562	0	0.0	770	770	0	0.0
Jammu & Kashmir	1209	999	-210	-17.4	1250	1060	-190	-15.2
Punjab	5420	4936	-484	-8.9	5849	5455	-394	-6.7
Rajasthan	3603	3603	0	0.0	3880	3820	-60	-1.5
U.P.	7584	6887	-697	-9.2	6700	5750	-950	-14.2
Ultranchal	0	0	0	0.0	771	705	-66	-8.6
Northern Region	23200	21346	-1854	-8.0	24092	21889	-2203	-9.1
Chattisgarh	1357	1311	-46	-3.4	1548	1492	-56	-3.6
Gujarat	7974	6700	-1274	-16.0	8641	7336	-1305	-15.1
M.P.	5683	4457	-1226	-21.6	5869	4157	-1712	-29.2
Maharashtra	12200	10458	-1742	-14.3	13697	10984	-2713	-19.8
Goa	316	316	0	0.0	296	296	0	0.0
Western Region	26510	22024	-4486	-16.9	28677	22853	-5824	-20.3
A.P.	7622	6395	-1227	-16.1	8491	6858	-1633	-19.2
Karnataka	5321	4393	-928	-17.4	5508	4805	-703	-12.8
Kerala	2606	2189	-417	-16.0	2803	2288	-517	-18.4
Tamil Nadu	6900	60904	-806	-11.7	7236	7123	-113	-1.6
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0.0	180	180	0	0.0
Southern Region	21804	18604	-3200	-14.7	22419	20428	-1991	-8.9
Bihar	1409	1288	-121	-8.6	1389	1325	-64	-4.6
D.V.C.	1296	1209	-87	-6.7	1236	1172	-64	-5.2
Jharkhand	0	0	0	0.0	488	474	-14	-2.9
Orissa	2034	1952	-82	-4.0	2125	1988	-137	-6.4
West Bengal + Sikkim	3614	3414	-200	-5.5	3752	3418	-334	-8.9
Eastern Region	7940	7648	-292	-3.7	8076	7676	-400	-5.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Arunachal Pradesh	50	50	0	0.0	45	45	0	0.0
Assam	688	618	-70	-10.2	668	589	-79	-11.8
Manipur	98	94	-4	-4.1	101	101	0	0.0
Meghalaya	165	160	-5	-3.0	189	189	0	0.0
Mizoram	75	73	-2	-2.7	74	74	0	0.0
Nagaland	61	58	-3	-4.9	78	78	0	0.0
Tripura	158	140	-18	-11.4	182	156	-26	-14.3
North Eastern Region	1148	1043	-105	-9.1	1209	1135	-74	-6.1
All India	77956	68209	-9747	-12.5	81492	71547	-9945	-12.2

[English]

Agreement with France

3467. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bangalore has signed an agreement with Institut Aeronautique Spatiale of France;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the advantages of the agreement to the country;

(d) whether any Indian universities will be involved;

(e) if so, the role of Indian universities will be involved;

(f) the details of the other joint venture signed by HAL with France?

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

(b) The objectives of the agreement are to support and develop industrial cooperation in the aeronautics and space sectors between India, France and Europe; to promote and help a better understanding between the Indian, French and European aeronautics and space sectors; and to promote commercial exchanges between India, France and Europe in the aeronautic and space sectors.

(c) This will give an opportunity to the executives of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to gain specialisation in

the field of aviation, and provide exposure in the latest technologies and management techniques.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Snecma, France have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for formation of a Joint Venture Company for production of aero-engine, sub-assemblies and investment castings for the Indian and international markets.

Power Waste due to Sub-Standard Electric Equipments

3468. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantum of power goes waste due to sub-standard quality of electric equipment in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated a legal framework for establishment of an apex level central body for laying down standards and norms of energy consumption equipments and appliances;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to encourage energy conservation and development of improved technologies for energy efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. A considerable portion of power goes waste at the consumption stage due to sub-standard quality of electric equipments in the country. There is a scope of about 20% and 25% energy saving potential in domestic and agricultural & industrial sectors respectively, and upgrading the standard of electrical equipments & appliances and consumers awareness through labeling will go a long way in effecting sustained energy saving.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has enacted the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 and under this Act established Bureau of Energy Efficiency, a statutory body, for laying down minimum energy consumption standards and mandatory labeling. This Act has enabled the Government to provide for:

- (i) Specify equipment or appliance or class of equipments or appliances, as the case may be, for the purpose of this Act;
- (ii) Specify the norms for process and energy consumption standards for any equipment, appliances which consumes, generates, transmits or supplies energy;
- (iii) Prohibit manufacturer or sale or purchase or import of equipment or appliance specified in the Act unless such equipment or appliances conforms to energy consumption standards; and
- (iv) Direct display of such particulars on label on equipment or on appliance specified.

(d) The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is to institutionalize energy efficiency services and establish delivery mechanisms for these activities through various regulatory and promotional instruments, with the prime objective to reduce intensive and wasteful use of energy in the Indian economy. Bureau of Energy Efficiency has prepared an Action Plan which gives thrust on energy efficiency in industrial sector, standard & labeling for appliances, demand side management, energy efficiency in commercial buildings, energy conservation building codes, capacity building of energy managers and energy auditor, energy performance codes and manual preparation and awareness creation, etc. As a first step, energy audit has been initiated in 9 Central Government Buildings.

State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have also been advised to implement energy conservation measures required under the Energy Conservation Act. Dialogues have been initiated with selected industry groups in the manufacturing sector and

Working Groups have been established for working out minimum standards of consumption of their products and also towards recommending appropriate labeling thereon.

Every year, the Government of India celebrates 14th December, as "National Energy Conservation Day" and on this occasion awards are given to selected industrial units for their exemplary work done in the field of energy conservation.

[Translation]

Expansion and Modernisation of BPCL

3469. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has drawn up a plan worth Rs. 7500 crore for expansion and modernisation of its business network in the next five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes on which the said amount is likely to be spent, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. BPCL has drawn up a plan amounting to Rs. 7,500 crore under Plan and Non Plan proposals for expansion & modernisation of its business network for X Five Year Plan (2002 to 2007). Details of major outlays are as under:-

(Figs. in Rs. crs.)

Plan Expenditure

Refinery: (Addl. Capacity) Projects

Central India Refinery at Bina	1,216
U.P. Refinery	100

Quality Upgradation/Yield Improvement Projects

Refinery Modernisation Project,	
Mumbai Refinery	1,463

Marketing & Infrastructure Projects

Product Terminal at Bina	150
LPG Bottling Plants and Infrastructure	281
Mumbai Manmad Pipeline Extension to Manglia	267

Investment in Joint Venture Companies

(Petronet LNG, IGL etc.)	450
Miscellaneous	73
Sub-Total	4,000
Non Plan Expenditure	3,500

- I. To maintain and upgrade the existing facilities of marketing and refining i.e.
 - Replacement of outdated/outlived equipments.
 - Revamping the facilities at depots, installations, LPG bottling plants, refinery etc.
 - Upgrading the retail outlets
 - II. Pilot studies and R&D activities.
 - III. Adding storage capacity both for crude and petroleum products.
 - IV. Proposals related to safety/security of BPCI's installations, depots, plants, refinery etc.
 - V. Welfare proposals
- @ Rs. 700 crs. per year for 5 years)
- | | |
|-------|-------|
| Total | 7,500 |
|-------|-------|

*[English]***Austerity Measures**

3470. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NTPC is following the Government's order to reduce expenditure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the result achieved as a result thereof during 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the units of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have been advised from time to time to observe austerity in expenditure and this is being monitored by NTPC.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) NTPC has experienced an overall reduction in expenses in real terms in the areas concerned.

Privatisation of Ticket Reservation

3471. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are going to privatise ticket reservation system in the country;
- (b) whether this will not render railway men surplus;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the benefits likely to be accrued to Railways from this new system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) In order to facilitate rail reservation and to improve customer service, Passenger Reservation System (PRS) terminals have been allotted to three Rail Travellers Service Agents (RTSAs) in Mumbai area of Central Railway on an experimental basis.

- (b) No Railway staff will be rendered surplus.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Customer Service will improve.

*[Translation]***Projects Pending for Clearance**

3472. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain projects from various States pertaining to the Railways are pending for clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof as on date and the date since when these are pending/under consideration, project-wise;
- (c) the reasons for delay in this regard;
- (d) the estimated cost thereof; and
- (e) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

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

- (b) to (e) A statement is attached.

Statement

(b) to (e) The details of projects which have been included in various budgets but are yet to be cleared with their estimated cost are given as under:—

Name of project	Year of inclusion in budget	Approx. cost in crore
Kakinada-Pithapuram new line	1999-2000	61.70
Restoration of Azimganj-Jiaganj upto Ghats	2001-02	22.78
Bangalore-Krishnarajpuram quadrupling	1997-98	85.00
Delhi-Sarai Rohilla-Gurgaon railway electrification	2001-02	12.00
Mugalsarai-Zafrabad railway electrification	1999-2000	49.96
Khurja-Meerut-Saharanpur railway electrification	1996-97	89.21

The projects have been included in the budget without necessary appraisal and approvals. Efforts are being made to get clearance of the pending projects. However, no time frame can be fixed for approval of these projects.

[English]

Problems faced by Oil Pipelines Industry

3473. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil pipeline industry is facing a number of problems in the country at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to absence of clear cut policy of gas tariff and absence of regulator in the petroleum sector this industry is suffering more;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to grant oil pipeline industry a infrastructure status;

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

(f) the steps taken or being taken by Government to mitigate the problems faced by oil pipeline industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) During the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) period, with a view to have a consortium approach for putting up petroleum product pipelines, Petronet India Limited (PIL) was set up as a joint venture company with equity participation from public

sector oil companies, private sector companies, financial institutions etc. PIL has been facing problems in raising funds for the pipeline projects.

With a view to attract investments in the petroleum product pipelines in the deregulated scenario post APM, the Government have notified guidelines on 20th November 2002 for laying of petroleum product pipelines in the country.

As regard gas pipelines, more than 50% of the total available gas of around 65 MMSCMD is transported through the HBJ pipeline for which the transportation charges have been fixed by the Government. The transportation charges for other pipeline systems are fixed at by negotiation with the respective consumers.

Supply of Power in Bihar

3474. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop any mechanism for supply of power from the States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharkhand etc. to meet the power requirement of Bihar; and

(b) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to increase power generation in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No request has been received from Bihar for supply of power from the States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharkhand to meet the power requirement.

(b) Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned.

However, in order to increase power generation in Bihar, the following steps are being taken:-

- (i) Besides capacity addition of 135 MW in State Sector in Bihar, a capacity addition of 5650 MW has been planned in Central Sector in Eastern Region in which the State of Bihar will have entitlements.
- (ii) Implementation of Renovation, Modernization and Life Extension (R&M & LE) Schemes for old and inefficient generating units for overall improvement in generation performance. BSEB's proposal for Renovation & Modernisation of Muzaffarpur TPS has been recommended by CEA for financing under Accelerated Power Development Programme. Life Extension of Unit-4 & 5 of Barauni TPS has been planned during the 10th Plan and loan at concessional rates of interest have been made available under Accelerated Generation and Supply programme.

[English]

Restrictions Imposed on the Speed of Superfast Trains

3475. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to withdraw restrictions imposed on the speed of superfast trains after major train accident took place at Aurangabad in Bihar last year;

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

(c) whether the Railway tracks have been further overhauled and strengthened to maintain speed of the superfast trains; and

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

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

(b) In view of the accident of 2301 UP Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express on 09.09.2002 near Rafiganj, a temporary speed restriction of 75 Km/h had been imposed during night time on Dhanbad, Mughalsarai and Danapur

Divisions of East Central Railway and on Madhupur-Jhajha section of Eastern Railway as a precautionary measures on security considerations, as a result of which the punctuality of some trains including Rajdhani Expresses were affected. However, the temporary speed restriction of 75 Km/h has been withdrawn from 21.2.2003 on all sections except Koderma-Dehri-On Sone section of East Central Railway, where there is need for extra vigilance.

(c) and (d) Repairs and maintenance of Railway track is an on-going process. Maintenance works are carried out regularly depending on the need with a view to maintain speed of all trains including Superfast trains.

Relief to Disabled during Natural Calamities

3476. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no such scheme for providing relief to disabled, orphaned children and old aged persons affected by natural calamities, such as floods, earthquake and cyclone etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons for discriminatory scheme;

(c) whether the Parliamentary Committee recommended for the establishment of a Common corpus Fund to meet the contingency of relief work to the disabled, orphaned children and aged persons affected by natural calamities; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) In the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment there is no specific scheme for providing relief to the victims of natural calamities. However, this Ministry has been providing such relief to victims of cyclone in Orissa and earthquake in Gujarat under its scheme General Grant in aid programme of assistance in the field of social defence.

(c) and (d) The Standing Committee on Labour & Welfare, while clearing the Demands for Grant of this Ministry for 2001-02, recommended that this Ministry should establish a common corpus fund to meet the contingency of the relief work to the disabled, orphan children & aged persons affected by natural calamities. The matter is under consideration of the Ministry in consultation with other concerned ministries.

Mixing of Ethanol in Petrol

3477. SHRI SURESH PASI:
 SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
 SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
 SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMI GOWDA:
 SHRI Y.V. RAO:
 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
 SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government had made it compulsory for nine sugarcane-producing States and Union Territories for mixing 5% ethanol in petrol from January 1, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has now decided to introduce the same from June 1, 2003;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether India has the potential to produce required ethanol from domestic sources for meeting the future requirement;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the price of imported ethanol is less than the price of indigenously produced ethanol; and

(h) if so, the details thereof:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Initially Government mandated supply of only 5% ethanol-blended-petrol in the 9 States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu & Uttar Pradesh and the 4 Union Territories of Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Pondicherry with effect from 1.1.2003. However, considering the existing and the proposed infrastructure to manufacture anhydrous ethanol, phased sale of only 5% ethanol-blended-petrol in the entire areas of these 9 States and 4 Union Territories has been permitted by the Government so as to cover the entire areas of the above 9 States and 4 Union Territories by 30.6.2003.

(e) and (f) The sugar industry, distillers association and major sugar producing States confirmed availability of sufficient quantities of feedstock such as molasses for manufacture of ethanol. Other feedstock like sugarbeet, cassava, potato and damaged foodgrain can also be tapped.

(g) and (h) Indicative CIF price of ethanol in December 2002 was Rs. 11/- per liter which is lower than the present price of indigenously manufactured ethanol. However, since the basic objective of the Government is to develop indigenously available renewable source of energy and help the sugarcane farmers, import of ethanol is not being contemplated.

Establishment of Rehabilitation Centres in the Country

3478. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are setting up District Rehabilitation Centres all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objectives of DRC, State-wise;

(c) the fund spent on D.R.Cs in 2001-2002;

(d) the fund allocated for D.R.Cs in 2002-2003;

(e) whether the concept of D.R.Cs has not been an effective weapon or tool in meeting requirements of physically challenged people; and

(f) if so, the future of D.R.Cs in their present form?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, eleven District Rehabilitation Centres (DRCs) one each in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and two in Uttar Pradesh are already functioning for providing rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities.

(c) An amount of Rs. 3.63 crore has been spent on DRCs in 2001-2002.

(d) Allocation of funds for DRCs in the year 2002-2003 is Rs. 3.80 crore.

(e) and (f) The DRCs are effectively providing rehabilitation services to the physically challenged people. During the last 3 year, more than 3000 assessment camps have been conducted in villages, during which 70,000 persons with disabilities were evaluated/ followed up for providing various rehabilitation services. 13,000 people have been provided assistive devices, wheelchairs, tricycles etc. envisaged in the present set up of DRCs.

Trafficking in Women in SAARC Countries

3479. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the member states of the South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation (SAARC) have proposed that rescued women be allowed to stay and work in the country where they have been sold;

(b) whether the trafficking in women in the SAARC countries particularly in India has increased;

(c) whether India have opposed the recommendation of giving an option to a traffic person to stay on in the destination country;

(d) if so, whether this matter has been further discussed at the SAARC meeting in view of the reservations of the members countries; and

(e) the final decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no concrete evidence to this effect.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies in Bihar

3480. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies Operating at present in Bihar as on date;

(b) the details of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies allotted to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Freedom Fighters and General Category people in the State during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up new Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies in Bihar in the next few years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH

KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) 838 retail outlets and 223 LPG distributorships are operating at present in the State of Bihar.

(b) 91 retail outlet dealerships and 101 LPG distributorships were allotted under different categories in the State of Bihar during the last three years i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

(c) and (d) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the Petroleum Sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the Oil Marketing Companies have freedom to choose locations and frame their own Marketing Plans for setting up retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships/SKO-LDO dealerships in various parts of the country, including Bihar, provided that the locations meet certain norms like commercial viability and non-encroachment of the existing dealerships/distributorships.

[*English*]

Increase in Coaches Production

3481. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) the number of passenger and express trains increased in Ninth Plan period, year-wise;

(b) the corresponding increase in the number of coaches during the said period;

(c) whether absence in the increase in coaches has resulted in over use of the available stock with a drastic effect on their health and efficiency; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to increase production of coaches in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Trains are not introduced Plan-wise but on an yearly basis depending upon public demand, traffic justification, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

(b) The passenger coach holding has increased from 30,002 as on 31.03.1997 to 34,360 as on 31.03.02.

(c) No, Sir. The average coach utilization has increased by 6.35% over the period from 31.03.1997 to 31.03.2002. The coach holding has increased by 14.52%

over the same period. The health of coaches has not been adversely affected by increase in the utilisation.

(d) Does not arise.

Interlocking of Level Crossings

3482. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of level crossings installed with interlocking system during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, utilising the Railway Safety Fund, Zone-wise;

(b) the details of fund allotted and utilised during the last three years for the purpose of installing interlocking system from the Railway Safety Fund, Zone-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Railways propose to amend the rules and include installation of interlocking system at level crossings, constructed on deposit basis whether by local bodies or State Governments, in the light of the formation of the Railway Safety Fund;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of the Railways that some Divisional Railway Managers have issued notice to close the level crossings constructed as deposit work by the local bodies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures to be undertaken by the Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Details given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) A proposal to provide interlocking system at level crossings constructed initially on deposit basis is under examination.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) On some Railway, it has been brought to the notice of local bodies sponsoring the provision of level crossing that as per agreement signed between Railways and local bodies, the Railway have right to close the level crossing in case of failure on the part of local bodies to pay the amount due to the administration. The matter is however under examination as started in (c) above.

Statement I

Level crossings provided with Interlocking System

Railway	Total level crossing gates provided with Interlocking system using Safety Fund.	
	2001-02	2002-03 up to Feb., 03
CR	24	33
ER	20	14
NR	18	15
NER	4	22
NFR	0	4
SR	2	4
SCR	4	24
SER	10	13
WR	34	25
NWR	15	16
ECR	6	1
Total	137	170

Statement-II

Funds for the provision of Interlocking system on level crossing

Railway	Funds allotted (Rs. in Crs.)				Funds utilised (Rs. in Crs.)			
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (upto Feb.)	Total	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (upto Feb.)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CR	6.08	6.20	5.36	17.64	8.08	6.72	4.16	18.96
ER	8.66	9.12	3.46	21.24	6.33	9.17	0.83	16.33
ECR	—	—	1.66	1.66	—	—	0.74	0.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NR	2.6	1.50	2.4	6.5	2.60	1.57	0.54	4.71
NER	0.04	2	0.62	2.66	0.04	2.00	0.19	2.23
NFR	0.3	0.84	—	1.14	0.25	0.34	—	0.60
SR	7.8	0.72	0.87	9.39	1.2	0.63	0.89	2.72
SCR	5.57	3.87	13.2	22.64	5.89	4.38	8.9	19.17
SER	1.67	6.18	11.03	18.88	2.53	6.35	5.62	14.70
WR	0.22	0.54	0.51	1.27	0.22	0.49	0.31	1.02
NWR	0.13	0.18	0.36	0.67	0.12	0.17	0.28	0.58
Total	33.07	31.15	39.47	103.69	27.26	31.82	22.66	81.76

Misutilisation of Funds by NBCFDC

(Rs. in crore)

3483. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding misutilisation of funds by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation in several States;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of targets and achievements made by NBCFDC in Tamil Nadu during last three years, till date, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The year-wise details of targets and achievements with regard to allocation, disbursement made by NBCFDC to SCA and number of beneficiaries covered during the last three years, till date, are as under:

Year	Annual Allocation	Disbursement	No. of beneficiaries
1999-2000	5.99	4.01	1330
2000-01	9.03	2.76	837
2001-02	6.00	2.12	965
2002-03 (As on 10.3.03)	12.00	2.50	396

Insurance Scheme for Passengers

3484. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have any insurance scheme for passengers in view of the number of accidents and fatalities and serious injuries to travellers;

(b) if so, the details of the insurance thereof;

(c) whether railways propose to ensure that families of victims of rail accidents do not suffer economically; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) A *Statement* is attached.

(c) Railways pay compensation to the victims/families under the Railways Act.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The salient features of the Railway Passengers Insurance Scheme are as under:-

1. Under this scheme, the Railways are reimbursed for compensation paid for loss of life or injuries to bonafide passengers who become victims of rail accident or untoward incidents such as terrorist acts, violent attack, robbery, dacoity, rioting, shoot-out or arson by any person in or on any train carrying passengers, or in a waiting hall, cloak room or reservation or booking office or on any platform or in any place within the precincts of a railway station or the accidental falling of any passenger from a train carrying passengers.

2. The scale of compensation available under this scheme is provided in the Railway Accidents and untoward incidents (Compensation) Amendment Rules, 1997. Under these rules, the compensation in case of death or permanent disability is Rs. 4 lakhs, and in case of injuries the minimum compensation is Rs. 32,000/- and the maximum is Rs. 3,60,000/-.

3. No compensation will, however, be payable in cases of suicide or attempted suicide, self-inflicted injury, his own criminal act, or any act committed in a state of intoxication or insanity or natural death or disease or medical or surgical treatment unless such treatment becomes necessary due to injury caused by the said 'untoward incident'.

4. The application for compensation is adjudicated by Railway Claims Tribunal. Twenty one Benches of this Tribunal have been set up in different parts of the country. The decrees of the Railway Claims Tribunal are satisfied by the Zonal Railways after following the normal procedure.

Disbursement of Wage Arrears of Employees

3485. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether guidelines have been set for the disbursement of wage arrears/VRS/Terminal benefits for the employees of units which are under disinvestment process;

(b) if so, the percentage of funds disbursed till date as arrears/wages/VRS/terminal benefits to employees out of total income accruing from disinvestment of PSUs;

(c) whether the Government are offering shares to employees of the units under disinvestment as a part of their dues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) In the case of PSUs which are under disinvestment process, the existing guidelines issued by the Government from time to time on wage arrears/VRS/Terminal benefits will continue to apply to them till disinvestment process is completed. In the transaction agreements between the Government of India and the prospective owner of the enterprises which are proposed to be disinvested, appropriate provisions are made to provide VRS benefits to the employees not inferior to the scheme framed by the Government or by the Company itself, whichever is higher. However, there is no linkage between accrual out of disinvestment and the payment of VRS dues. There is no automatic offer of share to the employees of units under disinvestment at present. Such proposals are decided on merits.

Mobilisation of Funds for Projects under NRVY

3486. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the sources from which railways is mobilising the funds for implementation of projects under the National Rail Vikas Yojana;

(b) the details of the terms and condition thereof;

(c) whether the railways is planning to adopt the escrow mechanism to pay back loan;

(d) if so, the details and advantages thereof; and

(e) the time by which the projects are likely to start generating revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The funds for National Rail Vikas Yojana are being sourced from a mix of budgetary and non-budgetary resources. The non-budgetary resources will comprise of multilateral funding from agencies like the World Bank and ADB, loans from domestic financial institutions and public-private partnerships. Non-budgetary funding will be arranged by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, a Company set up by the Ministry of Railways. Terms and conditions will be decided between the Company and the lenders.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In respect of the financially viable projects taken up by the Company for strengthening of the golden Quadrilateral, the incremental railway receipts will be earmarked to the extent of debt servicing requirement over the period of amortization. This arrangement will give comfort to the lender and enhance the credit thereby enabling the Company to raise debt at competitive rates.

(e) The projects in National Rail Vikas Yojana, except the mega bridges, are planned for completion in a period of five years. The mega bridges are expected to be completed in a time frame of six to seven years.

Reservation Policy in BHEL

3487. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have strictly followed the reservation policy in providing jobs in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited as far as the Gazetted jobs of class I and Class II employments are concerned;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts in BHEL;

(d) whether the Government finds it difficult to fill up the reserved posts Class I and Class II in BHEL from the persons belonging to SC/ST and OBC;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The category-wise strength of Group A and Group B posts in BHEL as on 31.12.2002 is as given below:

Group	Total	SC	ST	OBC
A	11851	1429	432	884
B	10672	1324	287	182

(c) There are no vacant posts in Group A and B category in BHEL at present.

(d) Recruitment/appointment of below Board Level posts in BHEL is being done by the Company, and they are not facing any difficulty in filling up reserved posts in Group-A and Group-B.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Capacity of Refineries

3488. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought any foreign assistance to enhance the capacity of various oil refineries in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Foreign assistance is sought by the oil companies for their refineries, for supply of technical know-how for various quality upgradation and value addition projects. These relate to different licenced units such as Sulphur Recovery Unit (SRU), Hydrogen Generation Unit (HGU), Diesel Hydrotreater (DHDT), Amine Regeneration Unit (ARU), Sour Water Stripper (SWS), Fluidized Catalytic Cracker Unit (FCCU), Hydrocracker Unit (HCU), Delayed Coker Unit (DCU) etc.

[*Translation*]

Chair Car facility in August Kranti, Rajdhani Express

3489. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chaircar facility was available in the August Kranti, Rajdhani Express (New Delhi-Mumbai);

(b) whether this facility has been withdrawn from the said train;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the date since when this facility has been withdrawn;

(d) whether the Government have received requests/representations seeking restoration of the chaircar facility in the said train; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In view of over-night travel and long hours of journey, there were frequent complaints from passengers about discomfort in AC Chair Car coaches. Railways, started production of AC 3 Tier coaches in which nearly same number of berths were available as the number of seats in the Chair Car thereby providing better comfort to the travelling passengers. With effect from 10.01.1999, 4 AC chair cars provided earlier on 2953/2954 Nizamuddin-Mumbai August Kranti were replaced with one 2-tier AC Sleeper and three 3-tier AC Sleeper coaches.

(d) and (e) Some representations, including from Shri Ramdas Athawale, MP and Dr. A.K. Patel, MP, have been received. These have been examined but found neither feasible nor desirable and there is no proposal for restoring Chair-car facility in 2953/2954 New Delhi-Mumbai August Kranti Rajdhani Express, at present.

[English]

Loss Suffered by Railways due to Fog

3490. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the month of December was very bad for railways due to fog;

(b) if so, the number of trains cancelled by railways due to fog and total loss suffered by Indian railways due to these reasons;

(c) whether Indian Railways have any plan to acquire technology to run trains during fog; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which this plan is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) During December 2002, 52 trains were cancelled on Indian Railways due to fog. Indian Railways do not maintain data regarding loss due to cancellation of individual trains

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7231/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Defence Services Estimates (Hindi and English versions) for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7232/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAIN JATIYA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7233/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Information on fire Incident in 9166 Sabarmati Express at Godhra on the 27th February, 2002 as available with the Railways (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7234/2003]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7235/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Sahib Singh Verma, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Shops and Establishments Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. ADM/LEO/DNH/SEA/Part-II/229/2001 in Gazette Dadra and Nagar Haveli dated the 2nd March, 2001 under sub-section (4) of Section 59 of the Goa Daman and Diu Shops and Establishments Act, 1973.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7236/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Sir, on behalf of Dr. C.P. Thakur, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Development of North Eastern Region for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7237/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7238/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, 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. 7239/2003]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7240/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities act, 1995:-

(i) S.O. 188(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2002 rescinding Notification Nos. G.S.R. 463(E) dated the 24th April, 1989 and G.S.R. 83(E) dated the 24th February 1993.

(ii) S.O. 190(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2002 rescinding

Notification No. G.S.R. 641(E) dated the 19th July, 1995.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 7241/2003]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 14 of the bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986:-

- (i) The Electrical Wires, Cables, Appliances and Protection Devices and Accessories (Quality Control) Order, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 189(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2003.
- (ii) The Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 191(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 7242/2003]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Pithoragarh, for the year 2001-2002, together with Auditor's Report thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 7243/2003]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:—

- (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Insider Trading) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 1245 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2002.
- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Underwriters) (Amendment)

Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 1291(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2002.

- (iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Institutional Investors) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 1292(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2002.
- (iv) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 1328(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2002.
- (v) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Central Listing Authority) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 171(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2003.
- (vi) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Credit Rating Agencies) Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 203(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 7244/2003]

- (4) A copy each of the Notification Nos. G.S.R. 136(E) to G.S.R. 154(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Central Excise Duty changes and exemption in context of Budget proposals pertaining to Indirect taxes announced by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 28th February, 2003 under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 7245/2003]

- (5) A copy each of the Notification Nos. G.S.R. 155 (E) to G.S.R. 157 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Service Tax Credit Rules, 2002 and also to amend two notifications mentioned therein under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 7246/2003]

- (6) A copy of the Notification Nos. G.S.R. 158(E) Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to appoint 1st March, 2003 as the date on which amendments made *vide* Finance Act, 2000 in the Schedule to the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 to come into force issued under section 115 of the Finance Act, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7247/2003]

- (7) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 159(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe effective rates for certain commodities covered in the Schedule to the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 issued under section 8 of the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Rules, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7248/2003]

- (8) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 160 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to notify toilet preparations covered under the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 for RSP based assessment issued under section 3 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7249/2003]

- (9) A copy each of the Notification Nos. G.S.R. 161 (E) to G.S.R. 173 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Customs Duty changes and exemption in context of Budget proposals pertaining to Indirect taxes announced by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 28th February, 2003 under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7250/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): Sir, on behalf of Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7251/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVANABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Hukumdev Narayan Yadav, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-1999.

(ii) Annual Report of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7252/2003]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1998-1999.

(ii) Annual Report of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year-1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7253/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee, 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. 7254/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7255/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7256/2003]

12.03 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Forty-sixth, Forty-Seventh and Forty-eighth Reports

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2002-2003):-

- (1) Forty-sixth Report relating to "Procurement of defective sleeping bags".
- (2) Forty-seventh Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in 21st Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) relating to "Design and Development of Pilotless Target Aircraft".
- (3) Forty-eighth Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in 19th Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) relating to "Audit Review on Indian Agricultural Research Institute".

12.04 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of sub-section (4)(d) of Section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (4) (d) of Section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, subject to other provisions of the said act."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Deputy Prime Minister desired to make a statement in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had assured two weeks ago that they would make a statement in the House on the incident of firing on *Adivasis* in Kerala. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, are you taking up 'Zero Hour' now? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not gone to 'Zero Hour'. I am going to ask the Deputy Prime Minister to make the statement now. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am taking up the statement of the Deputy Prime Minister. I will go to 'Zero Hour' afterwards.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked Shri Sangma to speak. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Sangma.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is a former Speaker. Please sit down.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura): Sir, I have visited Muttunga. I was there for three days. The Chief Minister admitted that this incident was very serious. And yet, he is not instituting an inquiry.

This matter was raised on the floor of the House. The Home Minister has given an assurance that he would find out the facts and make a statement on this issue. Today being the last day of the Lok Sabha, we demand that there should be a judicial inquiry. At the same time, Mr. Speaker may be kind enough to constitute a Parliamentary Committee to inquire into the whole matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I will go into it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not taken up that issue. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not taken up that issue. So, why do you bother about it? Please sit down.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): It is very unfortunate.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): If you permit, I would try to come back to this House this evening. ...(Interruptions) In respect of Kerala, I will come back to this House before this evening.

12.07 hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

(I) Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002.

[English]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, with the intensification of cross border terrorism and the continued offensive agenda of Pak ISI targeted at destabilising India

[Shri L.K. Advani]

and the post 11th September developments, it became necessary to put in place a special law to deal with terrorist acts. Accordingly, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (POTA, 2002) was enacted and notified on 28th March, 2003.

The POTA, 2002 clearly defines the terrorist act and the terrorist in Section 3 and grants special powers to the investigating authorities under the Act. However, in order to ensure that these powers are not misused and the violation of human rights does not take place, specific safeguards have been built into the Act. Some of these are:

No court can take cognisance of any offence under the Act without the previous sanction of the Central Government or, as the case may be, of the State Government.

No officer lower in rank than the Deputy Superintendent of Police can investigate offences under the Act.

Confession made by a person before a police officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police is admissible as evidence under the Act provided such person is produced within 48 hours before a magistrate along with his confessional statement.

The Act provides for punishment for any officer who exercises powers maliciously or with *malafide* intentions. It also provides for award of compensation to a person who has been corruptly or maliciously proceeded against under the Act.

The POTA, 2002 is a special law for the prevention of and for dealing with terrorist activities and clearly defines the terrorist act and the terrorist in Section 3, Sub-Section (1) of the Act. The Act provides the legal framework to strengthen the hands of the administration in our fight against the menace of terrorism and can and should be applied against such persons and acts as are covered by the provisions of this law, and it is not meant as substitute for action under ordinary criminal laws.

Members have raised from time to time an issue that the provisions of this law are invoked even against such persons and acts which do not fall into the ambit of this law. The Government has given careful consideration to their views and it has been decided that the matter is serious enough to warrant the invoking of the powers of the Central Government under Section 60 of the Act which provides for the formation of one or more Review Committees. The Review Committee shall consist of Justice Arun Saharya, former Chief Justice of Punjab High Court as Chairperson. The Review Committee

will take a comprehensive view of the use of this legislation in various States and give its findings and suggestions for removing the shortcomings in the implementation of this law with a special reference to ensuring that the provisions of that Act are invoked for the combating of terrorism and are not used against ordinary criminals or those who are not terrorists or whose acts cannot be considered as terrorist acts.

The terms and conditions of the Committee will be worked out separately. Other members of the Review Committee will be named soon.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It is welcome because we have our opposition to the Bill. But have you fixed any time for that?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I will get it soon. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. All the hon. Members know the rules and procedure of the House. I have promised you that during 'Zero Hour' I am going to permit you to raise the question which you want to raise now. The 'Zero Hour' has not yet started. The procedure is that first we go to the Calling Attention Motion and thereafter the 'Zero Hour' will start. As soon as the 'Zero Hour' starts, I will permit you to speak on the issue.

12.10 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported Situation arising out of drive to dispossess land-holdings of poor and tribal people settled in Forest areas of Karnataka and steps taken by Government in regard thereto

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Environment and Forests to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon.

"The situation arising out of drive to dispossess the land holdings of the poor and the tribal people settled in forest areas of Karnataka and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, at the outset, I would like to bring to the kind attention of this august House about the healthy tradition of living in harmony with nature, that is inherent part of our culture. The close relationship

between the long-term survival of mankind specially the tribals and maintenance of natural forests has always been appreciated by our society. However, after Independence, the pressure of development led to massive diversion of forest lands for various non-forestry purposes, including agriculture.

Encroachment of forest land for cultivation and other purposes, which is an offence under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, continues to be the most pernicious practice endangering forest resources throughout the country. Information compiled by the Ministry of Agriculture during early 1980s revealed that nearly seven lakh hectares of forest land was under encroachment in the country about a decade back. This is despite the fact that prior to 1980, a number of States had regularised such encroachments periodically and approximately 43 lakh hectares of forest land was diverted for various purposes between 1951 and 1980, more than half of it is for agricultural purposes. The decisions of the State Government to regularise encroachments from time to time seem to have induced further encroachments in forest areas and the problem remained as elusive as ever for want of effective and concerted drive against this practice.

The National Forest Policy, 1988 has also observed the increasing trend in encroachments on forest land and states that these should not be regularised. Implementation of this pronouncement were examined by this Ministry keeping in view the constraints of various State Governments some of whom expressed that they stand committed to regularise encroachments of eligible encroachers of a period prior to 1980. The issue figured prominently in the Conference of the Forest Ministers held in May 1989 and was later examined by an inter-Ministerial Committee, set up by this Ministry in consultation with the representatives of some of the States. Keeping in view the recommendations of the Forest Ministers' Conference and the committee referred to above, the Ministry issued policy guidelines on 18.9.1990 regarding regularisation of encroachments on forest land. The policy while laying down the parameters for regularisation of pre-1980 "ineligible" encroachments *inter alia* also included eviction of pre-1980 "ineligible" encroachments as well as post-1980 encroachments.

The Ministry has also clarified that the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 do not interfere with or restrict in any manner the rights, concessions and privileges of the tribal people. The Ministry is committed for settlement of pre-1980 disputed settlement claims of the tribal people arising out of faulty forest settlement process. If the State Governments submit such proposals with relevant records, the issue of rights of tribals on forest land can be settled. In this regard, the Ministry has asked all the States through its letter on 30.10.2002 to send proposals in a time bound manner.

I would like to inform the hon. Members that till date, encroachments over 2.60 lakh hectare forest land have already been regularised by the Central Government including 14848.83 hectares in Karnataka. Similarly, the Ministry has also recently approved conversion of forest villages into revenue villages in four districts of Madhya Pradesh involving 10028 hectares of forest land, one district in Maharashtra involving 4074 hectares of forest land. The Ministry is committed to settle these kinds of issues, provided the State submit their proposals on time.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Mr. Speaker Sir, there has been an eviction drive all over the country by Forest Department officials uprooting settlements of tribals and poor marginal farmers settled for generations.

In Karnataka, there are more than 1,25,000 families holding a total of 94,000 acres of such land, with each family holding less than one acre of land. The settlers have toiled hard to develop the land and made it more productive by planting crops such as arecanut, rubber and other vegetation without causing damage to ecology. Being poor and illiterate, they do not have the Title Deed to prove them right. Some of the affected settlers in Karnataka were in possession of Revenue Land which was covered in the Forest land.

Now, the Centre has approved the conversion of Forest Villages into Revenue Villages in four districts in Madhya Pradesh. Similarly steps for reconversion of Forest Villages into Revenue Villages in Karnataka should be taken in the interest of equitable justice.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sorake, you are supposed to ask only questions and that too very brief questions.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Sir, I would like to know whether the Centre would initiate action to amend laws pertaining to transfer lands to existing bonafide settlers to enable it to approach the Supreme Court for revision of its directive order. I would also like to know whether till such time, the statutory amendments are enacted, the Government would suspend eviction operations on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, we should also be allowed to take part in this because this is a very serious issue. I have just given a notice. Sir, a number of States are affected, so it requires half-an-hour discussion. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura): Sir, as a Member I am presenting to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You have given a notice, that is why I have allowed you to speak.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I would like to draw your attention to this issue. I am sorry I do not want to give my opinion, I had come to you and gave a notice under Rule 193 on 11.2.2003. Only for the purpose I came from Bangalore. I gave a notice to have a special discussion under Rule 193, but ultimately it has come to the stage of Calling Attention. It is all right.

I do not want to go into those details now because we are not the members in the Business Advisory Committee. This is not important. I know that.

Mr. Minister, your goodself has said that so far as Karnataka is concerned, 14,848 hectares of land have been approved. The Government of Karnataka had passed an Order in 1995 based on the clearance given by the Ministry of Environment, Government of India. Based on the Order of the Union Government, the Government of Karnataka issued a Government Order in 1997. I do not want to quote the Order No. because I have already sent a copy of it to you. A copy of this Order was marked to the Secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. Sir, this Order, which was issued by the Government of Karnataka, was about the land encroached by the encroachers who belong to scheduled Castes, landless labour and insufficient holders. That was the classification, which had already been given in the Government Order.

I would like to know whether that Order has been implemented and also whether the forest people have given land to the revenue authorities and the revenue authorities have issued the *patta*. I would like to have clarifications on these aspects from the hon. Minister.

I am not going into other aspects. The Forest Act had come into being after the Bill had been passed in this very House. I know that the Act has to be amended. That is a separate issue. Your goodself have said, when Shri Bangarappa raised this issue last time, that if the Act is going to be amended, then the question of conferment of encroachment would arise. Out of these 14,848 hectares of land, about 36,000 acres of land were to be conferred to those people who have encroached the land prior to 1978. I would like to know whether the land has been conferred to them. The State Government of Karnataka has not taken action because they are scared of the Supreme Court's decision. I have got a copy of the Supreme Court's decision. I also enclosed it for your kind consideration. It does not mention about the earlier Order of 1978. Why should anybody be

scared? The State Government of Karnataka went to the extent of passing a Resolution in the Legislature. What for? A copy of the Order had also been sent to your Ministry. Will you kindly direct one of your Officers to see that 14,848 hectares of land are conferred in their names and *pattas* are issued by the revenue authorities? That is all I want. They are poor people. They are crying. I do not know what the State Government is doing.

Shri Sorake, please tell your Minister that there is an Advocate General, there is a Law Secretary and Law Department. This Government Order was issued in 1995. When I was there, I took the clearance. When Shri Narasimha Rao was there as the Prime Minister, at that time I approached him and I did everything possible to see that this land is conferred in their names. It is categorically mentioned here, which says:

"Since the location has been jointly inspected and surveyed by the officers of both the Central Government and the State Government, the Government consider it not necessary to further examine individual cases through any official machinery or through any Committees."

The Government of India gave the entire clearance after the joint inspection but still it had not been confirmed. I do not want to blame your Ministry. The State Government has not taken the action. It has been categorically mentioned here, and I would like to read the particular condition.

It says:

"The Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district is authorised to issue land regularisation certificate, *patta* to the eligible encroachers keeping in view the joint inspection survey report of the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) and made along with the local forest officers of the State."

Has the *patta* been issued? Why are you evicting those poor people who have been there for the last 40 or 50 years? It was taken up during my period as the Chief Minister and I got it cleared by the Government of India. The G.O. was issued. The copy is with you. You ask your officers to go to Karnataka. I do not want to blame using harsh words now. But for the last three-and-a-half years, this matter is there. After the Supreme Court order, they were scared. Why should they be scared? There is a Law Department. There is an Advocate-General. All these people could have examined it. I wrote a letter to the Chief Minister. I have got all the papers, including the earlier references which I have made to the Government of India. I have brought everything. I

do not know why the people are damn scared. They have been evicted. The notice was served on the poor people who were having half acre of land or two acres of land. The condition they impose is that not more than two acres of land is to be conferred to the Scheduled Castes and the landless poor people. What is that we want? Kindly direct one of your officers, at least, to implement this order....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Deve Gowda, may I ask the Minister to reply?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, this is a very serious issue which is raised by Shri Deve Gowda. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him conclude.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: That is why, on 11th of March, I came exclusively from Bangalore for this purpose. I approached the Speaker and gave a notice to have a special discussion in this House so that the entire House should apply its mind as to whether any amendment to the present act should be brought or not. That is the very object of my giving notice under rule 193, but unfortunately, due constraint of time, the Business Advisory Committee is unable to spare some time for this.

MR. SPEAKER: The Business Advisory Committee did not agree to this.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: We have taken up this issue under Calling Attention on the last day.

Kindly take action first to confer that. ...*(Interruptions)*
Then you bring whatever amendment to the Act. So far as the other law is concerned, you bring the amendment to the existing law. That is all. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please tell me whether you want the 'Zero Hour'. or not.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have to give at least half-an-hour for the 'Zero Hour'. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): You can adjust at least four persons in the Calling Attention. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: We gave it in writing at 9.30 a.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If there are two Members who have given the notices, no more Members will be allowed. I am telling you the rule.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It was not included in that. It is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should have given the notice first.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: It is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I do not mind giving you a special discussion. I would take it to the Business Advisory Committee once again. I think the issue is of great importance. We can take up this issue in the next half of the Session. There is no difficulty, but now I am bound by the rules. The rule clearly says that those who have given the notice only will be allowed to speak. Therefore, those two Members, Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake and Shri Deve Gowda, have spoken here. Shri Deve Gowda was trying right from the beginning to get a discussion, but because of the constraint of time, he could not get the time for discussion in the Business Advisory Committee. As a special case, I have admitted this, because I knew the importance of it.

As a matter of fact, I expected that somebody would thank me for admitting this. There are 30 notices.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for this. I express my regret also for not thanking you in the first instance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: But both Shri Sangma and I know that this is a thankless job!

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: The Act can be amended. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They can be amended. Let us see what the Minister has to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All the other Members should take a note why they miss the 'Zero Hour'. They miss the 'Zero Hour' only because of such type of interruptions without going through the rules.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can understand your sentiments. I try to co-operate with you. I told you that a special discussion can be also called.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are still speaking. What can I do?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, we are not speaking.

MR. SPEAKER: If this is not speaking, what is it?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: We are only asking for permission to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have drawn the attention of the Minister. You have drawn my attention also. You can rest assured that you will be allowed later.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: We should be allowed to speak for at least one minute. This is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please try to understand. There are hon. Members who want to raise 'Zero Hour' issue. How can I stop them?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, the zero hour may kindly be started, we have given notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South): Hon. Speaker, Sir, in fact, I am very thankful to you for having given me this opportunity at least to address this House over the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

The hon. former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda was worried that you have not allowed a discussion under rule 193. Even if you had allowed a discussion under rule 193. I do not think, it would have been through in this House because of the simple fact that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has written a letter to all her party Chief Ministers requesting them not to try to dilute the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. My friends here are vociferously asking for a dilution of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: No, Sir. We are not asking for a dilution of the Act. ...*(Interruptions)* We are only asking for a restoration of the pre-1980 position. ...*(Interruptions)*

She has made a request to those Chief Ministers. On the question of whether any revision could be made or could the Supreme Court be moved for a dilution of this Forest Conservation Act, I would say that it is not possible. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: May I, Mr. Minister, request you to restrict your reply to answering the questions put by the two hon. members who have given the notice?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, this is the answer to my friends from the Congress.

The Hon. former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda has posed some of the problems. It is confined only to that State. The State Government has got no say at all in this issue. More than 17,000 hectares have been released by the Central Government on 15.5.1996 by an order of my Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)* The proposal was for 17,000 hectares whereas we have released 14,848.83 hectares by the order of the Central Government on 15.5.1996. To my surprise, I received this notice only yesterday around 4.30 p.m. When your goodself allowed it, there is no choice for me to any 'yes' or 'no'; I have to come before the House and answer. You were kind enough to allow it and I have to obey the orders of the hon. Speaker. If it were not for the hon. former Prime Minister, the one week's notice stipulation would have been there, the Minister would have to say 'yes' or 'no' and then the hon. Speaker would have to allot the time. Keeping in mind the stature of Shri Deve Gowda, the hon. Speaker had sent the notice to me yesterday around 4.30 p.m.; and immediately around 4.30 p.m., I had sent a letter to the State of Karnataka. I have not received any reply so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

They want the Ministers of the Central Government to act quickly but at the same time I have not received any reply from the State Government. What can I do? I

can quote official information, if it were available; but now I would have to quote unofficial information. I have received unofficial information that for the past seven years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: You have to give only official information.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want to hear the reply?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, this is totally wrong. This Calling Attention should be taken up in the next part of this Session. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is trying to take you into confidence.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I would have given the official information if I could get anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

This is for your help. I am only trying to help you. If you do not want to be helped, you may say so. ...*(Interruptions)*

You want me to tell things or not. I gathered some information. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, he is giving the official information.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The information I gathered was that only 3,000 hectares of *pattas* have been issued so far. This information may be correct or may not be correct. This is the state-of-affairs. We have permitted where they have issued *pattas* for 3,000 hectares. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: For every *patta* they have to take the permission from the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: We have permitted. I have already said about it. It may be correct or it may not be correct. If I am not correct, it is all-right, leave it as it is. Please do not take it so seriously. If you want to contest with me, then come with the official figure. There is no problem. If a particular Government has issued about 4,000 or 5,000 hectares of *pattas*, you correct me. I am always ready to apologise myself. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I do not expect the hon. Minister to give unofficial information. If he

endorses what he has received from unofficial sources, we are ready to accept, but he cannot say that it may be true or it may not be true and you accept it or you do not accept it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivraj V. Patil, it is a question of language.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: This order was issued in 1996 as the hon. Minister has just now mentioned to the House. I wrote a letter to the hon. Chief Minister in the month of November, 2002 after the Supreme Court delivered the judgment. There was so much of fear and so much of confusion so far as the Deputy Commissioners of each District is concerned. When I toured, the State DGs were telling, what can we do? The Government of Karnataka is not clarifying the position.' I brought all these things to his notice through this letter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister have you completed your statement?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: The Government order, which was issued in 1996, was also enclosed. All these things are there. I want to tell for the benefit of all the hon. Members that till today not a single acre of land has been confirmed. I am telling it with authority. I have toured almost all the areas. Seven districts are there, but not a single acre of land has been conferred on the tribal people. It is not the question of official or unofficial information. I am saying it with authority because this letter was written in the month of November. If the State Government is interested, then, at least, you confer the land. ...*(Interruptions)* My last request to the hon. Minister is ask your officers not to take steps to evict these people. I am talking about 14,848 hectares of land. It is because everything has been marked and a joint inspection had been conducted. They should not be driven out of the land. They are all Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the landless people. At least, that much of an assurance they want. So far as the other encroachments are concerned, it is left to the House to bring the necessary amendment to the existing Act. It is the concern of the entire House. Whether the Leader of the Opposition wants it or not, I am not concerned with it.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I can only feel sorry. I have full sympathy towards the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Backward class people. But, at the same time, if they allow me for one or two minutes, I want to quote the Supreme Court order of dated 23.11.01:

"Issue notice to all the States and the Union to prevent encroachments on forests and restrained the Ministry from regularising the encroachments."

This is the first half. Again, I quote:

"1.4.2002: Direction to the MoEF to issue direction in respect of encroachments within six weeks."

So, on the Supreme Court's orders I have issued directions to all the States on 3rd May, 2002, to evict all the ineligible encroachments by 30th September 2002, and create a mechanism to monitor. This is what I have requested. I have acted only on the Supreme Court's orders. ...*(Interruptions)* I have not concluded. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, your complete your statement.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: If a particular Member or Members of office bearers of the parliamentary party or office bearers of the Congress Party want to meet me, even after five or ten minutes, I am ready to discuss it with them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, that is best.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: But, at the same time, I cannot come to their rescue.

The sheer fact is that the State Government has to expedite the matter. In respect of Madhya Pradesh, last year, I have cleared more than 65,000 hectares of land because it was an 'eligible encroachment'. When I have cleared that, how come that I will not clear it in respect of Karnataka?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: It has been cleared by the Government of India in 1995.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Then, what is the problem?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: As I told you just now, both the State Advocate General and the State Law Secretary have gone through the Supreme Court order. However, when your goodself, as the Minister of Environment and Forests, issued the directions, they were all damn scared because of the *Cauvery* problem. I do not want to raise that issue now.

MR. SPEAKER: Since there are time constraints, we have to conclude this discussion now. Mr. Minister, you have to conclude your statement now because I have to take up 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Please do not draw the *Cauvery* issue into this. Sir, I want to clarify one thing.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I am not going to raise that issue. The State Government is a little bit scared on account of the Supreme Court's direction.

They have not properly understood this 1995 order through which 14,848 hectares of land has been released.

MR. SPEAKER: We are going to discuss this issue in the second half of the Budget Session. So, I do not think that more details are required, unless you want to complete it now.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: All that I am requesting the Minister is not to drag this issue by quoting the subsequent order.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Finally, as a matter of clarification, I want to say that if any 'eligible encroachment status' has to be restored or something should be done by the Central Government, the particular State Government should have some evidence on record, either in the Governor's Address or the Minister saying something about it. If they can produce that record now, we are ready and there is no problem at all. Prior to 1980, the State Government would have pronounced something. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Your own order is here.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Until and unless there is a clear evidence about the promise of the State Government to see that it is regularised, the Central Government cannot do anything under the existing Forest Conservation Act. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.40 hrs.

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Friends, please listen to me. Today is the last day of the first half of the Budget Session. If the hon. Members want to raise their issue—I have the desire to take up maximum number of issues during 'Zero Hour'—please cooperate with me. Let me call the names of the hon. Members one by one. I do not want to do injustice to anybody, so please cooperate with me. Otherwise, the whole time, nearly 15 to 20 minutes, will be wasted on this, and you will not be able to raise your issues.

I would like to call Shri Chaubey first. I will explain the reason for taking his name first: it is because his notice pertains to the privilege issue. Shri Chaubey, would you like to say something?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Why have you all stood up? It is Chaubey ji's question, so let him speak.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice for Breach of Privilege Motion on 27th February. It has been told here in the House that notice has been given but no reply has been received so far. No reply was received even after giving it second time. The Breach of Privilege has occurred due to the police. Entire House is aware of the behaviour of police. This question is not related to me only. When no heed is paid absolutely and even on the direction of the House for a written reply, there is delay on their part then their intention is very clear. They are not giving any answer despite being asked by the House. I wish that the officer, who has done this with me should be called. I have raised only those issues which amount to Breach of Privilege. I feel ashamed to repeat here those bad and abusive words used by him.

SHRI MANOJ SINGH (Ghazipur): Sir, this is a very serious matter. We, humbly request you to take immediate action on it.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, such a mal-treatment has been meted out to an MP. Action should be taken against the guilty person.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, who would listen to us under such circumstances, where should we go?

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to me. Chaubey ji has informed me about the humiliation faced by him. It is a

serious incident. I would read out the statement given by me in the House that day.

[English]

It is a very small statement. Shri Lal Muni Chaubey had raised the matter on the 10th of March, 2003. I had observed that if a factual note is not received in a week's time, I would consider to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges. A week's time will expire on 17th March, 2003. If the factual note is received by that time, I will take a decision in the matter on merits. If the factual note is not received by that time, I will report the matter to the Committee of Privileges.

[Translation]

I gave time till 17th after the issue came into light. I would wait till that day and if nothing happens, I would refer this matter to the Committee on privileges. They can take their own decision in this regard.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Suresh Jadhav has a complaint. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have talked to him. I will give him a chance to speak.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shrimati Renu Kumari has also to raise one issue. Please see to it since it is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I am taking up the matter of Shrimati Renu Kumari. If she wishes to say anything she can say it right now.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice of Breach of Privilege against the DGP of Bihar Shri D.P. Ojha on the 27th. Someone was killed in my area in the police firing. I wanted to have information from them on telephone as I was here attending the Parliamentary session. He said that the MP does not have right to talk to him and I could, if I wish, take the matter to Lok Sabha or the Court. He disconnected the phone without listening to me. Mr. Speaker, Sir, what are the rights and status of an MP? If we do not, have any right then its OK. But if we do have the rights then I would like to request that a Show-Cause Notice may be issued against him and it may be asked that why he said so? I want to have justice from you otherwise being a representative of people would have no meaning at all. I think, the way representatives of the common people are being humiliated, its better that they should resign.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only that Member who has given the notice of privilege matter, can speak. No one else is allowed to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How would the things go on if rule-makers become rule-breakers?

[English]

I am giving my ruling on Shrimati Renu Kumari's notice of question of privilege.

I had received your notice of question or privilege dated, 27th February, 2003 against the Director General of Police, Bihar, for his alleged discourteous behaviour towards you. I have already called for a factual report in the matter from the State Government of Bihar which is yet to be received. Two reminders have already been issued so far, asking them to expedite the same. The State Government would be requested to furnish a factual report without further delay.

[Translation]

I have noticed about the State Government that they do not send report immediately.

[English]

I have taken up the matter seriously. I hope that the State Government will send the report immediately. As soon as the report comes, I will come to the House and tell you what action I have taken.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Before, I go to 'Zero Hour', the House shall take up Item No. 20.

12.50 hrs.

THE ELECTION AND OTHER RELATED LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2002

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 20. Shri Arun Jaitley to move for leave to withdraw the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Representation of People Act, 1951, the Companies Act, 1956 and the Income-tax Act, 1961.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Representation of People Act, 1951, the Companies Act, 1956 and the Income-tax Act, 1961."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now withdraw the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

12.52 hrs.

THE ELECTION AND OTHER RELATED LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we go to Item No. 21—Shri Arun Jaitley.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of People Act, 1951, the Companies act, 1956 and the Income-tax Act, 1961.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of People act, 1951, the Companies act, 1956 and the Income-tax Act, 1961."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I go to *Zero Hour*.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, please take up my notice of Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been giving notice since the last five days. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2, dated 13.3.2003.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going one after another. If you really want to have your views presented here, please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this all going on?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Many people will get opportunity, provided you all cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is happening since the last five days, how would the things go like this?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me take the notice of one after another. I will take the notice as per rules without doing injustice to anybody.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is a notice, on damage and destruction due to the hail storms in West Bengal, from Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, yesterday
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Delhi ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What do you what to speak?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. Then, I have to tell everybody about the rules.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, yesterday, a large part of West Bengal has been badly affected because of hail storms. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Ramrav Jadhav has given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I have killed to Suresh Jadhav ji, please ask him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have always given him a chance. I have sought permission is this session for the first time. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Due to these hail storms, more than 100 persons have been injured. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been giving notice on one subject for the last five days, but have not been given a chance ... (Interruptions). National flag is being insulted. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, I do not permit you to speak like this. Yogi Aditya Nath, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told him. In this House, nothing can be produced like this which he is trying to do.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Yes. It is very bad.

MR. SPEAKER: It is very bad for everybody.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am raising a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice on a very serious issue. Poisonous water is being supplied in Delhi, people are dying of that*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All issues are important for me. Yours too is serious, but

[English]

I am going strictly as per rules. Therefore, I am not going to permit you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Khurana ji, you say that you have given notice to speak for the first time, if you say that I permit you just now then how would the things go on? I have never said 'no' to you. Please wait for sometime. I would give you a chance. Please sit down. This is not right.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir at least 12 person have been killed in Hoogly. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice on the problems of farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: Today a discussion on farmers' problems is going to be held, you speak at that time only

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday a heavy hail storm had occurred in West Bengal where at least, 12 persons have been killed in one district, Hoogly. Also, hundreds and hundreds have been injured. Majority of them are in serious condition.

Sir, the rain was caused by the combined effect of a wind blowing 12 kilometres above the ground from South-West to North-East at a speed of 50 kilometres per hour.

Sir, West Bengal is the second largest potato producing State in the country. The entire potato crop of Hoogly district and Bankura district has been damaged because of this hail storm. The wheat crops and the standing crops of three districts have also been damaged.

Thousands and thousands of houses in rural areas have been washed away. One road, Bankura-Taldangra Road went under 1.5 feet of hailstones. Serious condition is there. Thousands of people have become homeless and shelterless. Crops worth crores of rupees have been damaged. Properties have been damaged. I urge upon the Central Government to immediately contract the State Government to assess the quantum of damage and come forward to assist the State Government to tackle this situation because of the hailstorm in the State of West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, Shri Rupchand Pal to speak on the same issue. Every hon. Member can take only two minutes and not more than two minutes.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, yesterday afternoon, a very sudden and an unprecedented hailstorm lashed large areas of West Bengal, particularly the district of Hoogly, my constituency and also the constituency of Shri Anil Basu and others. As a result of this, not less than 12 persons have been killed and more than 400 people seriously injured. They are in the hospital. It has also caused loss to properties—dwelling houses—loss to standing crops—potato particularly—worth millions of rupees. It is a severe loss in terms of lives, properties, crops, etc. particularly in the districts of Hoogly, Howrah and Bankura. I urge upon the Union Government to extend all necessary urgent financial help and other assistance to meet the grave situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I want to take a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will be associated, but you cannot speak. Shri Ramdas Athawale.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, how many times you want me to call out your name?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Except Shri Ramdas Athawale, nothing should go on record. What is going on in the House now? I am going as per the list. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important matter. Income Tax in our country. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, everyday you give him time to speak and we do not get time. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are such a good Member. I would permit you too.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is your role in speaking, your party is in power. Opposition Parties are there to speak.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir in order to save our country and to increase the income of our country, we all have to pay consideration to this matter. All those factories permitted by the Government should deposit income tax and should keep the record of our shares. Satyam Computers Ltd. is a software company in Hyderabad. The promoters of this company refused to show the record of shares sold by them and their family members to the Income Tax Officer. Once the Income Tax officers went there but they locked up. My demand is that a CBI enquiry should be conducted against such persons who obtain money in the name of fixed deposits or in the name of their relatives and try to save income tax. We demand that a CBI inquiry should be ordered into this matter so that Government could get more and more revenue. What would you do if your government does not get good revenue. Government should get money for the development of the people and such companies which try to save income tax, should be checked.

Inquiry should be conducted with regard to the said company. I would request the Government that a concrete decision should be taken in this regard and inquiry should be conducted against the people, who save income tax, or deceive the country. The said company i.e. Satyam Computers, should be enquired into by the CBI. This is our demand. ...(Interruptions) Goyal ji, please tell us what enquiry would be done?...(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, I sincerely associate with the feelings and the argument expressed by Shri Basudeb Acharia. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have already taken up another issue. I thought you wanted to associate with what Shri Ramdas Athawale was saying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will get a chance. Do not worry.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, through you, I wish to say that there is need to make a CBI enquiry against Satyam Computers. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please resume your seat. You have raised your point. If the Government wants to react on it, it can do so. I cannot compel the Government.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ramdas ji, please sit down. You have already put your point.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, it is very serious issue. These people are cheating the Government. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will get a chance. I am asking him to sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, corruption and various scams are on the increase since the present government have come into

[Shri C.N. Singh]

power ...*(Interruptions)*. The Government have exceeded all limits of corruptions and scams. I wish to raise a very important issue. 'Darpan' is a magazine which has been introduced as in-flight magazine in the Indian Airlines and Alliance Air. Prior to it a magazine named 'Swagat' was being supplied for the last 22 years which gives royalty of rupees one crore per year to the Government but 'Darpan' magazine was selected secretly by making a small advertisement in the newspaper 'The Times of India', and only Rs. one lakh as royalty is being taken from that causing the Government a loss of crores of rupees. Even the royalty is not being taken in cash and the Indian Airlines officers giving that in the form of advertisement in the Udan magazine. Only 2000 copies of this magazine are being supplied, whereas the 'Swagat' Magazine supplies 60 thousand copies. The new magazine is sponsored magazine of the Bhartiya Janata Party and so its introduction was kept a secret. The agreement and advertisement was for Alliance Air, but it was taken both for Indian Airlines and Alliance Air. What more scandal can take place other than this where the government was getting Rs. One crore and now it has been given to someone else just for Rs. One lakh per month. ...*(Interruptions)* A guarantee of Rupees six lakh was taken from the Udan magazine. ...*(Interruptions)* 'Swagat' magazine has given a guarantee of rupees 50 lakh. This matter should be enquired into by the CBI.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Speech can not be delivered in the 'Zero Hour' Shri Ramji Lal Suman, please sit down.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: CBI Should hold an enquiry into this ...*(Interruptions)*. I have seen both the magazines, a great difference is there. 'Udan' magazine is of inferior quality. There are very less pages. Soon a comparative study of both the magazines should be done and checked as to why this discriminatory attitude was meted out. I lay on the Table, both the magazines 'Swagat' and 'Udan' and also copy of news published in the newspapers....**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ramji Lal Suman is saying.

...*(Interruptions)**

**As the Speaker subsequently did not accord the necessary permission the documents were not treated as laid on the Table.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given an important notice. Mr. Speaker, had said that today I would get a chance to speak. What is this, he is calling his name only? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Khuranaji, I will give you a chance too.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your name is there is the list. Please resume your seat. I will not tolerate this.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue, that is why I had made a request for permission to speak, but I was not given a chance. Only members from the other side are being permitted. Whether we are not members of this House, we would not be given a chance? We are also Members of this House, we have also serious problems in our constituency and also want to raise those matters and you are not giving us opportunity to do so. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name is there is the list.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a limit.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had written yesterday also. I wrote to the hon. Speaker, even today. He said I would get a chance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khurana, you are a senior Member. You should know all these things. I am reading out whatever has been written by the Speaker.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am requesting all of you to please resume your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, I am sorry to say that you are not giving me a chance. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khurana, do not lose your temper. You are a senior Member. You should know the procedure. The hon. Speaker has written the name here. How can I deny them a chance?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the way. I am sorry.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (*Vaisali*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji I have not allowed you to speak. Please take your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari, please resume your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please resume your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nath, please do not disturb like this.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

This is Zero Hour. Hon Minister would tell, if the Government have any reaction. Please put your point in two Minutes. This is not the time to deliver Speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the submission of Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (*Firozabad*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shankaracharya of Badrikashram has asked for account of rupees 8 thousand crore which were charged from the common people in the name of Ram Mandir. ...(*Interruptions*)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Member is deliberately raising this issue here to defame the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. ...(*Interruptions*). He may prove the allegations made by him against the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, that organisation is running many hostels in tribal areas. ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yogi Adityanath ji what are you doing? Your name is in the list. When I ask you to speak only then you can make your submission.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except the submission of Shri Ramji Lal Suman, nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Shankaracharya of Badrikashram has sought the accounts of Rs. 8000 crore from Vishwa Hindu Parishad which they have collected from the innocent people of the country for the construction of Ram Mandir. I would like this account be made public ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, this is the money of people and its accounts should be made public. These people are destroying the country. Its account should be given to the people. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this allegation is being levelled by Shankaracharya himself and not by us. Shankaracharyaji, himself is seeking accounts. *...(Interruptions)* They are deceiving and looting the country in the name of temple.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, they played fraud with the nation. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, the devout men and women of this country on good faith gave one brick and one rupee each for the construction of the temple. *...(Interruptions)* Now, marble has replaced bricks. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing, except what Shri Ramji Lal Suman is speaking, will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a C.B.I. inquiry should be conducted in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you now please hear him?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are looting the entire country in the name of Lord Ram. *...(Interruptions)* People are being misled *...(Interruptions)* they are masquerading as *Ram Bhakts* *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Sumanji, you have made your submission.

[English]

What do you expect the Central Government to do?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government should conduct a CBI inquiry in this regard. *...(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister is sitting here, he should respond. The people have a right to know *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there could be no grave matter than this. *...(Interruptions)* scam of Rs. 8000 crore has taken place in the name of temple. The Government should conduct a CBI inquiry in this regard. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, they are looting in the name of temple. *...(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my notice is on a very important issue. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A lot of people have given notices. Would you please resume your seat?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a CBI inquiry should be conducted in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is 'Zero Hour'. They have all given notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions).....**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the sorry plight of about 200 security personnel engaged by the ONGC in its Cauvery Project near Karaikal in Tamil Nadu. They are on relay hunger strike for the fast 15 days demanding the ONGC to regularise them as they have been working with ONGC for the past 20 years as term based employees.

Last week hon. Minister of Petroleum Shri Ram Naik came to Nagappattinam to attend a function. The Cauvery Project employees and the Member of Parliament from Nagappattinam Parliamentary constituency Shri A.K.S. Vijayan met the Minister and gave a petition urging upon

the Union Government to regularise the services of these hapless workers. The Minister also gave an assurance that he would positively intervene in the matter. But no decision has been announced as yet.

I would like to bring to the notice of this House that these term based employees of ONGC have got an award in their favour from the Industrial Disputes Tribunal at Chennai. The award directs the Government and the ONGC in particular that these security personnel must be regularised on verifying the minimum eligibility criteria that they have passed class VIII examination. But ONGC has went in appeal against this award.

At this juncture I would like to point out what is happening in one of the ONGC's projects at Rajamundry in Andhra Pradesh where similar employees have been made permanent employees though they were working with a private contractor commissioned by ONGC. When that can happen in ONGC's another unit why it cannot be done in Cauvery Project of ONGC where these workers are working for the past 20 years protecting the national assets?

I also would like to point out that there are 300 posts lying vacant. The term based employees who are working all these years with ONGC's Cauvery Project are just 200 in number.

Hence I urge upon the Union Petroleum Minister to issue suitable orders without any further delay to regularise these hapless and helpless employees.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I compel the Government? This is 'Zero Hour'. All those hon. Members have given notices. How can I compel the Government?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an urgent important issue.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will not get your chance. Do not disturb the other Member.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilasji will you resume your seat? Now you have to sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called him. Do not compel me to take action against you. You are disturbing the whole House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Please take your seat. I am speaking. Why are you making noise? I was putting forth my views. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already called Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I am sorry to say that a Member of the BJP is not being given the opportunity to speak. I am requesting in the House since yesterday for a chance to speak and I was given an assurance too ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I told you. When I came here, hon. Speaker gave me this list.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has written this in his own handwriting.

[Translation]

Mr. Khurana what do you think of yourself.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I am submitting that I am drawing the attention of the House towards a very important issue ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a limit for everything.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House toward an urgent important issue. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Paswanji please listen I am raising the matter of your area Hajipur. If you do not listen then it will not serve the purpose. ...*(Interruptions)* These people will not be able to build temple even in years. First of all you listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)* They would not be left with any issue without the issue of temple. This issue will remain forever. You please listen to me. Why do not you let me complete.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an urgent important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

Due to the laxity in the maintenance by the Agriculture and Forest Conservation Departments of Bihar and West Bengal plants of Tulsi and Betal, Seesam trees and the flower of Mango have been badly infected and Tulsi, Betal and Seesam trees are more than 80% dried up. They are still drying up. The sudden drying up of these plants and trees is a matter of grave concern. In Bihar a dozen districts are affected. Hajipur is famous for betal (paan)...*(Interruptions)* Mango and Lichi are grown there. In my Constituency, Jhanjharpur, from Samuria upto the half of region the people are earning living with 'paan' cultivation. Today the paan growing farmers are worst hit. The situation in West Bengal is that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): These plants are drying up and here hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the betal farmers are under distress. There

farmers have borrowed money from moneylenders (Mahajan) and banks for Paan cultivation. Today they are thinking of committing suicide. I would like to cite an example in this regard that in Gopi Vallaphpur village in Midnapur district of West Bengal a farmer called Shri Ajim Seth committed suicide when his crop got ruined. ...*(Interruptions)* similar is the case of Tulsi plant. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What Government of India can do, you just tell that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the plant of Tulsi is an unique Ayurvedic medicine and that plant of Tulsi is drying up. I would like to say that how all those religious people will perform their puja without Tulsi. Today the Tulsi plant is drying up and nobody is concerned about it. The discussions are not held on basic problems. All the discussions take place regarding toilets, religion and caste. What is the future of India? Today the Tulsi plant is drying up so how the religious people will perform their puja ...*(Interruptions)* 90 percent Tulsi plants are dried up. What are the reasons behind it; nobody knows ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You tell us what the Government of India is doing for Tulsi plant.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I would like to submit that the Union Government should send a central team from here consisting of scientists, researchers either from Samastipur or from Pusa Institute. The Agricultural Research Department come under the Government of India. I would like to submit that till date neither the State Governments nor the Union Government had done anything to save the crop of the farmers. Arrangement should be made to send a team of Agriculture Scientists there to protect these trees and plants from this sort of natural calamity. It is a very important issue.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter which I am raising today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Go ahead.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.23 hrs.

RE: DEMAND FOR CONDUCTING A C.B.I. INQUIRY INTO COLLECTION OF ELECTRICITY CHARGES BY PRIVATE CONTRACTORS FROM JHUGGI/SLUM DWELLERS IN DELHI

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: (Delhi Sadar): You will be surprised to know how it is taking place, you might have heard about how the Government money was not deposited in Government exchequer but there in the slums of Delhi more than one thousand private contractors have been appointed to collect electricity bills from approximately 60 lakh people of U.P. and Bihar living in Jhuggi-Jhopari and rehabilitation colonies. Most of these contractors are criminals. I have got one such bill. There are thousands of such bills. Though, they are collecting bills from these poor people yet not a single penny was deposited in Government exchequer. I have got receipts of payments of these bills which hardly show that it is a Government receipt. These are private receipts. Rs. 6,000 are being collected as development charges. When the Government have not charged anything from recognised colonies then how come they are collecting development charges? If development charges are to be collected than Government will collect. In future when these unauthorised colonies will be approved then again development charges will be levied. The most interesting part is that it is written on the receipt that late fee is Rs. 50 per day. I have got such a receipt. Receipt is for Rs. 100.

I seek a CBI inquiry in this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): The Government of India should nationalise it. I request you to nationalise it at the earliest. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsiji, let him say what he wants to say.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I said that the bill is for Rs. 100, late fee is Rs. 50. This paper says that late fee per day is Rs. 50. Have you ever heard of such a thing. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that this is a very important issue. I have never come across such a scandal. I talked to the hon. Prime Minister and even he could not believe it. ...*(Interruptions)* At present openly

the money is being collected from 60 lakh people but not a single penny is being deposited in Government exchequer. Every thing is being done arbitrarily. It should be inquired into by CBI. The Delhi Government which appointed such contractors should be dismissed and action should be taken against them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are slum dwellers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would convey this to the Chief Minister and if it is correct then we will compel her to take strict action. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I appeal to Shri Khurana to use the office of Prime Minister in order to nationalise the entire electric supply of Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am going to raise a very important issue of macro level importance, whereas we are discussing an issue of State level importance. ...*(Interruptions)* I am raising a problem of international level. It is an international problem concerning two countries, India, particularly Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. This is an issue relating to the fishermen. As far as I am concerned, I am hailing from an area where the fishermen are very dear and near to me. The fishermen were taken into custody, they have been captured and their boats have been impounded. These people have been ill-treated, and they have been injured by Sri Lanka. With the result a serious situation has arisen because of which there was a big *hartal*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want the Central Government to do?

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: This issue was raised in the Rajya Sabha and an assurance was given by the former External Affairs Minister that he would take care of it. Apart from that, our Chief Minister has taken up the matter with the Indian High Commission and also with the Prime Minister. With the result, some of them have been released. This issue has been raised several times and assurances were often given, but nothing has been done about it.

I want a permanent solution. ...*(Interruptions)* Katchathivu which is very close to Rameshwaram should be retrieved and our fishermen right should be protected. The Indian Government should take up the issue with

[Shri K. Malaisamy]

the Sri Lankan Government in order to find a permanent solution. A perpetual lease, for safeguarding the fishing rights of fishermen as a temporary measure should be taken up ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Shekhar, I am sorry that I could not see you.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, UP.): It does not matter.

Shri Khurana has raised a very serious issue. It is a matter where people are being exploited. I do not know by whom they are being exploited. This is a matter which the Government should inquire into by the Government and strict action should be taken. If what he has said is true, then it is just a *jungle* rule and *jungle raa*. Nothing of this kind can happen in a civilised society. I do not know who is responsible for this type of activity. But it is happening in the Capital of India shows that there is no Government and there is no rule of law, and people who have the muscle power can get away with anything and can exploit the people. I shall request you to impress upon the Government. Shri George Fernandes and Shri Vijay Goel are present here.

Shri George Fernandes, Shri Vijay Goel and Shri Anant Gangaram Geete are all present here. The three Ministers are here. They should take this matter seriously. This should not die down in the years to come. ...*(Interruptions)* if it is his Ministry, I do not know whether he has got any control over that or not because nobody knows who has control over what in this Government and in this regime. But if there is any Government, I have great expectations from Shri Geete and I hope he will take it into consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The Government must immediately collect information in this regard and give a statement.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the distribution of power is a state subject. The matter raised by Shri Madan Lal Khurana is a matter related to the Delhi Government. Therefore, unless we get the whole information regarding this from the State Government, we will try to get the information, only after that the Union Government can give its views on it.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Delhi has a similar problem regarding drinking water. I have also given a notice on this that Delhiites are being supplied polluted and harmful drinking water. It is a matter of life and death. Immediate action should be taken in this regard.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bihar was divided three years ago. At the time of division it was stated that whatever loss—economic loss—the state if going to suffer will be compensated by an economic package. But the Union Government is ignoring Bihar as far as economic package is concerned. It is not only ignoring but behaving like a foe. No problem is being solved of its 10 crore population. The people of the state are suffering from flood, drought and water logging. Shri Devendra Prasadji informed that they are also suffering from cold wave. We also presented a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister, but no action has been taken in this regard. The transmission lines of electricity had already been sanctioned but the Union Government have put them on hold. There are 12 Ministers from Bihar in Cabinet, but they are only serving the Government and are not protecting the interests of Bihar. There are 40 Members from Bihar but Rs. 400 crore of panchayat raj and economic package is pending, which was recommended by the 10th Finance Commission. Besides that the state is not getting funds under centrally sponsored schemes. Further, Bihar is not being given the status of special state. For the fulfilment of these demands we have decided to celebrate 1st May as 'Mazdoor Divas' and have also organised a huge rally on behalf of the people of Bihar. We will make the Union Government to come out from deep slumber. It is not clear why the Government of India is keeping quite on the issue? The Hon. Minister is sitting here expressionless. We must be informed that when Bihar will get the economic package because the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has also assured us. We will keep on raising this matter unless we get our due. If we do not get our due then we will dislodge them. We will keep the flame of struggle burning for the rights of Bihar.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.33 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at four minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 22. Matters under Rule 377 be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

(i) **Need to open a Regional Provident Fund Office at Keonjhar, Orissa**

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): There has been growing demand for establishment of a Regional Provident Fund Office at Keonjhar in Orissa. At present there are 94 working mines, 37 proposed mines, 12 sponge iron plants, 23 proposed sponge iron plants, 42 working crossers, 7 proposed crosser plants located in Keonjhar district. Besides, there are several other offices and educational institutions of Central as well as State Governments located in that district. There are a large number of commercial and industrial growth centres also.

Under the Provident Fund Act of the Central Government, the establishments where more than 20 employees are working, those employees can avail the benefit of Provident Fund. More than 541 employees and workers in that district have been included under Provident Fund Scheme. But there are several hundreds of workers and employees who are still not enrolled in the Provident Fund Scheme. Since, the Provident Fund office is not located in that district such kind of lapses are taking place.

So, I request the Central Government to open a Regional Provident fund Office at Keonjhar forthwith.

(ii) **Need to ensure that People of Sagwada Tehsil in Narmada District, Gujarat can view Doordarshan Programmes.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Sagwada Tehsil of district Narmada of my Parliamentary constituency Bharuch where Doordarshan programmes are not telecast on television. I have written to Central Government in this regard for several times

but the Government has not taken any action in this regard till now. Sophisticated equipments for telecasts are available in the country despite the people of this Tehsil can not view the Doordarshan programmes, it is really a matter of surprise. In lack of this facility they are not able to take advantage of schemes launched by Government and remain unaware of news from other parts of the country.

Through this House, I request the Central Government to conduct an inquiry into this matter and take all necessary steps so that people of this Tehsil could view Doordarshan programmes.

(iii) **Need to Bring a Legislation to Ban Cow-Slaughter.**

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, almost all civilized countries recognise the importance of cow due to its gentleness and usefulness. In a religious and agricultural country like India cow is known as a mother from time immemorial, worldly and spiritually and it is reflected in four basic aims of human existence, Dharam, Arth, Kam and Moksha. However, it is ironical that in the country of Lord Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Mahavir and Gandhi, 29500 cows are being slaughtered either in various slaughter houses or by butchers every day. The figures given by the Animal Welfare Board of India in this regard draw our attention towards the plight of various Indian breed of cows. Out of the 22 breeds, 6 have been vanished completely and 3 are on the verge of extinction. The ratio proportion of cow progeny was 426 per 1000 people in 1951 but now it has reduced to 216 in 1991.

Therefore, through you, I request the hon'ble Prime Minister to bring a legislation to ban cow slaughter in the country.

(iv) **Need to conduct Re-Survey of Eligible Occupants on Forest Land in the State of Chhattisgarh**

SHRI SOHAN POTAI (Kanpur): Sir, lakhs of people belonging to scheduled castes scheduled tribes and backward classes are living and cultivating on forest land in Chhattisgarh State prior to 24th October, 1980. But their occupancy right has not been legalised under Forest Settlement Act, 1978.

The then Government of Madhya Pradesh decided to refer the matter for investigations to a judicial officer in the cadre of District Magistrate or Additional District Magistrate through Forest Secretary to ensure the eligibility of the occupants. After the joint survey of Revenue

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

Department and Forest Department, the list of legible occupants was to be forwarded to the Central Government for approval alongwith the due recommendation from the State Government. An assurance was given that the status-quo would be maintained for forest villages till the attestation and subsequent rehabilitation of the eligible occupants is done.

It was also stated that if during the judicial investigation, the eligibility of the occupant is not verified, then they would be eligible for rehabilitation at places other than the protected and reserve forests. They would be allotted land for cultivation and housing purpose elsewhere as per the availability. Till then they will continue to live at their present temporary houses. During this period, they will be given employment under National Rural Employment scheme and the necessary arrangements would be made for their temporary housing.

However, till date, neither they have been rehabilitated nor being given the benefits of the Government sponsored schemes. Therefore, I would request the Central Government and the Environment and Forest Minister to give directions to State Government to prepare the eligibility list of scheduled caste/tribe and backward classes of Chhattisgarh so as to protect their interests.

(v) Need to take Steps to Check the Incidents of Land Subsidence in Jharia Coal belt in Jharkhand

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jharia Coal belt is the centre of industrial activities in the country. Black diamond is extracted from there. The prosperity of the country depends on it. But the inhabitants of this area have to pay heavy cost for it. Due to unscientific mining for a long time the earth has become hollow there. In proper mining after extraction of the coal, the hollow space has to be filled up with sand and soil but this has not been done properly there.

As a result of it, the underground fire is spreading to the crust, consequently the land has become more hollow and poisonous gasses are emanating which are dangerous for life. Due to this the people in the Jharia coal belt are badly affected.

It is on account of land subsidence, cracks have developed in the walls of the houses in Kabra Patti, Hadiya Patti, Dhibri Patti and Muslim Basti of Kendua Bazar in Jharia coal belt because of that they are unsafe. Cracks have also developed in main road of Kandua Bazar. There is a possibility of any big incident at any moment.

It is my request to the Central Government especially to the Minister of Coal to make arrangements on war-footing for the stabilization of land subsidence in scientific manner in the Kendua Bazar so that any major incident could be avoided.

(vi) Need to Provide Employment to the People Displaced by Coal Mines in Korba Region, Chhattisgarh.

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT (Janjgir): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people displaced from nine coal mines in the adjacent area of Korba coal region (Anchal) have not been given employment till now. 15-20 years have been passed since the establishment of these mines. 8031 people were displaced due to these coal mines, out of them 2200 displaced families are still searching for the jobs. Central and State Government have no clear-cut policy regarding the displaced people due to which Government is unable to solve the problems of these people. As per the figures available regarding the workers engaged in 9 coal mines of S.E.C.L. Korba district, initially the total number of affected people was 8031. As per the meetings held on 10.10.2001 and 10.12.2002. 5820 and 99 affected people got the employment respectively. As per the information dated 22.2.03, 2119 affected people are yet to be provided employment. Clear instructions were issued in each meeting that the representatives of the people should be given information regarding the collective development programme and their approval should be sought in this regard. However, any such information has not been given till date. I request the Central Government and State Government to formulate a clear-cut policy for providing employment to displaced people and employment be given to the remaining displaced people as possible.

(vii) Need to provide freight incentives for the export of raw sugar particularly to Gulf countries

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL (Sangli): The International market now deals more with raw sugar. Formerly we were exporting raw sugar. Now due to Government incentives the white sugar is given importance and export promotion. But if some treatment in shape of freight subsidy and export promotion incentives are given to raw sugar, there is bright prospect of its export to the Gulf countries in particular who have infrastructure to convert it into refined sugar. If this is attended in proper perspective besides getting valuable foreign exchange, the surplus stock, will be disposed of. It will be valuable help to the farmers and it shall also generate employment.

- (viii) **Need to accord sanction to the proposal of Government of Rajasthan for inclusion of Mahi Irrigation Project In the Centrally sponsored scheme.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA (Banswara): Sir, the State Government of Rajasthan has sent a proposal to the Central Government for inclusion of a very important Mahi Irrigation Project of Rajasthan in the Centrally sponsored scheme but so far no progress has been made in this regard. The State Government has sent a propose to the Union Government on 27.6.2001 regarding approval for irrigating 18095 hectare additional area from Mahi Irrigation Project. Despite several reminders and personal contact with concerned Department by the Officers, this scheme has not been approved. Commissioner (CAD), Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India has informed that the Ministry has sent this proposal to the Planning Commission for consideration in Tenth Five Year Plan. This project is very important in view of continuous famine and drought in Rajasthan during last four years. Hence, I request the Government to accord sanction to this proposal regarding inclusion of Mahi Irrigation Project in centrally sponsored scheme, without any delay so that famine and drought affected states could get some relief.

- (ix) **Need to reopen railway route connecting Haldibari in North Bengal and Sealdah via Parbatipur**

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Railway tacks through Bangladesh connecting Haldibari in North Bengal and Sealdah (Kolkata) still exists via Parbatipur. In earlier days this was the main route for passengers traffic by train and it took only few hours for this journey. The route was cut of during the strained relation with Pakistan. After the liberation of Bangladesh there is no reason why this route should not be reopened. If a super-fast passenger train is run via this route, North Bengal and South Bengal will come closer and all of us are likely to be benefited from the Railway service by this short route. Particularly, we cannot ignore the recent rise of Parochial forces in North Bengal. All these are due to a large extent geographical distance from the capital of West Bengal. So I urge upon the Government to consider the proposal and do the needful.

- (x) **Need to ensure that farmers in Andhra Pradesh get insurance claims for the damages caused to their crops on priority basis**

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (Anantpur): The farmers of Anantpur District in Andhra Pradesh are

passing through an unprecedented crisis due to the fourth consecutive drought in the areas.

Crop Insurance and input subsidy are the two important and main areas through which Government can intervene to help the farmers. The present methodology followed by the authorities is not of much use for the farmers as the crop cutting experiments are not giving correct and factual picture of the crop loss. The method of assessing the loss of crop is erroneous one. Resultantly, last year against the total mandals of 63 in the district, only the farmers of 35 mandals could receive the claims under the Crop Insurance Scheme. In the rest of the 28 mandals, nearly 65,000 farmers who had insured to the extent of 1.67 lakh acres could not receive claims though these mandals were also declared drought hit by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. As this situation is more severe this years, steps should be taken to see that all farmers get the due insurance claims as early as possible to enable them to go in for the next crop. And also, action should be initiated to provide input subsidy to each and every farmer who were affected by the drought and lost the crop due to failure of rains.

- (xi) **Need to expedite construction of power House by NTPC in Rajo area of Shahjahanpur Parliamentary Constituency, U.P.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM MURTI SINGH VERMA (Shahjahanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government acquired lands of 14 villages under Roja area of my Parliamentary constituency, Shahjahanpur for constructing power house of National Thermal Power Corporation. The acquisition process started 5 years ago and some farmers have been given compensation also for their land. But so far the work regarding construction of power house of National Thermal Power Corporation on the acquired land has not yet been started.

I would like to know from the Government as to when this work of construction of power house will start. If the power house is not being constructed then what the Government are considering to build in that acquired land of farmers of Rajo region.

- (xii) **Need to ensure that delimitation of constituencies is done after consulting the elected representatives of the area.**

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Sir, at present the process of delimitation of Lok Sabha and legislative assembly constituencies is going on in the

country but no opinion has been sought from the MPs and MLAs of concerned constituency as to which region should be excluded from their constituency and which regions should be included in their constituency. The officers are doing this work without consulting anybody. Neither a meeting has been convened so far in this regard nor the opinion of common people has been sought by publishing advertisement in the newspapers. All concerned people are fully unaware about this. This work should be done with full transparency and the common people should know as to which Parliamentary constituency they are going to be shifted. Not only this, the delimitation should be done in such a manner that in all Parliamentary constituencies parity in population is maintained.

Hence, through this House, I appeal to the Government to work in a transparent manner and reorganise Parliamentary constituencies in consultation with concerned representatives of people M.Ps., MLAs, members of Zilla Parishad, Panchyat Committees, Sarpanch of villages and common people and to publish the names of regions being included in the Parliamentary constituencies of reorganised States.

(xiii) Need to contain the price of LPG and Kerosene.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today in the country opposition is being made with regard to subsidy being given by the Government on LPG and Kerosene being sold through Public Distribution System. The oil companies of the country have stated that by selling both these products they have suffered a loss of Rs. 3000 crore in the year 2002-2003, therefore, now, since the Government have adopted open market policy, it is necessary that the prices of above mentioned petroleum products should be increased by atleast 40 per cent.

Sir, I would like to submit that if the prices of these products are increased, the people will opt for wood as source of fuel. Today, the country is already facing the problem of deforestation and ecological imbalance. If the demand for wood increases, the ecology of the country will become more imbalance and the country will face crisis.

While presenting the budget for the year 2002-2003, the cess on crude oil was increased from Rs. 900 and to Rs. 1800, 8 per cent excise duty was imposed on LPG and Kerosene, cess of 50 paise was imposed on petrol and diesel for road fund. Besides these, a surcharge

of Rs. 6 on per liter of petrol was imposed. This surcharge was imposed to compensate the subsidy on LPG and Kerosene and it is estimated that from this surcharge an amount of Rs. 6550 crore would be collected in the country in the current year which is 285 crore more from the amount of subsidy.

Hence, I request the Government that instead of increasing the prices of above mentioned products it should make amendment in the taxation.

(xiv) Need to take steps to solve the problem of drought in Dharmapuri Parliamentary constituency, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN (Dharmapuri): The people of my Dharmapuri Parliamentary Constituency comprising the four assembly segments of Dharmapuri district viz. Dharmapuri, Morappur, Harur, Pennagaram and the assembly segments, viz. Mettur and Tharamangalam in Salem district are the most affected in the recent drought crisis in Tamil Nadu. People of my constituency are suffering a lot in all walks of their life. The acute drinking water crisis and the complete failure of crops due to the failure of monsoon rains had not only affected the people but also the huge cattle population. It is heartbreaking to see the people forced to sell their cattle at a very low price and are fleeing to other States in search of livelihood and jobs. Therefore, on behalf of the people of my constituency, I urge upon the Government to provide immediate relief package to solve this deep crisis. Also I urge upon the Union Government to direct the State Government to take immediate remedial steps to solve this problem.

(xv) Need to fill backlog of SCs and STs in Government jobs in the country

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): The backlog for job for SCs and STs is increasing in several States. The details of such backlog in Centre and States have to be collected, published and urgent action has to be taken to fill the backlog. In several cases, the reason stated for not giving appointments is that there are no qualified applicants. In such cases, the best qualified among them have to be selected and adequate training be given so that they can perform with full competence. The country should see that the rights of jobs offered to them have to be fully satisfied even if some additional effort is needed. I request the Government to take favourable action in this regard.

14.05 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF
GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL TO REJECT
BOARD OF ARBITRATION AWARD—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up Item no. 23. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Sir, I beg to move:

In the Resolution,—

for "approves the proposal of the Government"

substitute "refers back to the Government for reconsidering its proposal" (2)

Sir, I oppose this Resolution moved by the Minister of State for Finance. This Award was given in the year 1999, in respect of grant of Touring Special Pay to Audit Staff in Indian Audit and Accounts Department in terms of para 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration. The amount involved is Rs. 5.47 crore which will be required for payment of arrears and the amount involved as a recurring expenditure is Rs. 1.36 crore per annum. The amount is not so high, when we compare the work being done by the auditors. There are Income Tax Inspectors and they are getting this allowance, whereas the audit staff is not given this benefit. They are also doing the same kind of work. The audit staff remains on tour for more than 200 days in a year due to the nature of their work. While moving the Resolution for rejecting this Award, it is stated by the Government that payment of this Touring Special Pay will lead to diversion of scarce resources from Development expenditure to non-productive expenditure and will thus adversely affect the national economy. But I would like to submit that it is not a non-productive expenditure. The work being done by the Audit Staff to find out the exact amount to be paid by the assesseees is not an unproductive work. So, I do not agree with what has been stated in the Resolution.

Moreover, there is a judgment of the Supreme Court with regard to the implementation of the Award of Board of Arbitration. There have been 24 tribunal cases and it has been stated that the audit staff is doing productive nature of work. The audit staff remains away from their families for most part of the year due to their arduous nature of work

I have already stated that similar allowance has been sanctioned in the case of Income Tax Inspectors for their internal audit duties. The Supreme Court, in its judgment in the year 1978-SCC case No. 103-1972 in 1972, section 50, Madan Mohan Patnaik *versus* Union of India—has clearly stated that if the Resolution for rejection of Award by the Board of Arbitration is not brought forward and not passed within six months from the date of that Award by that Board, it should be treated as being implemented. In this particular case, the Award was given in 1999.

Today, a Resolution is being brought forward here to reject the Award given by the Board of Arbitration. This House is not competent to reject it after a lapse of six months. It has to be rejected within six months. If it is not rejected within that period, then it has to be implemented. That is why, there is my Amendment that this should be reported back to the Government for its consideration.

What we always find is that whenever there is an Award in favour of employees or workers, the Government comes forward with a Resolution for rejecting such an Award, even if it is a legitimate one and the employees are entitled for its benefits. In spite of that, it is being rejected. In this particular case, in my opinion, this House should not adopt this Resolution for rejection of the Award given by the Board of Arbitration.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the views of hon. Shri Basu Deb Acharia because he is attached with the labour movement and he would automatically raise the point.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You are also a trade union leader.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: I have to say that I am the President of 22 Unions in Maharashtra and also at the Centre. Their membership is about 70,000. ...*(Interruptions)*

This Award is limited to the staff working under the Department of Audit and Accounts of the Government of India. Whenever this Award was decided, the aspect of involvement of other persons was not taken into consideration. Ultimately, the C&AG has recommended that these Awards should be implemented or extended to the other staff in the Department of Audit and Accounts, that is, to Senior Audit Officers, Audit Officers, Assistant Audit Officers. It is a recommendation given by the C&AG.

[Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul]

For the limited staff of the Department of Audit and Accounts, the financial involvement is Rs. 54,50,000 per year. If it is extended to the others, like Auditors and Special Auditors, it comes to about Rs. 1.39 crore per year.

Secondly, if arrears are paid, then that amount goes upto Rs. 5,47,18,800 till this date. Thirdly, if we implement this Award, then others in services like Railways (Touring Staff), Defence, Civil Departments and Audit Staff will also demand this because they come under the Central Government, and that comes to about Rs. 5 crore more. That works out to a total of more than Rs. 10 crore.

The Fifth Pay Commission has taken proper care for the Touring Staff and they are getting TA/DA. This was a special demand and an additional demand.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: All the Touring Staff are getting TA/DA.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Yes. I am having the figures with me and this was circulated by the Finance Minister also.

Moreover, this is not in the case of only Central Government but the States Governments also will be affected because all the State Governments have Touring Staff in various Departments. What will happen if this is implemented? At that time this aspect was not taken into consideration that it will affect the nation socially and economically. That is why, the Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary has rejected this Award and accordingly the Resolution was passed by the Government in its Cabinet Meeting held on 24th February 2003.

Lastly, on the point raised by the hon. Member that it would amount of the contempt of the Supreme Court, I would say that it would not happen so because the Arbitration Award is not governed by the Supreme Court judgment. It is a fact too. That is why nothing would happen as such. But if we accept this Award, what will be the implications? This point has to be noted. That is why the Government has come before the Parliament, which is having all the powers. So, I request that this Resolution should be passed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, what has been stated is not a fact. The Government has no power to modify the recommendations after the laps of six months. When it decides to implement an Award, it should be implemented in its entirety. If you cannot bring a Resolution within six months for the rejection of the Award,

you have no power to reject it or even to modify it. You cannot even modify it and you have to implement it in its entirety.

This House, today, after the lapse of six months has no power either even to modify or reject any Award. On the other hand, after the expiry of six months from the date of the Award, since the Government did not take steps to place any proposal for modification, it has come into force. There is a judgment of the court and the Government is defying the judgment of the court. How can the Government, after four years, bring a Resolution to reject the Award given by the Board of Arbitration?

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, here is paper. I am prepared to lay it on the Table of the House. It says:

"Subject to the overriding authority of Parliament, recommendations of the Board of Arbitration will be binding on both sides.

If, for reasons to be recorded in writing, the Central Government is of opinion that all or any of the recommendations of Board of Arbitration should on grounds affecting national economy or social justice be modified, the Central Government shall, as soon as may be, lay before each House of Parliament the report of the Board containing such recommendations together with the modifications proposed and the reasons therefore, and thereupon Parliament may make such modifications in the recommendations as it may deem fit. Modifications may extend to the rejection of the recommendation."

Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table.

REPRODUCTION OF CLAUSE 21 OF THE SCHEME FOR JOINT CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY AND COMPULSORY ARBITRATION

"Subject to the overriding authority of Parliament, recommendations of the Board of Arbitration will be binding on both sides.

If, for reasons to be recorded in writing, the Central Government is of opinion that all or any the recommendations of Board of Arbitration should on grounds affecting national economy of social justice be modified, the Central Government shall, as soon as may be, lay before each House of Parliament the report of the Board containing such recommendations together with the modifications proposed and the

reasons therefore, and thereupon Parliament may make such modifications in the recommendations as it may deem fit. Modifications may extend to the rejection of a recommendation".

SHRI BASU DEB AHARIA: Sir, it has not been clarified as to why this Resolution has not been brought within four months? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: As I said, on the ground of social justice and national economy, it can be done. ...*(Interruptions)* The repercussion was not taken into consideration by the Board of Arbitration. It was limited to the staff of Audit and Accounts Department. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this is not fair. There is a clear judgment of the Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Central Government can do it.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, Rajya Sabha has passed this Resolution yesterday only. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, not only that, you have already read out that particular portion now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you will be arguing your case and the hon. Minister will be making his case. Now, I am putting your Amendment to the vote of the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not replied as to why the Resolution has been brought after four years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Probably you were not convinced but the hon. Minister has explained everything in detail.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, Rajya Sabha has passed this Resolution yesterday only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir hon'ble Minister and hon'ble Basu Deb Achariaji both of

them are speaking. I am unable to understand what they are saying. Sir, why you are allowing this House to become worse than the Panchayat?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rajo Singhji, you are also speaking without my permission. Until and unless hon'ble Members cooperate, I may not be able to conduct the Proceedings of the House smoothly.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what can we do, we are helpless. When directions are not given by the Chair, we are compelled to do this.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I shall put amendment No. 2 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negative.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put the Resolution moved by the Minister to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House approves the proposal of the Government to reject the Award given on 12 February, 1999 by the Board of Arbitration in C.A. Reference No. 13 of 1992 in respect of grant of Touring Special Pay to Audit Staff in Indian Audit and Accounts Department in terms of Para 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, as the implementation of the Award which involves an expenditure of over Rs. 5,47,18,800 in payment of arrears and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 1,36,79,700/-per annum will lead to diversion of scarce resources from development expenditure to non-productive expenditure and will thus adversely affect the national economy."

The motion was adopted.

14.23 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Situation Arising out of Drought and other Problems being Faced by the Farmers in the Country

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up item No. 24—Discussion under Rule 193. The time allotted is four hours. I request Shri Prabodh Panda to initiate the discussion.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I must thank you and also the Business Advisory Committee for having selected this issue for discussion at least on the last of this Session.

Sir, the drought situation in our country is very alarming. This issue has been discussed many times even in the last session. I think, it is now final. The year 2002 has been declared as an All India Drought year. I think, it is not semi final, it is already final. A large part of our country, specially the Central and the Western India, have actually been suffering due to drought for the last three or four years.

But last year the major parts of our country were affected right from the North to the South. I think it is often said that 14 States have been affected. But according to the report we have received so far from different newspapers, 18 States and around 4000 districts have been affected. So, this is a case of national disaster. But it is not understandable to me why the Government is not declaring the drought situation as a national disaster.

Realising the magnitude and the gravity of the situation, the Union Government has set up a Task Force under the chairmanship of the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani. They have responded to the problem but their response seems to be casual. They do not take the issue as a national disaster. What sort of steps have they taken so far? It appears that they have released some advance funds to the concerned States. But what about the requirements? What was the requirement of the respective States? How much assistance did they seek? How much did they receive? Even from the reply to the Unstarred Question, the demand of the respective States is seen as about Rs. 32,000 crore. It has appeared in the Press. But what about the assistance to be given to the respective States? What was given is meagre. It is not sufficient. It is not adequate.

Next to this, we may say about the foodgrains for relief and for generating employment under the scheme of food-for-work and so and so. But what about the PDS? Now one formula is followed in respect of both the BPL and the APL families and it is being introduced in so many States. This sort of discrimination is very much confusing. Generally, the weak and the poor people try to get richer. Now, in many cases, the rich men want to be treated as people below the poverty line for getting so many facilities. There are so many scopes. So, a lot of confusion is there. My point is, so far as the drought-affected states are concerned, all the people, whether

they are in the BPL list or in the APL list, are affected. But there is no scope of extending the public distribution system to all the affected people.

Apart from that, the procurement situation is also very bad. The FCI is not willing to procure sufficient agricultural produce directly from the peasants. So, it creates a problem. It creates a havoc, because of which the distress sale is mounting and the real producers of paddy and wheat are not getting the minimum support price.

There was a talk about the waiver of interest on agricultural loans. In this august House, the other day, the hon. Prime Minister declared that the farmers of the drought-affected States would be benefited by the waiver of interest on agricultural loans, but what about the principal and what about the outstanding loans? Does the Government think that the people of the drought-affected areas are in a position to repay all outstanding loans? This should be taken as a priority. My point is that all agricultural loans should be waived in the drought-affected States and that facility should be given to the farmers.

We talk about watershed projects but we suffer because of neglect on the supply side. If the supply of ground water is reduced, how can ground water be used by the farmers and consumed by the people? So, the recharging of ground water should be taken care of because pumping ground water indiscriminately without recharging is creating havoc. We are talking about inter-linking of Indian rivers. We are told that it is also a dream of the hon. Prime Minister. Most of the rivers are dry. We are talking about inter-linking of Indian rivers right from Ganga to Cauvery. The river Ganga passes through, UP, Bihar and West Bengal. These three States are already affected by drought. So, I do not know whether they want to check the drought situation or extend the drought situation.

The water level situation is also very alarming. The water level is reducing day by day. When the water table comes down, it affects the drinking water and tubewells get dislodged.

Tube-wells do not work. Even the submersible tube-wells do not work in many places and wells for fetching the drinking water have become dry. Not only that, without any restriction, indiscriminate pumping of the ground water may create other problems like arsenic, flurid, salinity,

etc. day by day. So, the ground water situation is very bad. In this situation, the trend of privatisation of water and monopoly over water is coming up day by day.

Sir, here I want to mention one point. Coca Cola is stealing water from the poor. The people of Plachimada village in Palakkad district of Kerala are waging a bitter battle against Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Limited, the Indian face of the MNC. The company has been extracting excessive ground water, to the tune of nearly 15 million litres, through 65 borewells, sucking their ground water aquifers and leaving open wells dry.

We are talking about the river Ganga. It is going to be privatised. River 'Bhavani' is going to be privatised. Ganga is not the only river whose water is being privatised to satisfy corporate greed. River Bhavani, an important tributary of Cavery, has been sold by the Tamil Nadu Government itself. So, my point is that water is a precious thing and so far as the drought situation is concerned, it is most precious. Providing water for irrigation, for cultivation, for survival of the human beings, for the cattle, is the most important thing and this should be the priority. But, in such a situation, this Government, in fact, is helping the corporate sector so that they can make more money and more profit. The Government is going to privatise even the drinking water for making money. They are also using the drinking water, the ground water and the river water even for bottling. But the point is. ...*(Interruptions)* The people are not getting adequate water even for their survival. So, my point is that the Government should take it seriously. Here, I would like to mention that the situation in the coming days may be worse. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad): I want to ask from my learned colleague what has privatisation got to do with the drinking water. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: The disadvantage of privatisation of drinking water is open and obvious. They are even using it for bottling. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: as per his contention, the water is privatised.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: The privatisation of the river Cauvery is taking place.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): The water is being sold to the multinational companies and

other organisations. That is his point. That is what he wants to convey, and that is the subject of discussion today.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: They are selling it to the multinational companies. Distributing water, and providing water to the peasants is not the priority, but using water for business has become the priority for them, and the Government is helping them in this process of corporatisation and privatisation. This is a very alarming situation. So, I would request, through you, to the Government that, in this context, let them arrange a meeting of all the political parties for having a consensus to face this challenge.

The coming days may be worse than the last year. Nobody can predict about monsoon. Last year's monsoon might have been the worst monsoon during the last 100 years. But, who can say what would be in store in the next year, or the years thereafter? So, this should not be taken in a casual manner. The Government should seriously think over it; the Government should convene a meeting of all political parties; and, at least, they should declare a ban on these Corporates Sectors, who are going to privatise even the drinking water, for making money.

At the same time, the plight of the farmers, and the plight of the peasants is increasing day by day. The input price of agricultural commodities is coming down to half. I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Agriculture Minister, on the Budget that has been presented here. I think it is for the first time that seeds have been put within the ambit of the VAT; and for that the peasants, and the farmers will have to pay more money for collecting the seeds. Is it justified?

We are talking about the farmers; we are talking about the farmers' plight, but what about the share of the Budget outlay for Agriculture? Agriculture is, more or less, neglected. What happened in the case of diesel; what happened in the case of petroleum products; and what happened in the case of transport? If the price of petrol, or the price of diesel goes up, then the transport cost will also definitely increase. There will be hike in the transport fares., So, the farmers and the peasants are facing a lot of difficulty, nowadays, in procurement of seeds, collecting seeds, collecting agricultural inputs, credits, etc.

So, the problems of the farmers, the problems of the *kasans* are multi-dimensional. So, this should be given priority. Still more than 30 per cent of the GDP comes

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

from Agricultural Sector, and round about 65 per cent of the working force are engaged in Agriculture.

Poor and marginal farmers roughly constitute 65 per cent of the total population dependent on agriculture. More than 23 crore agricultural labourers are still existing.

At present, what we are noticing is that the number of suicidal deaths is increasing; the incidents of starvation deaths are increasing day by day. This is the pitiable picture in these drought-affected areas. Therefore, not only setting up a Task Force, but also these points should be given priority. My point is that this Government should come out to declare last year's drought situation as worse; it is like a national disaster. They should consider everything in that manner. I am sorry to say that this Government is not taking the things in that manner. In most of the cases, they are treating the challenge in a casual manner.

Therefore, I am raising this point for discussion. After the discussion, I will be glad if the Government takes this matter seriously and, at least, consider waiving off the outstanding agricultural loans and interest to be paid by the drought-affected farmers.

They should also strengthen the Public Distribution System. They should also try to remove the 'APL-BPL' discrimination. They should provide some relief; they should undertake some sort of employment generation programmes, and the agricultural workers should be given priority in this regard.

With these words, I raise this point for discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, after the Motion is moved, normally, the convention is that the ruling Party member gets the floor first then the main Opposition Party gets the floor. Now, there is a slight deviation in this. The hon. Speaker has accepted the requests of Shri Deve Gowda and Shri Kaliappan, who have to catch their flights, to be given the earliest opportunities to speak. Therefore, I am giving the floor to Shri Deve Gowda.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura): Sir, thank you very much for having given me an opportunity and also to my other colleague, whose name comes second in the Notice. I gave an Adjournment Motion Notice on this issue. The hon. Speaker had mentioned this on the second day after the Joint Session that I had given the Adjournment Motion Notice for discussing the farmer's issues.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to refer to the speech made by the Finance Minister two days back. In his speech, he has mentioned about the relief given to the farmers. I do not want to read his speech, but he mentioned about the subsidy, and the guidelines which are going to be followed by the banking sector in regard to lending, that is, the lending rate, whether it should be less than two per cent or more than two per cent, will be fixed by the banking authorities.

I do not want to read the whole Budget Speech now. We had discussed this issue in the previous Session also. After elaborate discussions, the hon. Prime Minister himself came to this House and made certain announcements. When the matter was discussed, the hon. Minister of Agriculture replied to the debate but he was unable to give categorical assurances on some of the issues raised by the Members in the House. Subsequently we tried to pursue the matter and the hon. Prime Minister came to this House and made certain announcements. I try to bring to the notice of this august House the statements made by the hon. Prime Minister on that Wednesday of 18th December, 2002 on the floor of the House. He said:

"I had earlier announced that the current year's interest on both *kharif* crop loan and agricultural term loans will be deferred. The loans proper will be scheduled into term loans to be recovered over the next five years in the case of small and marginal farmers and three years in the case of other farmers. In addition, interest for one year for both these types of loans amounting to Rs. 640 crore having been deferred was to be spread over several years as a liability."

That was the first portion of the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister on the floor of the House. The second portion, subsequently stated in this very House, says:

"I earlier announced that in order to further mitigate the hardships of our farmers in these States, I have now decided to waive completely the first year's deferred liability of interest on the *kharif* loans as a one-time measure."

Sir, the issue is the two types of loans. What was assured has now been given a go-by. The Government is now trying to adhere to the crop loan of this year not even to *rabi* crop, only to the crop loan. Even in that crop loan, while it is rescheduled for five years for small farmers, out of those five years, the interest component of one year is going to be waived.

This is the reason why I requested the hon. Minister of Finance the day before yesterday, to be present here today. What exactly is the help this Government has extended to the farmers in the distress year 2002-03? Two-three States were adversely affected by floods and fourteen States were adversely affected by drought. The hon. Prime Minister's statement categorically says that both the types of loans will be deferred. What happened now? I do not want to make harsh criticism.

Sir, the banks have issued clarifications.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, my name was first in the list of speakers of BJP.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I don't know. Had you taken the permission from the Speaker, I would have given you the permission to speak first.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Please hear me. If your Government is not interested, we are not bothered.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, my name was first in the list of Speakers of BJP.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Then, I will sit down. You can speak. Till then I will wait. I do not want to hurt anybody.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Please carry on, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Rawat, I had announced in the beginning itself that because the hon. Speaker wanted these Members to speak first, let them speak first. Now, you are interrupting. It is very unfortunate.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Sir, I would like to make myself very clear. There is no question of hurting anybody. This is an issue concerning the entire House. It is relating to the entire farming community of this country.

Sir, in the name of Choudhary Charan Singh Saheb, an advertisement was given. Both Choudhary Ajit Singh, and Hon. Prime Minister's photos were there. On the Birth Centenary of Choudhary Charan Singh, an

announcement was made by the hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee about the drought-affected farmers in the country during the *Kisan Samman Week* from 17 to 23 December, 2002. The hon. Prime Minister announced a complete waiver of the interest liability of farmers for this year's *kharif* loan for drought-affected States. There was a complete waiver of interest liability of farmers for this year's crop loans for drought-affected States. Sir, I will leave it at this stage. It is to be seen whether this is going to be honoured.

Sir, the advertisement was given by the Union Government in the name of the great *kisan* leader, Choudhary Charan Singh Saheb, in the newspaper.

Choudhary Ajit Singhji, you are holding the Agriculture portfolio. I would like to ask whether this announcement is going to be honoured.

Sir, the Reserve Bank guidelines are there. I do not want to read them. NABARD guidelines are also there. But it is only one installment out of five years that they are waiving. Five years is the total period of installments which is due from the farmers. For big farmers, the period of installment is five years and for marginal farmers, the period is three years. But it is only one installment that they are going to reimburse. What far?

Sir, the Government of Karnataka had sent its recommendations to the Government of India saying, "We are going to waive Rs. 129 crore loans for two years. As our State was adversely affected and the farmers were unable to pay the interest, we are going to share 50 per cent. The remaining 50 per cent, the Government should accommodate." A letter was sent by the Government of Karnataka in this respect. I do not want to read the contents of the letter. But is there any response from the Government of India in this regard?

This is not the only one year that my State has suffered. My State had suffered even earlier years also. Mr. Minister, you have given the relief amount under the National Calamity Relief Fund. The Central Government knows it. But there are so many States including Andhra Pradesh which were badly affected. So, it is not that only this year is the affected year. I am sorry to say that the Government of India has not taken into consideration the earlier years, viz., last year and the year before the last year, where some of the States had suffered very badly.

Mr. Minister, you have not taken into consideration all these years. You are going to confine yourself only to

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

one installment of the *Kharif* loan. It is all right! I do not want to argue much.

Sir, day before yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister had said: "We would like to reduce the interest rates on the GPF of the Government employees by another one per cent." What is the benefit he had given in the Budget?

Only a few days back, the hon. Finance Minister had made the Budget announcements. But in addition to that, there is another announcement by him of reduction in the interest rates of the Government employees. I do not know who pressurised him or lobbied him to do so. On the day of his Budget presentation he had announced that 'advances given to the Central Government employees for construction of houses, purchase of computers and conveyances will be reduced by a similar 100 basis points.

15.00 hrs.

I want to know whether you had pressurised your Finance Minister, or whether there is any lobby, like FICCI or ASSOCHAM who had pressurised him to make this type of announcement of one per cent. I do not know why the primary lending rates are less than two per cent. The Reserve Bank of India has given the guidelines to the Management of each bank, according to which each bank in its Board meeting can fix the interest rates depending upon the capability of the person who takes the loan. I have got all the guidelines with me. The Reserve Bank has given the guidelines to the Boards of the respective banks. They have got the option either to give or not to give, depending on whether the capability of the person is financially sound or not. All these aspects will be taken into consideration whether the rate of interest will be 8 per cent, 9 per cent or 10 per cent. Agricultural profession is not profitable and you should try to take a decision once and for all.

When the banks were nationalised by our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, out of the total deposits, 18% was fixed for the agricultural sector. Can any one bank in this country, up-till now, has reached the threshold? The answer is 'no'. Yesterday, Shri Jaipal Reddy was asking about the Rural Infrastructural Development Fund. In 1996, we had issued a circular according to which the banks which had not reached 18 per cent, the remaining portion, whatever amount they are going to give to the farmers, should be deposited as Rural Infrastructure Fund. He was saying, it was only Rs. 600 crore. That is the amount which is now available under Rural Infrastructural Development Fund.

Sir, again I would like to mention that the interest loan for housing is fixed at 8 per cent. But, for sugar factories, you have fixed it at 15 per cent to 17 per cent. Sugar factories are going to die their natural death. More than Rs. 3,000 crore is to be paid to the farmers in our country. I do not want to split State-wise. How can the sugar factories survive? If they want to go to the banks to take pledge loans, the rate of interest you fixed is at 15 per cent or 16 per cent. As far as other industries are concerned, there is no problem. It is because the loans are available at 8 per cent or 9 per cent. That is why I am saying either the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister should be presented here.

On that day, he himself had suggested this. What can I do? When I went to Prime Minister's *kothi* at 7 Race Course, to discuss about it, he was also there. He tried to support my stand. In Bangalore also, he made a very elaborate statement at a function that there is no lobby for farmers. The farmers are dying. At least they have got that much of courage to express it in open. I thank him very much for that. But what are they doing now? I do not want to take up all other issue. There are several issues which we can deal, particularly, on the agricultural sector. Today, I am confining to the present situation that the banks are selling or auctioning the pledged property of the farmers. I am not going to give any *ishtehars*. These are some of the papers which I have taken from the farmers. Are you satisfied with the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister? That is what I would like to ask you.

Again, the Government has taken utmost care to protect the affluent section of the society, the salaried class and the rich people of this country in its Budget. I can only classify them, in a nutshell, into three categories—one is privileged class, the second is salaried class and the third is slavery class. Who are those slaves? They are the slum dwellers, the agriculturists, the landless agricultural labourers, destitutes, etc. You should declare this as slavery class because they are beggars; they cannot lobby the Government and they cannot lobby the rulers concerned. I am sorry to say this.

Farmers are committing suicide, but nobody is bothered. Financially, the States have their own problems; and now, in the Budget, the Government has declared that from the 1st of April, the Value Added Tax is going to be so much. They have made a provision for Rs. 700 crore in the Budget for the entire country. It is a token provision that they have made. I do not know whether they will be able to fulfil that and whether they will be

able to compensate the amount that they have declared on the floor of this House.

Though the Karnataka Government has taken a decision to provide 50 per cent of the interest component of the loan they are also unable to do that because of financial constraints and the Government do not bother about their request. This is where we stand. The sugar industry is almost collapsed. Even today crushing has not started. Even after four or five months of reaping the harvest, today they are unable to crush, and the Government has nothing to do with their problem!

They have taken it so casually. Money is a big problem for them. They are unable to find resources. But they have provided Rs. 35,000 crore to three institutions which are squandering money. Giving an amount of Rs. 35,000 crore to them, there is no problem for the Government. I am not against the super-express highways: I am not against the so-called International Standard Convention Centres, as we want to see Balle Dancel I am sorry to say that. Poor people are suffering in this country, who are more than 70 per cent of the population. Let them go to the villages. Let any Minister go to the villages, including the Finance Minister who said that he is a *kisan*. They can go to any village of any State and see the situation. If they say that the situation has improved, I will apologise to this House.

This is the type of callous attitude that they have. I will tell you that today, they may—because of the numerical strength—enjoy and complete the full term. But a day will come when people will respond to their negligence in respect of farmers and the people will teach them a lesson.

[Translation]

*SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (Gobichettipalayam): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the plight of the farmers of this country is pitiable and they find it increasingly difficult and it is going from bad to worse. Small Farmers are becoming agricultural labourers. Drought and debt burden have immersed the farmers in a pool of worst suffering. The pathetic condition of the worst hit agricultural labourers who live below the poverty line is a grave problem before us and we must do our best to wipe out the tears of these poor people.

In this year's budget, the price of urea was sought to be increased and had been withdrawn later. If we are going to ignore the problems faced by the farmers just because we have attained self-sufficiency, we would again

be caught in the whirlpool of famine and insufficiency. I would like to caution this Government that we should not step on the trap of food scarcity due to our complacency.

This Government liberalised the procedures and removed the restrictions on the import of cooking oil. This has greatly affected the oil seeds cultivators of the country. Most of the farmers have given up cultivation of oil seeds. This has resulted in the steep fall of oil seeds production in the country. Now we find a high price rise of cooking oil. This affects common people. Even the farmers who gave up oil seeds cultivation are crushed by this vicious circle. They are not able to pay wages to the agricultural labourers. This will greatly affect the agro-economy of the country. Ultimately this will endanger the country in a big way. The Government must consider the seriousness of my word of caution.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned Cauvery water has become a mirage. Both Kuruvai and Samba (Rabi & Khariff) crops have withered away. Our leader and Chief minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has come out with a relief measure to provide Rs. 5000/- per acre to the drought hit farmers in the Cauvery delta region. This relief measure at a cost of Rs. 400 crore must be borne by the Centre and I urge upon the Union Government to provide the needed drought relief fund immediately.

Cultivation of cash crops like rubber, coffee and tea have also been greatly affected due to the free access given to the Multinational Companies. These plantations in our country are languishing because we are not able to get remunerative price. The liberal import policy is hitting hard our agricultural activities. Hence there is an urgent need to protect the interest of these plantations. It is imperative to restrict the free import of such agro products like coffee and tea. The Tamil Nadu government headed by our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has evolved a major revamping scheme to renovate the existing irrigation system at a cost of Rs. 2900 crore with loan assistance from world bank. I urge upon the Union Government to remove the bottlenecks in carrying out this project.

I would like to impress upon the Union Government not to cut down or put an end to any of the subsidies provided to the agricultural sector. The contrary would cause great havoc to our agriculture.

Tamil Nadu has been affected greatly by drought conditions. Almost the entire Tamil Nadu is in the grip of

*Original in Tamil.

[Shri K.K. Kaliappan]

drought. 28 districts have been declared to be drought hit. Our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has resorted to measures on a war-footing. Though the State administration is taking up several relief measures to overcome the disaster caused by drought, it is perceived to be inadequate due to the non-release of Central funds. The Centre must come forward to provide adequate funds for carrying out the needed relief measures. Hence I urge upon Union Government to release Rs. 2094 crore as indicated by our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. She had also asked for the release of 9 lakhs tonnes of food grains from the Central pool.

Under the circumstances it is needless to stress the importance of harping on modern technology pertaining to improvised cultivation methods. The modern biotechnological research can come to our rescue. I urge upon the Union Government to take modern Science to our traditional cultivation methods. The Government has not gone any further after making an announcement that there is nothing wrong in cultivating BT cottonseeds. Even today the cotton growers are hesitating to cultivate this BT variety. Hence I urge upon the Government to come clean and clarify the position to the farmers and if need be the Government must encourage the farmers to resort to a right approach.

In my Constituency that come under Erode and Coimbatore districts drought conditions have taken up its ugly head because of the depleted water in Bhawani river which forms the basis for the irrigation of lakhs of acres of land and a vast stretch of forest area. The scanty water flow in river Bhawani in the upper reaches is due to the construction of a check-dam by the Kerala government at Mukkali in the Central Reserve Forest region in Kerala. If the ongoing project of Kerala is completed, the Bhawani river water would be diverted further and about 5 lakhs hectares of cultivable land both in Erode and Coimbatore districts will face irrigation short supply and the surrounding Reserve forest region that form part of Nilgiri Biosphere will also dry up without water. This would also affect the drinking water supply to both Coimbatore and Erode districts.

The ongoing projects like the Lower Bhawani Scheme, Thadapalli Scheme, Arakkan Kottai scheme, Kalingarayan Canal Scheme will all be rendered meaningless and the irrigation system will go haywire.

River Bhawani flows into river Cauvery. If Bhawani waters are depleted it would affect the Cauvery delta farmers in a big way.

As such Cauvery water has become a mirage and the Cauvery delta farmers have been greatly affected. The Centre must intervene immediately and impress upon the upper riparian states that their moves are dangerous. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to stop the move of the Kerala Government to construct a dam across Bhawani River at Mukkali.

In order to promote national integration we must put an end to the interstate river water disputes. Ganga-Cauvery link Canal scheme must be vigorously pursued. We must evolve ways and means in this very budget session. All the rivers of the country must be nationalised. National integration will be strengthened only when we nationalise all the rivers in the country. The traditional water flow in the inter state rivers are greatly upset in the absence of a national water policy. Not nationalising the rivers has given a handle to certain states to stop the flow of the legitimate share of water to another state. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to nationalise all the rivers to ensure the rule of law and to establish National integration.

I appeal to all the members of this House to impress upon the Union Government to go in for nationalising all the rivers and to take up Ganga-Cauvery link Canal Scheme with immediate effect. In the second half of the Budget session that is from April the 7th to May the 9th the Centre must go in for the needed legislation in this regard.

At this juncture when we have drought situation prevailing in Tamil Nadu I would like to recall the long pending demand of Tamil Nadu to divert towards Tamil Nadu the wastefully west flowing rivers in Kerala like Pandiyaru and Punnampuzha. This will help us to overcome drought and irrigation short supply. This will help us to increase food supply. Hence I urge upon Union Government to nationalise all the rivers of the Country.

I appeal to all the members of this House to impress upon the Union Government to enact suitable laws in this Budget session itself.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, these three Members have approached the Speaker and the Speaker has said that as they have to catch the flight, they may be given a chance first. That is why, I am giving them chance. There would be no such precedent hereafter.

SHRI A. BAHMANAIAH (Machilipatnam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Even after 56 years of Independence, agricultural sector continues to remain as the main sector of our country. It contributes more than 32 per cent to our country's total GDP. Still 65 per cent of population is depending on agriculture and agro-based industries. In the first Five Year Plan, the top most priority was given to agricultural sector but later on the successive Five Year Plans much attention was not paid while sanctioning the funds to agricultural sector. As it has been neglected, the growth rate of agricultural products has not increased even by one per cent. This sector has suffered due to the lack of sufficient financial support to agriculture in the Budget.

There is a severe drought situation in several States like Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra. It is my duty to analyse the present drought situation in Andhra Pradesh. We all know that as far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, it is facing a severe drought situation for the last two year. Especially this year, due to the failure of North-East and South-West monsoon, the State got minus 32 millimetre of rainfall. The crops sown in Rayalaseema, Telangana, and some other parts of Andhra Pradesh withered away. This year due to drought, the water was not released from Nagarjun Sagar dam for irrigation for the second crop in the Krishna Delta. The Krishna Delta is the rice bowl of Andhra Pradesh. Even though it is the rice bowl, no water was released to it and second crop was almost banned. Moreover, out of 23 district of our State, 22 districts were declared as drought affected, and out of 1109 *Mandals*, 1074 *Mandals* were declared as drought affected *Mandals*.

Sir, as per the survey report given by a team of the Central Government, the total loss is about Rs. 5,234 crore. Our Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu met the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister several times and requested for release of Rs. 25 crore and 25 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains under the Food for Work programme. So far only five lakh metric tonnes of rice has been released to our State. In this connection I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly release the rest of the amount to the State under the Food for Work programme so that there could be more employment generation in our State.

Sir, at this juncture I would also like to request the Central Government to enhance the number of working days for the members of the BPL families. At present it is only ten to twelve days in a month. This may be enhanced up to 20 days in a month for the members of the BPL families so that more number of member from the BPL families could get employment in a month.

Sir due to non-availability of fodder, particularly in the Rayalseema, Telengana and some other parts of Andhra Pradesh, the farmers are selling away their cattle to slaughter houses. I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister to sanction additional funds for making available fodder to cattle so that the cattle population could be saved in our State.

Sir, problems also are being faced by the farmers in regard to MSP and procurement. Our ex-Prime Minister has already enumerated the problems being faced on account of these two factors. As far as procurement is concerned, I would like to bring to the notice of the august House that in the last year's Budget a new policy was adopted, according to which the States would have to evolve their own procurement policy. It is not at all possible for the States to evolve their own procurement policy in the given scenario. A widespread and severe drought condition is prevailing all over the country, especially in 14 to 18 States of the country. Only the States of Punjab and Haryana are able to handle this decentralised procurement policy. But the remaining States are not in a position to handle the decentralised procurement policy. So, the Government should reconsider this aspect. A number of States are now not in a position to adopt this policy as recommended by the Government.

Sir, as far as agricultural credit is concerned it is a well-known fact that according to the norms of the Reserve Bank of India, 18 per cent of their deposits whether commercial or nationalised banks, have to be given to the farming community. But only 13 to 14 per cent is made available to the farming community and for the remaining percentage the farming community has to approach either the co-operative banks or the private money lenders. The farmers are getting money from private money-lenders on higher rate of interest by pledging their land. This situation would have to change. Protection must be given to the farmers. Eighteen per cent of the total deposits of the banks would have to be given to the farming community; otherwise they would not be able to do their cultivation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Sir, my request is that you should give me five more minutes. We do not get opportunity to speak everyday.

In the connection, I request our hon. Prime Minister to see what the former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda has enlightened us in detail. On 18th December in the Winter Session, our Prime Minister announced in this

[Shri A. Brahmanaiah]

House total waiver of the first year's interest. But the interest, along with the loan taken by the farmer, has been split into five years and the first year's interest alone will be waived. This is just 20 per cent of the total interest. So, my request is that the total interest must be waived as per the promise made by the Prime Minister. If not, it will only be an eye-wash to the farming community in our country.

The present Crop Insurance policy is not at all suitable to the farmers as all crops are not included in it. In this connection I want to suggest one thing. Individual level survey and number-wise calculation should be made to see that losses are collected on the basis of individual farmer so that the farmer will get the benefit of the scheme. Otherwise, the crop insurance policy may not be issued to the farming community. This is my appeal to this august House. Individual level and survey number-wise be considered; then only the benefit will go to the farmer.

Another issue which I want to bring to your kind notice the role of WTO. Because of WTO, prices of so many crops in our country like wheat, rice, sugarcane, rubber, tea, coffee, are coming down. This is also because of the import of several commodities from foreign countries. If you take the example of America, they are giving suggestions to our Government that we have to reduce the subsidies. At the same time, they are allotting subsidies on marketing for their agricultural producers. In America, five per cent of the agricultural population is getting 70 per cent of subsidies whereas in our country even today 60 to 70 per cent of our population is dependent on agriculture. We are getting only three per cent of subsidy. How can Indian farmer compete with the farmers of foreign countries? So, subsidies should be increased if we want to compete with the farmers of other countries.

Similarly, there is every need to develop export facilities so that India will become a leading exporter of wheat and rice to foreign countries and at the same time our economy will grow enormously. I have already mentioned the adverse result of tariff on the prices of oil seeds, cotton, rubber, and sugarcane. Tariff on imports of dairy products is not increased. Seven crores of people depending on dairy industry would be adversely affected by this and their future is under a question mark. It is imperative for the Government of India to ensure the survival of agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy and allied sections by drastically revising the tariff on imports. If not, the entire economy of our country will collapse and crores of people would be thrown out of employment.

Finally, I want to make a few suggestions for the improvement of the farming community in our country. Firstly, in order to mitigate the drought problems in the States, National Calamity Fund should be doubled. Secondly, as there is huge international market for organic products, India would have to develop organic culture. Thirdly, because of widespread and unprecedented drought, more funds may be allotted to drought affected States. Fourthly, seed production at the level of village should be encouraged. As there is high level corruption in agencies of the public sector undertakings which supply seeds to the farmers, they should be closed. Early completion of pending irrigation projects should be ensured and there should be an active plan drawn for them.

Last but not the least, the Government has to accord recognition to agriculture as an industry and allow the farmers to determine and control the prices of their produce.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the normal practice in the House is, in discussions under Rule 193 and Rule 184, the mover of the Motion takes the floor first, the party ruling the country gets the second place and immediately after that, the principal Opposition gets the floor. In the case of the other Motions, it is the Opposition which gets the floor first. If this practice is once established that one has to catch the train or the flight, and if that is accepted, then the official procedure of the Opposition getting priority will be totally established for a while. While upholding the views of the Speaker and the Chair which we never question, I think it will create a precedent. Tomorrow, I may bring a list of some Members from my side saying that they would have to go and catch their train or flight and you have to manage. How can the House be conducted like this? This is not the proper way.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before you arrived here, in the beginning itself, the hon. Speaker had mentioned names of three Members. These Members had approached the Speaker himself and he has written it here.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am not questioning it. Those who express their concern for the farmers and drought should also have the patience to take part in the debate as long as it continues. If I express only my concern and say that I will have to catch my flight, then this is not the proper way. This is not the way in which the House should be conducted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I agree with you 100 per cent. Any Member who wants to take part in the debate

must have the patience also to sit and deliberate. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and other Ministers are also present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, do you not allow even the Chair to speak? Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): The Minister of Agriculture is sitting here, you raise your point. You do not have any matter to raise. The hon'ble Prime Minister is not sitting here to listen this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have come just now, we are feeling your presence.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I mentioned it in the beginning itself that this should not be taken as a precedent. We should proceed according to conventions.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is not an iota of doubt in it that several states in the country are reeling under drought at present. One way it should be termed as national calamity.

I would like to highlight before the House, the situation arising out of the drought in 925 divisions out of 1126 divisions 22 districts in Andhra Pradesh have been declared drought affected, 16 district in Chhattisgarh, 19 districts in Haryana, 12 district in Himachal Pradesh all 22 district in Jharkhand, 124 talukas of 24 districts in Karnataka 181 tehsils of 32 districts in Madhya Pradesh 33 districts out of 35 districts in Maharashtra, 283 blocks of 30 district in Orissa, all 17 district in Punjab all 32 district in Rajasthan and 19 district in Tamil Nadu have

to be declared as famine stricken. 70 districts in Uttar Pradesh, 13 districts in Uttaranchal, 3 districts of West Bengal and some parts of Gujarat are also in the grip of drought. However, I am very sorry to say that while discussing about Karnataka former Prime Minister Deve Gowdaji did not mention about Rajasthan which is severely affected by drought. I am of the opinion that he has a sympathy for the farmers and I welcome it but should have the concern for the interests of the farmers throughout the country.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Why should he speak? You have also spoken on Rajasthan. Have you ever spoken about Bihar? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: You think about yourself. The states in which the Central Government's team have been sent had submitted their demand for funds. Bhartiya Janta Party always keeps national interests in their mind, hence I consider it a duty to speak for the entire country and my state. State have submitted their demands for financial assistance to tackle the situation of famine. The centre is providing assistance quite generally and hon. Prime Minister, while replying the discussion on Motion of Thanks on PRESIDENT' Address, explicitly stated that the Union Government are not discriminating against any state and are trying is level best to sent the foodgrains to the people and also through Antyodya Scheme so as to ensure that no poor remain starved. Several things like the efforts being made to provide benefit to 1.5 crore families out of 6 crore living below poverty line have been mentioned.

The States have sought central assistance and this include the demand of Rs. 1210.90 crore by Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 880 crore by Chhattisgarh, Rs. 1895 crore by Haryana, Rs. 155 crore by Himachal Pradesh, 1467 crore by Jharkhand, Rs. 1562 crore by Karnataka, Rs. 790 crore by Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 1730 crore by Maharashtra, Rs. 871 crore by Orissa, Rs. 3529 crore by Punjab, Rs. 7519.76 crore by Rajasthan, Rs. 1545 crore by Tamilnadu, Rs. 401.81 crore by Uttranchal and Rs. 7539.79 crore by Uttar Pradesh. I mean to say that the states have sought disproportionate funds from the centres.

There are two funds with the centre namely CRF and NCCR. The Union Government are on demand of State Governments of the drought affected states, trying to allocate maximum funds from the Central Relief Fund and National Calamity Relief Fund in pursuance of the norms fixed by the various Finance Commissions including the Eleventh Finance Commission, constitutional provisions

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

and those set by various political parties. Despite I would like that both centre and the state act in a Synchronize manner and utilise their sources in a way so that the situation of calamity could be tackled.

The budget of India is known as the gamble of monsoon. If the monsoon is good then the budget would be good and it would bring prosperity in the country. If the monsoon fails then the situation of uncertainty and drought crops up and it persists for a long time in which crops are devastated. Consequently people look towards the Government for the employment and to act according to famine code by declaring the affected states as famine affected. All these things are well known to you and us.

In regard to Rajasthan, I would like to say that Rajasthan which is areawise largest state in the country and is educationally, and economically among the most backward states is reeling under severe famine at present. It has been affected by famine for the last five years. Last year the rainfall was 0.64 percent less than the average annual rainfall in Rajasthan. I am of the view that the rainfall in previous year was the lowest recorded in the last hundred years. Consequently 40,689 villages in 32 districts covering 239 tehsils and having population of 4 crore, 46 lakhs and 79 thousand besides the livestock population of 4 crore, 50 lakh, 95 thousands were affected by drought. We talk about humans, they should not die of hunger be protected and be provided employment and drinking water but the crores of speechless animals are dying of hunger and they do not have even a straw of fodder to eat and no water to drink. If the good monsoon take place next year by the grace of Lord Indra then there will be bumper crop in the fields and if it does not come about then the same situation would crop up and once the animals die farmer is left with nothing. A long time is elapsed in rearing of a young calf and thus he has to wait for years. As such there is a problem of livestock also.

I would also like to thank the Union Government. There is acute shortage of fodder in the state like Rajasthan. Union Government have exempted states of the freight charges and till 31st July fodder from the states, where it is available in abundance, can be transported to the states which are facing the problem of fodder. Similarly, drinking water can also be transported through oil tankers to the areas facing crisis of drinking water and efforts are being made in this direction as freight charge for the same has also been exempted. However I am very sorry to say that the Government of Rajasthan has failed to live up to its responsibility of transporting the goods to the respective panchayats once

it is unloaded at the stations of the concerned state. I am of the opinion that there is a need to manage it properly ...*(Interruptions)* I am the first person to speak from my party. I need your protection. Rajasthan is severely hit by famine. The crop in the country has been devastated completely due to this crisis in July, 2002. An estimated loss to the tune of Rs. 4414 crore has been suffered due to the devastation of the crops. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to have your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 8-9 Members of your party are to speak. You have already taken 12 minutes. Now you conclude.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Approximately 1 crore families depend on agriculture and animal husbandry. Employment be provided to the landless, marginal, small farmers and those living below the poverty lines. At the same time 78 lakh persons of the 1 crore families affected by famine are in dire need of employment as on date. If they do not get employment, it would be difficult for them to survive. If a Member of a family is given employment for 10 days a month, it will need an investment of Rs. 5348 crore. You can gauge from this. Well, stopwells (Babdiyan) handpumps, ponds have dried up and water level has gone down. Consequently one has to cover miles of distance to fetch drinking water. At some places arrangements are being made for drinking water through water tankers and at some other it is not. Union Government have been providing assistance quite generously in this regard but the State Government is unable to utilise the entire amount ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): It should be told as to how much funds were provided.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Funds provided for this purpose. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): It would also be told about funds ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can tell when your turn comes.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Unprecedented funds have been released. 40% of the total financial assistance provided to all the state of India has been allocated to Rajasthan alone. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Forty four per cent of total aid to all the States was provided to Rajasthan.

Under the special component of Rural Employment Scheme, 10 lakh metric tonnes of grain has been released for Rajasthan, which is highest in the country. It is through these funds that the relief and drought related work are being undertaken in Rajasthan. But the Government of Rajasthan has lifted only 8 lakh metric tonnes so far which has concerned the task force of the Union Government. There is a task force under the leadership of the hon. Deputy Prime Minister which includes the Agriculture Minister, the Rural Development Minister and the PDS Minister. The task force has resolved that not a single starvation death would be allowed to occur in Rajasthan. Although there have been about 20-25 starvation deaths among tribals of 12 districts of Rajasthan due to mismanagement of the Congress Government which the latter attributed to diseases. But those tribals fell sick as they were weak and they were weak as they did not have anything to eat. But they do not accept it. Through you, I would like to submit that the Union Government is concerned about it and wants to provide two bags of grains, that is, 10 quintals through the Sarpanch of each village, so that no one dies of hunger. Union Government are doing that. I would like to tell Shrimati Sonia Gandhi that country to her belief drought relief work in Congress ruled States is not going on properly. In the remote areas only party Members of the ruling party are being drafted for work while Members of other parties are denied work. I believe that such acts ought not to be committed in such a sensitive issue as drought.

Under the annual budget of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Rajasthan Governments was provided Rs. 328 crore which the State Government failed to utilise. Day before yesterday, in a reply given in Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan, it was said that Rs. 53 crore lapsed as the Government could not spend it. Such is the situation. Similarly, hon. Prime Minister provided Rs. 50 crore for cowsheds so that relief could be provided to cattle of Rajasthan who have found shelter in camps. In my opinion, Union Government are doing their work properly. I would like to appeal to my Congress friends to ensure that proper managements of famine, of water and of over all administration is done as three months of dry season still remains. April, May, June and July are the most important months. Hon. Agriculture Minister, Rural Development Minister and other Ministers of Government of India are present here. I would like to urge them not to leave the people of Rajasthan at the mercy of State Government but to provide them maximum assistance as a part of their duty. I would also like to request the State Government to express its gratitude to the Union Government for the liberal assistance it has

received. The State Government says that they have not received adequate assistance while here it is being said that State Government have not yet provided the account of the funds it has received. I would like to request the State Government to send the account without delay and the famine management there should be undertaken in such a way that crores of people there may get relief and the people there are able to face this dire natural calamity. With these words, I once again express my gratitude to you. Thank you.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): People from other states have been speaking while the State presidents of Congress party is listening to them silently ...(*Interruptions*). The management there is not good. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur): It is not that. I will reveal the truth in due course. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members should not speak without permission from the Chair.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is an irony that in each of the last four years, the House has discussed one or the other natural calamities such as drought, flood etc. In the discussion, we narrate our experience, the condition of the State and the problems and difficulties being faced by the farmers. We expect the Government to do it utmost for protecting people against natural calamities and to provide them assistance. In spite of all this, our experience in the last four years has been disappointing. I would not like to indulge in politics, but on the basis of facts and figures it can be provided that the way Government tackles farming problems and calamities is far from serious.

Seventy percent population of the country lives in villages and depends on agriculture and farming. Some of them are agriculturists and some are agricultural labourers. Various reports and surveys shows that large parts of our country are in the grip of famine for the last three years and during this year also. Almost 70 per cent of the territory of our country, consisting of parts of Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa etc. are under the grip of famine. Drinking water has disappeared from villages. Hand-pumps have dried, they no longer provide water. Rivers and tanks have dried up. There is scarcity of water both for the man and the beast, leave alone the crops. Kharif crop of the last and of this year has been ruined due to drought.

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

As per the average computed at the national scale, about 70 per cent Kharif crop has been damaged. About 50 per cent of the crop was not even sown. Whatever was sown, could not be harvested. Same thing is now happening with Rabi. Farmers are suffering.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been regularly raising through various means and rules, this issue and have urged upon the Government tackle the problem seriously by formulating a comprehensive contingency plan.

I would like to remind that the country had faced a severe famine in 1986-87. Though the area affected was less than that of the current year. In any case, drought conditions existed in several States. The then Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi had responded by cancelling his foreign visit and other important meetings and he formulated a comprehensive plan and he personally visited each of the drought affected area. He travelled thousands of kms. in Jeep and also walked on foot. He personally heard the difficulties faced by the villages and experienced their pain. He did not confine himself to Delhi and depend on the official report. On his return, after collecting all the information he called a meeting of the Chief Minister of the drought affected States, Agriculture Minister of the States and other officials. He started the work by launching a campaign for comprehensive policy. Funds were gathered from all possible sources including by saving and also from contingency funds and efforts were made on war footing to save the people from the drought crisis. The result was that even during the drought years 1986-87 and 1987-88, the agricultural production did not decline, but it increased by 3.5 per cent. It can be verified from the figures. Our agricultural production increased and a single person starved to death.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also had the same expectation from the hon. Prime Minister, but we understand that due to his state of health he cannot travel much. But he should have travelled to the extent possible. It would have provided impetus and sincerity to the programme and he could also have provided motivation to the officials and the representatives. Apart from the hon. Prime Minister, the young MPs of his party could have gone to assess the condition of villages. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the wild life is being lost, animals are migrating and there is no one to save them. Fishing industry has been ruined, tanks have dried up, where should the fishermen go? They have nothing to do. You can see the condition at the railway stations. Lakhs of people there could be seen trying to go to other States from their villages. They are driving away their cattle in

the forests and themselves are migrating to other States along with their kin in search of livelihood. Government have made no arrangement for them. I would come later to the implementation of whatever plans Government have formed for them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had expected the Government to from a comprehensive plan of calamity management. We had expected it to devote official machinery for the purpose. The services of experts could have been drafted, special fund could have been set up for providing aid to farmers and their families in drought affected areas, relief work could have been implemented. But none of these has been done.

Shri Rasa Singh Rawat was talking about Antyodaya Yojana. It may sound ridiculous, but for the benefit of the hon. Member I would like to inform him that Government have set a target of linking 50 lakh families with the Antyodaya Yojana for the current year.

A provision of Rs. 507 crore has been made for this. After assessing the figures, we may tell the share per family out of the total provision of Rs. 507 crore. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is Rs. 2.80 per day per family. Is this amount sufficient to satiate of hunger of entire family? it is nothing but a mere joke. This is a Government's stand however I do not want to go into the figures. There is one more example of such claims. I have work out the figures of the present year. We spent 51% of the total national income to interests on the loans.

16.00 hrs.

We are spending 26% of our income on defence, 14% on making payments of the salaries and 7% on pensions. It's total is 99% and the remaining 1% is spent on the projects worth sixty crores. Tall claims are made for other schemes also. The reality is that the Government lacks the funds required for the development and for disaster management. The main reason of it is that the Government lacks the will power and that is why such a situation is arising. The problem of drinking water is also there.

Besides, I would like to draw the attention towards one more issue. Meteorological Department provides us the information regarding the weather. Earlier this information used to be given quarterly. But now yearly, monthly fortnightly and even daily weather reports are broadcast. It helps the farmers and other people to make arrangements to protect themselves from the vagaries of nature. However, this system has been changed sometime

back which is not in the interest of the farmers. It is in the interest of traders. Government is very much concerned about the market fluctuations, price rise and market stabilization but has no concern for the 70% people living in rural areas. How they will make prior arrangements to save themselves from the natural calamities. I want to say that this policy should be reviewed otherwise its long term impact would not be good.

Sir, just now the situation of Rajasthan and other states has been mentioned here. The situation is serious in Madhya Pradesh too. Out of 43 district of this state, 24 districts are suffering from severe drought. As per the figures available to me, 56%, 75%, 52%, 64%, 77%, 86%, 77% and 82% rain was reported in Jabalpur, Dhindora, Mandla, Narsinhpur, Damoh, Panna, Teekamgarh and Chhattarpur which is in my Constituency respectively. I do not want to read the entire list but 190 Tehsils of 34 districts are severely affected by drought and famine. It is not the first year but consecutively for the last three years drought like situation is prevailing in Madhya Pradesh. We made every effort to meet the situation. A Central investigation team was sent by the Central Government to assess the situation there. Thereafter, we demanded Rs. 131.65 crores to organise relief works there.

16.04 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

A demand of Rs. 52.59 crores, Rs. 80.55 crore and Rs. 51 crore was also made to make drinking water arrangements in urban areas and in rural areas and for fishery respectively. This total amount is approximately Rs. 315 crore. Central team had also approved it but we have got only Rs. 95 crore for relief works and other arrangements. Rs. 36.90 crores had been approved from National Contingency Fund, however, the funds have not been received till now. We have demanded about 5 lakh Mt. Tonnes of wheat but we have got only 2-2 1/2 lakh Mt. Tonnes wheat in small instalments and that too at the time when the crisis have become more severe. This is the situation of giving assistance. The situation is same in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh wrote a letter to hon'ble Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister to provide 12.60 lakh Mt. Tonne rice and an assistance of Rs. 880 crore to tackle the drought situation in 2002. However, only 1.43 lakh Mt. Tonne rice and an assistance of Rs. 81.52 crore has been given till now which is even less than half. The situation is similar in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Will the issue

of drought be politicised? Is no discrimination being made on political basis? Discrimination is being made in providing assistance to the states where allied parties of NDA are in power and where Congress Party is in power like Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Punjab. How much rice was given to these drought affected are in comparison to the demand actually made? What amount of assistance was given by the CRF and NCF? Hon'ble Minister should reply in detail in this regard. It is a clear-cut allegation upon him that they are trying to score political mileage out of drought. It is really condemnable. Government should not indulge in such things.

I have mentioned about the seriousness of the drought situation. Two issues are being discussed simultaneously—drought and Farmer. Both the issues are contemporary to each other. Farmer is always affected by drought. It is often discussed as to who is the second grade citizen. I say that the farmer is second grade citizen in our country. Farmers are not treated fairly. Agriculture Section contributes approximately 32-33% in Gross Domestic Product and in economy. But what is the reason that agriculture production is falling down every year. It fell down in 2001-2002 and then in 2002-2003 also. The situation is same in the current year also and almost 13% reduction has been noticed. Wrong policies of the Government are responsible for it. The Government formulate the policies to promote commercialisation but no policies are framed to promote agriculture. It is the same country where wheat and foodgrains were to be imported from other countries during the decade of 60. At that time Shrimati Indira Gandhi implemented Green Revolution in each and every village. Banks were made nationalized and their network was extended to rural areas also. The use of modern technology was introduced in agriculture sector. Thereafter, a drastic change came in agriculture sector. Today, the situation is that we have surplus stock of foodgrains though it is unfortunate that the surplus stock of foodgrains in decaying.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the quantitative restrictions which were imposed earlier, have been removed and import duty on agriculture produce has been reduced. As a result of it import of cheap agriculture products was started in our country on a large scale. Consequently, our own agriculture products like coconut, supari, rubber, tea, Coffee, pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane, vegetables, fruits and milk products became costlier. The cheap imported agriculture products are available in market in large quantity. Though there is a provision in WTO to give protection to our

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

farmers but this Government is not taking any action in this regard. Vegetable oils are being imported and our oilseeds.

...(Interruptions)

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the agriculture is a state subject. However, the State where Congress Governments are in power.
...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. Chaturvedi ji, please continue. There is no need to give reply to it. Please speak at your turn. Do not interrupt now.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing it to go on record. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not take these words on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The thing will not go on record.

[English]

Whatever he has said should not go on record.

...(Interruptions)..*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me reply him.

MR. SPEAKER: Your reply too would not go on record when his speech will not go on record.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: It is the Union Government which will reduce the import duty. Similarly it is the Union Government which will formulate a policy. Here you talk about such things. I know how you have governed in the states in which your Government was in power I also know as to how your Government has fared

in Himachal Pradesh and its secret are very much open. Do not remain under any illusion, you party is going to face same electoral problems everywhere next time. Do not remain under any illusion. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Andhra Pradesh also have been included along Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER: Renukaji, the question does not relate to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: The Government have made absolutely no effort to improve irrigation facilities which is the most important component to boost agriculture production. It goes on to show that the farmers are becoming weaker due to the anti-farmer policy of the Government and they are forced to commit suicide and if this trend continues the contribution of Indian agriculture to Indian economy will be adversely affected and it would leave a serious adverse impact on Indian economy. I would like to warn the Government for it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would conclude after making a few suggestions. Through you, I would like to say to the hon. Minister that there is an imperative need to usher in an era of second generation green revolution by using the state of the art technology based on a uniform pattern throughout the country. If the Government use its entire resources and expertise and also put to use all the past experiences the agriculture sector can get a big boost in the country by initiating green revolution and the need of the hour is to maximise production.

My second suggestion is that the provision of WTO be used. The provisions for agriculture production be applied to ensure that the farmers are not adversely affected by the clauses of WTO regarding the imports of agro-products. There is a need to ensure full protection to agriculture. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I would just like to intervene for a moment if the hon. Member yields.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him now.

Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, you may please continue with your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very important point. We have fixed a procedure for providing MSP to the farmers and this is an old and faulty procedure. There is a need to change the procedure. The prices of all the agriculture inputs like diesel, tractor, labour, power, irrigation is increasing unabatedly while the price of agriculture produce are almost stagnant. Consequently, the difference between the cost of agriculture production and the decreasing market price of net agriculture produce has reached a point where the farmer has started to consider his agriculture endeavours as highly unproductive and unprofitable. The result is a severe crisis. Hence I am of the view that this procedure of determination of MSP of agro-products be changed. This method of price determination will have to be redefined to ensure that the farmers got a minimum profit of 15 to 20 percent for each produce. If we do not take this step we would be doing no good to agriculturists. We would be heading towards a serious crisis. I would like to warn in this regard.

There is a need to make the Crop Insurance Scheme more viable and to implement in a more concrete manner. The relief manual is also in vogue since 1928 and it has lost its utility. There is a need to redefine it in modern contexts. You are aware as how 'Anawari' is realised in village. This change would result in a completely different ambience in the village. That is why, I want that this relief manual changed and modified.

Lastly, I would like to say two more things at last. Firstly an organised scheme and policy be formulated for import of our agro products so that our farmers could get remunerative prices on them. It is extremely important.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to say something more.

MR. SPEAKER: You have said thrice that you will conclude but your speech does not end.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Your order has to be complied with and the time limit has also to be taken care of. I would like to say one more thing before I conclude. This is the national crisis and not confined to a particular state or party. There are several issues on which we can ply politics and contend with each other and it is not a cause of botheration if we fight on them. But we should not give political colouring to this matter at least and decide unanimously about the course of action to be taken and work honestly to reach out to our

aim and it is by doing so perhaps we would be acting in the interest of the country as well as the farmers. That is all I want to submit.

[English]

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (Burdwan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no hesitation to confess that I have heard with rapt attention the speeches of all hon. Members who have spoken but I am sorry that especially the speech of Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat was totally unconvincing in nature. He said, floods and droughts might occur in some parts of the country all the time because ours is a large country. For that reason, if there were no droughts or floods, probably we would not have had a discussion here I cannot understand how he can plead for the policy of the present Government like that because our farmers have to spend more and more for inputs, seeds, fertilisers, water, electricity and so on. But they sell their produce at a crushing price. How can one support the present Government's policy on agriculture? In our country, nearly 70 per cent of the total population earn their bread from agricultural activities, which consists of middle class peasants, share-croppers, small and marginal cultivators and agricultural labourers. Now what is their condition? In order to get good harvest they have to procure good seeds and pesticides, which are mainly controlled by the multinational companies. The public sector fertiliser units are being closed down just one after another and the price of fertiliser is continuously on the rise. The rural credit is in the hands of the private moneylenders due to the anti-people policy followed by this regime. The water and electricity charges are either doubled or tripled within a few years and the subsidies are going to be reduced every year. Overcoming so many obstacles, the farmers finally fail to sell their commodities or they fail to get the remunerative price of their produce. One of the reasons is the unrestricted import of agricultural products. That is the main reason. However, the actual reason, in my opinion, of the miseries of the rural people of India lies with the policy of imperialist globalisation. What did our parties, especially big bourgeois of parties, propagated a decade ago when globalisation started its journey? At that time it was said that the Indian peasant has so far always been looted in a closed-market. His agricultural produce has never got the remunerative price that it deserves. But, now, in the new era of free market, the agricultural produce of the Indian peasant can go straight to the market places of London, Paris or New York. In this open market he will receive prices that he had not seen even in his dreams. The age-old loot of the Indian peasants will now permanently come to an end. Such were the carrots

[Shri Nikhilananda Sar]

dangled before the peasants a few decades ago. But, now, all those carrots have disappeared. The present position is clearly enunciated by one of our great revolutionary leaders, Feodal Castro. He explained the farce of globalisation in a simple way. He said that globalisation is nothing but a conspiracy of the imperialist to turn our country into their private property. He described it as a new strategy of imperialism to impose its economic, political, cultural and military hegemony over the whole world and to carry out the unlimited loot and exploitation of the developing countries.

That was told by Fidel Castro. What we see today is that each and every word of his saying has proved right now. Some of the mechanisms for the new domination are privatisation of land water, common pastures and jungles. These are removed from community ownership to private corporate bodies's ownership. This has been taking place instead of land reforms. Even in the Approach Paper of the Tenth Plan, there is not a single line regarding land reforms. Instead of land reforms to suit the poor, as it has been done in West Bengal, many State Governments have amended the ceiling provision to enable the big business houses and multinational companies to purchase vast tracts of land. What do we see in Tamil Nadu? The Tamil Nadu Government has launched a scheme of handing over 50 lakh acres of Government wasteland to multinational companies instead of land reform, which has become very much successful.

In West Bengal, more than 70 per cent of peasants are poor or marginal peasants. There is not even one per cent of the total peasantry with above 10 acres of land. The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and some other States are also going to follow Tamil Nadu.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued a circular—it was discussed today—to evict all the tribals and non-tribals, treating them as encroachers. Though 1980 is stated to be the cut-off year for the encroachers, but the entire 10 million tribal people are going to be affected as most of them have no legal record even though they have been living in that place, occupying that land, for decades. That is the simple proposition.

Privatisation has entered into water sector also. The world forum under the World Bank has declared that water must be treated as one of the economic goods and consumers should be charged the full cost of providing water services. That has been provided. Already in our country, I am sorry to say, Chhattisgarh State is

the prime mover. They have already privatised river Shivanad. The Kerala Government has also approached MNCs for privatisation of Lake Periyar and Malampuzha.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Where did he get to know this from? *...(Interruptions)* He is misleading the House. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: No. I will be glad if it is not being done. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): Sir, this is a very unfortunate statement. *...(Interruptions)* It was a proposal during the period of LDF Government. It is not there now. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When you speak, you can refute his statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: India has opened its market to the foreign looters and, in turn, made the farming community face the highly subsidised products. Huge subsidy is provided in development countries. Japan provides 72.5 per cent subsidy; USA normally provides 29 per cent, but with additional subsidy, it goes up to 70 per cent; South Korea provides 61 per cent subsidy; China provides 34 per cent subsidy; Europe provides 37 per cent subsidy; and, India provides only three per cent subsidy. How can the Indian peasant ever hope to compete in such an unequal contest? Is it possible for the Indian farmer? Already, cheaper imports of skimmed milk powder, edible oil, sugar, tea, aeronauts, apples, coconuts, cotton, jute, silk, have started flooding the market. When sugarcane growers are facing problems to sell their products, when there is no shortage of sugar in the country, 20 lakh tonnes of sugar from Pakistan has been imported to increase the problems of sugarcane growers.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now, your time is over.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: When cotton growers are unable to sell their products, and they are committing suicides also, cotton has been imported to add to their miseries. We know that previously, cotton was exported from Maharashtra to run the Lancashire Mills, but that position is now completely reversed. NDA people often call 'Swadeshi'. What type of 'Swadeshi' is this? They should answer this. The BJP-led Central Government has removed all quantitative restrictions on import of

agricultural commodities, though it could be delayed up to 2004. They have done it much earlier. On the other hand, the Government is disbanding the PDS. The procurement price of wheat was increased by 85 per cent, and the price of rice was enhanced by 61 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, I call Kunwar Akhilesh Singh to speak. Before you speak, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister wants to make a statement regarding the firing by the Kerala Police.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: Sir, please give me two minutes more. This pricing system has added to the misery. The Central Government boasts of announcing so many good *yojanas*, such as *Antyodaya Yojana*. It is nothing but old wine in a new bottle; it is nothing but change of labels only. We know that 'GR' stands for 'Gratuitous Relief. *Antyodaya Yojana* is nothing but a 'GR'. 'Food for Work Programme' is also just like 'TR' which means 'Test Relief'. In this way, the people of the entire country, peasants of the entire country, have been deprived due to the wrong policies. If no radical changes are made, India will be a net importer of foodgrains within a few years. For that reason, I appeal to the Government to change for 'pro-poor' policy, to save the poor peasants, poor people, of the country.

16.33 hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF
HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL,
PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS—*Contd.*

(ii) **Police firing on Adivasis in Kerala on the
19th February, 2003**

[*English*]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, you will recall that on the 24th of February, Shri Suresh Kurup and other hon. Members of Parliament had raised the issue of police firing on Adivasis in Kerala. I had given an assurance that I would find out facts from the State Government and inform the House.

I have been informed by the State Government that on the 5th of January, 2003, around 500 activists of

Adivasi Gothra Sabha encroached into Amboothi and Thakarappadi areas of Muthunga Wildlife Sanctuary, Wayanad district. On the 15th of January, around 800 activists of an organisation called Adivasi Kshema Samithy encroached at around 15 places in Wayanad South and North Divisions. The district administration along with the Forest Department officers initiated discussions with the leaders of the tribal groups to contain the encroachment and to get the encroached forest land vacated peacefully. These efforts did not succeed.

The Member Secretary of the Central Empowered Committee constituted by the Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 202/1995 had written to the Chief Secretary on the 29th January, drawing attention to the complaint filed before the Committee by the Executive Director, Wildlife Trust of India and requiring details of action taken to remove the encroachment. The Chief Secretary had replied to the Committee that the steps for peaceful settlement of the issue were being taken. As the sanctuary forms part of a highly sensitive elephant habitat falling within the Nilgiri Biosphere, the removal of encroachment was necessary.

On 17th February, 2003, the Adivasi Gothra Maha Sabha (AGMS) detained three forest officers, ten watchers, and a few others as hostages. Immediately on getting information, senior forest officers along with the DIG of Police (Northern Region) Kozhikode, SP Wayanad, and the District Collector, Wayanad reached the site and the District Collector, Wayanad started negotiations with the AGMS leaders for the safe release of hostages. By around 2 p.m. on 18th February, 2003, the hostages were released by the AGMS.

After the release of hostages, it was decided to evict the encroachers on 19th February, 2003, with sufficient police force. On the morning of 19th February, 2003, the eviction procedure was started under the supervision of the DIG of Police (Northern Region) and SP Wayanad with the help of around 350 police personnel including women police constables. The field operation was entrusted to the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kalpatta and two other Deputy Superintendents of Police with around 250 police personnel, forest officials and four Executive Magistrates.

The police and forest force proceeded to Thakarappady (Kakkapadam) area. The Check Post erected by AGMS was demolished and the police entered the encroached area and made announcements in vernacular language through public address system requesting the encroachers to leave the area peacefully taking their belongings with them. After repeated

[Shri L.K. Advani]

announcements and appeal to AGMS; the police party proceeded forward as there was no response. The road was found blocked by cutting down trees and bamboo clumps. The obstacles were cleared by the forest party and the vacant huts demolished. When the police and forest forces moved further, the AGMS members took position with swords, bows and arrows, axes, knives, sickles, catapults, etc. They started attacking the eviction party. The police used tears to disperse the crowd and AGMS members used bows and arrows, axes, knives and swords for attacking the police. In the process two policemen were seriously injured. Many encroachers with knives, axes and other weapons were taken into custody by the police. It was found that one policeman was seriously wounded by the tribals and two persons (one, a forester and other a policeman were tied in the shed and were surrounded by the tribals who were threatening to kill them, if the police party advanced any further. During the rescue operation tribals attacked the hostages brutally and one of the hostages, a police constable succumbed to his injuries and the condition of the forester is very serious. One police constable was severely injured in the process. One tribal encroachers died and four other tribals were injured in the police firing that ensued.

It is reported that forty tribals and twenty policemen were also injured in the clashes. Besides them, eighteen persons that include Forest Guards and Watchers, etc., who were taken hostage by the encroachers on 17th and released the next day after torture, are receiving treatment for their injuries.

All the encroachments in the area have been evicted. The State Government is watching the situation closely.

The allegations that there have been more casualties than reported have been enquired into by the State Government but they have not come across any evidence of additional casualties. The Adivasi Resistance Movement had filed a petition before the National Human Rights Commission. The National Human Rights Commission had asked the State Government for a report. The State Government have submitted a report on the 10th of March and are awaiting further directions from the NHRC. The State Government have also informed that the hon. Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has visited the area.

The State Government have not initiated any magisterial or judicial inquiry. The State Government have informed that further course of action will be decided on receipt of directions/instructions from the NHRC on the report submitted by them.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Did the Central Government make an enquiry? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow anybody to ask questions on this.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may recall that when Advaniji was listening to the requests of the hon. Members from Kerala the other day, I had also got up and mentioned about the incidents of rape of women in West Bengal. ... *(Interruptions)*. I drew his attention to enquire and give a statement. Just now, he has made a statement on the incident that happened in Kerala. But he did not make any statement on the incidents that took place at Dhantala where women were gang-raped. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you can go ahead with your speech.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No debate is allowed after the hon. Minister has made his statement.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnanji, please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, everyday, these people are creating problems. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

On the request of the hon. Members, the hon. Home Minister has made a statement. He has made his position clear.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please listen to me.

Let there be a discipline in the House. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The position has been made clear by the hon. Minister and under the rules, after the

statement by the hon. Minister, no questions are allowed in our House. So, I am unable to allow you to ask for any clarification on this issue.

The statement has become a part of the proceedings. If you want to raise the discussion under any device, can do that when the Session starts again. I will not allow you to put questions to the hon. Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh, you can speak now.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, they want political mileage. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I may be permitted to speak....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER; Shri Radhakrishnan, you are taking the time of the hon. Member, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, who wants to speak on the discussion under Rule 193. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the women who were coming from a marriage party were gang-raped. ... (*Interruptions*). But there is no statement. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are taking the time of the other hon. Members.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I may be permitted to speak. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You know the rules very well. I am not going to permit you to ask questions to the hon. Minister. The political issues cannot be settled in this House. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Home Minister has made a statement.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record except the speech of Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

... (*Interruptions*)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have got no reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, your question is altogether a different question. They are asking for clarifications.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Two submissions had been made. One was from an hon. Member from Kerala and the other one was from myself, from West Bengal. One report has come from the hon. Home Minister, but the other report about the incident in West Bengal has not come. That is my worry. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I may also be given a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted any Member to speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, you have permitted him to speak. I may also be permitted. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you want to say something?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I want a clarification. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH; What clarification? What do you want?. ... (*Interruptions*) Every time you are disturbing. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister speak. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. I have not given you the permission to speak. The hon. Home Minister is here to reply. Let us hear him. He is on his legs.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would only respond to the issue just raised by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. It is in two cases where matters relating to States are there. On that, statements are made in the House, and if need be, allowed by the Speaker, even discussions are held. When the Speaker directs the

*Not recorded.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

Government or when the Government itself assures the House, the statement is made. In this particular case, I had myself assured the House that I would come back after making enquiries from the State Government. When this morning, you reminded me and the hon. Members reminded me, I said that before the House adjourns in the evening, I will come back. Therefore, I had made this statement now. In the case of other matters, I am aware that many hon. Members are agitated. If the House wants, I can get the information from them; and in that case, neither had I assured the House nor had I been instructed by the hon. Speaker; and so, there is no question of having two standards. I have the same standard for all, and that standard is this. In these matters, all that I can do is this. ... *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me.

In these matters, all that can be done is to get the information from the State Government and convey what the State Government has informed me. I cannot give all the details. We have a rule in this House which says that when a statement is made by a Minister, questions are not allowed. That is a technical part of it and on the basis of that, Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have asked them not to put questions.

Even in this particular case, on the substantive part of it also, I would not be able to give anything more than what I have given. Thank you. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh can start his speech.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, it is more than enough. The hon. Minister has made his position clear. Whatever information he was able to get from the State Government, he has already given. He said that he would not be in a position to give anything more than that. So, please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Friends, today is the last day of the first part of the Budget Session.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Chowdhary, do you want the Speaker to sit down? Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever allegation you want to make against the Government, you can make. But here, I have to conduct the business of the House properly. So, please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, though there was very short time, the Minister had collected the information and had given it to the House. The information has come to us. Thereafter, the Minister made it clear that it would not be possible for him to give any more information to the House because he cannot now contact the State Government and get the information.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, I have not permitted you to speak. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: To my mind, the issue is totally over; and I am not going to permit any hon. Member to ask any questions on this issue. I will permit only Kunwar Akhilesh Singh to make his speech on the issue of farmers. Only his speech will go on record and nothing else will go on record.

... *(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with Chair. Today is the last day of the first part of the Budget Session and farmers' issue which is an important one is being discussed. I do not think that you are interested in discussing the farmers' issue. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, if you have to go to Rajya Sabha, you may please go now.

... *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you can start your speech on farmers' issue now.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing is going on record. Please do not waste your time and the time of the House. Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)...*

16.50 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Situation arising out of drought and other problems being Faced by the Farmers in the Countr—Contd.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, UP): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on the situation arising as a result of drought and the problems related with foodgrains being faced by the farmers. Every year discussion, is held not once but many times in the House on the problems of farmers especially drought and flood. If we see the proceedings of 13th Lok Sabha, many a times the said issues have been discussed. But such discussions have no meaning. Problems of farmers and those of flood and drought are increasing fourfold day-by-day like the mouth of 'Sursa', the character in the epic Ramayana. I wonder how much the present Government are serious on these issue. Just now Hon. Deputy Prime Minister came to the House, whatsoever the reason must have been, but he should have remained present here at the time of discussion on such a grave issue and have listened to the pains of the people. It would have been a good gesture on his part had the Prime Minister been present here in person.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is your greatness that you have given permission under various rules to hold discussion on the problems of farmers. Farmers did not find concrete results. In the absence of a positive outcome these farmers have developed a feeling of discontentment towards the Parliamentary democracy in them. Despite 55 years of independence farmers have to depend on the nature for their agriculture. Every year, lakhs of acres of land is getting ruined due to drought and flood. Crops

of farmers worth millions of rupees are getting ruined, and this is a heavy blow to our parliamentary democratic system. These lacunae show the failure of our administrative system.

Just now many of my hon. Colleagues discussed the situation arising out of drought. It is not that only India is facing problems of drought. There are many countries in the world which do not have natural resources like us. We have rivers like Ganga and Brahmapurta as also huge glaciers and despite all such natural resources, if the farmer of our country is passing through the crisis of drought despite 55 years of our achieving independence, then our governments that ruled during this period are to be blamed for it. I do not want to hold any one government responsible for it. These things, at some place highlight the loop holes of our system. Had we chalked out long term policies to resolve these problems, we would not have, had to face them. We have the example of Irsael. Their biggest problem is of water. but today they have managed their resources in a way that they are now able to fulfil their requirements especially those of agriculture. India, even today is forced to depend on the nature for its agriculture.

Hon. Minister of Water Resources and also the Minister of Agriculture, are sitting here. In the recent past, a United Nations Report mentioned that the next war in the World would be on the issue of water. Water is such an important issue and it is the Government's incapability if they do not take it seriously. Water has not been, so far included in the concurrent List of the Constitution. I had made this request earlier too that the subject, water should be included in the concurrent list so that, the water disputes between one State and the other could be resolved.

Paddy grown by farmers is the worst drought affected crop 'Ghaagh' was a great scholar in the field of agriculture. He used to say—"Dhaan, Paan Aur Kera. Ye Teeno Paani ke Chera i.e., paddy, beetle nut and banana are completely dependent on water. And therefore, paddy is the crop which is worst affected as a result of drought. The Government while giving drought relief bonus of rupees 20 per quintal as compared to the last year, have fixed minimum support price of paddy at 550 rupees per quintal. One thing is also being discussed as told by my colleague Shri Chaturvedi that the criteria, process of fixing the support price should also be revised. I would certainly say that the prices of agricultural products should be fixed on the basis of Price index, only then the farmers would get relief. Just now my colleagues had raised the issue of Paddy. Minimum support Price of paddy has been proposed to be fixed at rupees 550 per quintal

*Not recorded.

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

which includes rupees 20 per quintal for drought relief purposes. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that he may kindly get a survey conducted in Uttar Pradesh. Paddy in Uttar Pradesh has been procured through middlemen. Paddy has been sold at the rate of 400, 425 or 430 rupees per quintal and farmers of Bihar are facing the same situation. Even the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana are facing the same situation. If the Government save the farmers from middlemen and provide them the minimum support price fixed by the government then only farmer's problem can be lessened. Even the amount of rupees 20 provided in the name of drought relief, has also been grabbed, such persons deserve to be addressed as penny-pinchers. If the government do not take any action against the Commission agents, middlemen, as also oppressors would be encouraged, the farmers would get more and more discouraged. The Government, should therefore hold serious discussion on the issue relating to paddy. I have gone through the statement given by the hon. Minister in the newspapers in which he has said the Uttar Pradesh Government have misused the funds released to them for drought relief purposes.

Hon. Minister speaks different language when he goes to Meerut, Bulandshahar or Gaziabad and speaks a different language when he is in the House. He should make it clear whether what he said amongst the common people in the aforesaid towns was true, or the statement he has made here in the House today is true. He may kindly tell whether relief funds have been mis-used or utilized in Uttar Pradesh.

Even the Rabi crop has been badly affected by severe drought. I had asked a question from the hon. Minister of Agriculture in the Question Hour with regard to the Rabi crop that why has the oilseed crop got ruined or badly affected? He had replied that this happened due to drought. 25 to 30 percent of the oilseed crop has decreased. He had given figures of the last three years in the same reply. He has revealed in it that the production of oilseed is continuously decreasing in Uttar Pradesh since the last two years. And the 25 percent decrease as shown in the record is different, production has decreased in the last two years. He should tell the reasons behind this in the House.

Today the reason behind the decreasing level of underground water is also the increasing density of population of our country. Excessive use of underground water is causing decrease in the water level. We are exploiting the underground water too much, and the rain water is going waste. We should exploit rain water in a

scientific manner and raise the level of underground water. If we do not adopt proper scientific method to raise the ground water level, then those states viz. Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and Bengal which presently do not suffer from scarcity of water, would face the same problems as that of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. The Government should make serious deliberations in this regard and chalk out a concrete action plan.

It has just been stated that it is the responsibility of the State Governments to resolve problems of farmers and combat drought. A big part of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar gets affected by the rivers from Nepal causing flood.

17.00 hrs.

We have been hearing it for the last three years and not one year, since when Dr. C.P. Thakur was Minister of Water Resources and now Shri Arjun Sethi is at the helm of affairs, that a joint Indo-Nepal Working Group has been constituted. This joint working group will study the nature of rivers of India and Nepal and will coordinate between both the Governments and would take concrete steps to prevent floods. Members of Parliament from Bihar are present in the House though I represent eastern Uttar Pradesh. My constituency is on Indo-Nepal border. I had spoken to concerned Minister in Nepal. But so far this working group has not taken any initiative. I do not know if any initiative has been taken on paper. Physically no initiative has been taken. My submission is that assurance given in the House should be fulfilled. If assurance given in the House are not fulfilled, the Government would definitely have to face resentment of farmers.

Sir, the farmers are facing drought. Hon. Minister of Agriculture is a respectable leader and son of late Choudhary Charan Singhji and hon. Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Om Prakash Chautala and Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav have been followers of Charan Singhji. Last year, sugarcane growers in U.P., which is largest state in the country, got enhanced support price of Rs. 100 from Rs. 95 through his efforts. Farmers in neighbouring State of Haryana have received support price of Rs. 110-115 per quintal. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): They have received Rs. 54 per quintal in Maharashtra.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It is highly unfortunate and condemnable if they have received Rs. 54 per quintal in Maharashtra. He may check up the records. Shri Mulayam Singhji was the Chief Minister in Uttar Pradesh

when farmers in U.P. were given Rs. two per quintal more than Haryana. Today, as Bhartiya Janata Party backed Government is ruling in Uttar Pradesh, after hon. Prime Minister's intervention it was decided to hike MSP by five rupees, i.e. from Rs. 82.50 to Rs. 85 per quintal, whereas last year support price of Rs. 95-100 was paid. I would like to know the justification behind paying MSP of Rs. 82.50 to 85 this year in comparison to last year's MSP of Rs. 95-100, whereas the farmers faced ire of drought and price rise. When the farmers protested at Munderva demanding support price of Rs. 95-100, the State and Central Government connived with mill owners and crossed the limits of shamelessness while opening firing at farmers. Three farmers, not one, fell prey to bullets in this incident. When reply of State Government was read out in this very House and no action was taken against the State Government. As per the State Government one person was killed in the firing. Same day, I had telephoned him and told that three and not one, farmers have been killed. Postmortem of all the three farmers was conducted at Basti district. The information provided by the State Government was laid in the House and that too concerning the issue relating to farmers. If the Central Government takes no action against the State Government, it will keep exploiting farmers. Therefore, I urge the Central Government to direct State Governments to make proper use of drought relief funds provided to them by the Central Government. Anyone may visit any part of Uttar Pradesh, he would find that nowhere canal conservancy work is being carried out. Not to speak of it, even water is not available at their head. Power is not supplied to the tubewells and if power is not supplied, how farmers will get water for irrigation. If dams are not repaired or constructed how farmers will get rid of problem of flood. The hon. Minister should pay attention towards these issues.

Sir, discrimination is done in Uttar Pradesh on the basis of districts. Itawah is hon. Mulayam Singh's home district and water is not available in all the canals there and the State and Central Government are not making efforts for providing water. Canal conservancy work is not being done. Discrimination is made in the name of drought relief. If inquiry is conducted regarding use of funds provided for drought-relief works by the Central Government, I challenge that not even 50 per cent funds are used properly. Therefore, the Government should ensure that such funds are not diverted. I am not blaming any particular State Government. If we do not make proper use of funds provided for this propose we will fail to achieve target.

Uttar Pradesh is the largest State in the country. Sugarcane growers should get MSP of Rs. 95-100 at

least. Rabi crop is about to reach markets. Therefore, the Government should make arrangements for procurement of wheat at MSP fixed by the Government and farmers should be prevented from being looted as has happened during paddy crop season. The Central Government should take action under powers entrusted to it against the State Government who opened fire at farmers at Munderva and misled this House. The dependents of each farmer who died in police firing should be provided compensation of Rs. 20 lakh. Ajit Singhji, if this House remains a mute spectator over this incident, today the farmers in western U.P. are agitating, tomorrow the farmers in eastern U.P. will start agitation and then Madhya Pradesh and then farmers all over India would launch agitation. And if peasants throughout the country start agitation the chair of all the Members will be in danger. Please do not neglect agriculture sector, which as per the Government's record contributes 35 per cent of GDP. The challenges of WTO are hovering over us. We will have to cut agriculture cost, increase production and bring successive improvement in quality if we want to face these challenges.

When we look at Budget, we clearly find that agriculture sector has been neglected totally. Hon. Minister of Finance has just said that the Government have tried to strengthen agriculture sector. He said that do not spread hatred in the name of Urea. I would have accepted his claim if he would have made provision of special fund for irrigation and for tackling drought. Otherwise, he definitely says something and does something else. I have realised that this Government gives priority to capitalists and MNCs. Efforts should once again be made to free the country from clutches of MNCs and foreign powers by giving priority to agriculture. Countries like America, Europe, Japan are open heatedly providing aid to their farmers. Our Government should also provide help in the same way.

[English]

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (Chimur): Sir, I want to lay my written speech on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to lay your speech on the Table? Okay.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): I want to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak when your turn comes.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, several Members expressed their views during the debate. Many times discussion has been held on drought, flood and regarding farmers. But, today, the burning issue is what the Government are doing for farmers? Issues relating to agriculture are often taken up for discussion in the House. When we meet people and also the farmers everyone says that lengthy discussion took place in the House on agriculture and whether the Government have formed any scheme to mitigate our problems or only speeches would be delivered in the House. They are facing a number of problems. The Government formulate good schemes. The schemes of Government are for the farmers also. Farmers toil in fields in every season. However, during the formulation of the schemes, the Ministries do not consult anyone and nor are aware of the problems confronting the farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of Members have submitted that the Government have formulated a very good scheme of Agriculture Insurance. But I would like to know from the hon. Agriculture Minister whether the scheme has been made to benefit the farmers or the insurance companies. There are some villages with population of one or two thousand. When rains come and farmers take loans from banks, then installment of insurance is deducted at the time of giving loan itself. During drought or flood, some farmers such as those cultivating on mountains reap a good harvest. However, when the water flows down, then the farmers living downstream suffer damage of crops due to surging water. A few districts witness this thing and two-four tehsils suffer famine whereas other tehsils may be having good crops. But the rules you have laid down are so strict that farmers are unable to get any help. And sometimes, it so happens that the farmers are not able to repay the loans they have taken from banks.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Government, be it Central or State Government, really wants to help the farmers then it can definitely help the farmers. All of us know that Shri Manohar Joshi was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra in 1997 when the State witnessed famine. Farmers had sown their seeds, but due to failure of rainfall the seeds did not germinate and the farmers were ruined. But at that time, the Chief Minister said that the State Government is fully behind the farmers and there is no need to panic. I think that Maharashtra was the only State in India to do so. The seeds and fertilisers which the farmers had put in the fields got waste. If the Governments are really desirous of doing something for farmers then it can

emulate Maharashtra where the Government provided seeds, fertilisers and money to the farmers. Those who could not avail assistance during Kharif season were provided that during the Rabi season. These farmers were provided fertilisers and seeds and the farmers were once again able to plough their fields. Therefore, I would like to submit that policies should be formed keeping in view the interests of the farmers.

The issue of conferring the status of industry on agriculture has cropped up here a number of times. Agriculture should be conferred the status of industry if we want to pay proper attention to farmers. We give long speeches about how India is an agrarian country and 80 per cent of the population lives in villages and draws its livelihood through farming. In spite of all this from primary to high school and from high school to graduation or post graduation level knowledge of agriculture is never imparted. The children of farmers are taught everything except how to cultivate their fields. Our education policy is also faulty. If the children of the farmers were given proper education about agriculture, they would have wanted to contribute after passing out. If the Government had given proper attention to agriculture, things would not have come to such a pass.

At present, WTO is the single largest threat to agriculture. Agricultural products are imported in huge quantity due to the trade organisations. Last year, the Government did make some purchase of cotton in Maharashtra but the domestic cotton does not have market here because there is less import duty on imported cotton. We are linked to WTO, but it does not bar us from imposing higher import duties on agricultural products. If the import duty is raised to 25-50 per cent then the foreign cotton would cease to come and the domestic cotton would sell easily in the market. Same things holds true for Soyabean, oils and other agricultural products. China has imposed higher import duties on imported agricultural products to protect its indigenous agriculture products. Similarly, our country should also impose higher import duty on agricultural products.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards another important thing. We have lowered the rate of interest on loans. But rate of interest has not been lowered on the loans taken by the farmers for tractors or plough or ox. The rate of interest is still as high as 17-18 per cent. Even cooperative organisations and cooperative banks have not lowered the rate of interest. If the farmers are to be truly helped then the interest rate on loans for tractors, plough and other implements should be lowered. If the interest rate is

lowered to 2-3 per cent, the farmers would be benefited. For this Government would have to formulate a policy to have lower interest rates for loans taken for equipments to be used in agriculture. Such a policy would go a long way in mitigating the problems being faced by the farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the States are concerned about drought. Recently a huge meteorite fell in Maharashtra. The orange producing area in the vicinity of Nagpur called California, suffered heavy damage. The orange trees were burnt inexplicably. The farmers agitated and the Government there declared that they would provide assistance. But at the time of giving assistance the Government gave only Rs. 125 per tree and thus one farmer could get a maximum of Rs. 10,000. Fertile fields worth lakhs or rupees suffered extensive damage. Farmers used to earn lakhs of rupees from orchards of oranges of 2 acres of land but the Government provided only Rs. 10,000 even when orange trees in 2-4 hectare of land were ruined.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, assistance of only Rs. 8,000 or 10,000 has been provided and even that assistance has not reached the farmers because the banks have adjusted that amount against the loans taken by the farmers. The farmers made hullabaloo but nobody cared for them. Thus the problems of farmers could not be mitigated even by giving subsidy.

Sir, with regard to subsidy on fertiliser, we have seen that the subsidy which was given by the Union Government in the name of farmers was actually given to manufacturing companies. It did not reach the farmers. On the basis of forged documents, fertiliser companies showed production of 15000 metric tonnes in place of 1000 metric tonnes and thus received higher subsidies. But the farmers did not get any benefit.

Sir, we have such a huge official machinery, collector, SDO, BDO, tehsildar etc. who can directly provide subsidy to the farmers. If this is put to use then there will surely be improvement in the standard of living of the farmers.

Sir, farmers are not getting any benefit of crop insurance. We should give attention to it. The crop insurance should be done on the same lines as the LIC undertakes personal life insurance. If even one farmer suffers loss, then the farmers should be compensated under crop insurance scheme on the lines of life insurance. For this proper documents must be made and even if one farmer suffers loss, the same should be compensated.

Sir, the fact is that the farmers do not get the benefit of crop insurance. I have already mentioned in as a Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, but even then no improvement took place. When a farmer takes loan, it is definitely recovered but no assistance is given nor the insurance money is given in case of exigency. Therefore, it needs to be reconsidered.

Sir, farmers face a number of problems. A number of Members of this House have made submissions in this regard. I conclude by demanding amendments in the rules of crop insurance scheme. I thank you for giving me the time to express my views.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, I am giving you four minutes time to express your views, as only that much time remains for your party.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving Shri Ramji Lal Suman four minutes. He has made a special request. He is completing his speech in four minutes. Thereafter you will get the opportunity to speak. He wants to go early.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (Chimur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the rule 193, I rise to discuss the conditions that have arisen and the problems that are being faced by the farmers due to drought.

There are several reasons for the drought situation in the country which pose problems before the farmers. In my view one of the reasons for it is natural and the another reason is administrative. This is not a new discussion and it has been initiated earlier also. We know that farmers comprise 70 percent of the country's population and the entire country has to bear the impact of the financial constraint of the farmer. Agriculture is dependent on irrigation. We have never made enough budgetary allocations for irrigation so far. Accurate attention has not been paid towards the dams and irrigation. Agriculture sector was not provided as much facilities as provided to the industrial sector, that is why we are witnessing this crisis.

The NDA Government under the leadership of hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has made huge budgetary allocation for providing irrigation facilities and construction of new ponds and dams etc. keeping in view all the problems being faced by the farmers. Hence the Government has

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Namdeo Harbaji Diwathe]

ensured the distribution of wheat and rice throughout the drought affected regions of the country as a special component of Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana in 2003-03 and Maharashtra has been given 92460 tonnes of wheat and 23180 tonnes rice under the same. Government have also provided funds as calamity relief which includes 130 crore rupees to Maharashtra within two weeks. About 3 crore farmers are being benefited from the Kissan credit card scheme which is certainly praiseworthy.

I am of the opinion that if status of industry is provided to agriculture and maximum allocation is made for the irrigation, dams and canals etc., and the projects are implemented properly, the condition of the farmers can certainly improve.

Load Shedding is also responsible for creating problems for the farmers at several places. The input cost of farmers come to around Rs. 6500 per acre while the produce fetch Rs. 5000/-. Hence they suffer a loss of Rs. 15000/-per acre. Hence the MSP for paddy should be one thousand rupees per quintal.

Similarly 'Anewari' system has been going on since Britishers. The seven quintal produce of foodgrains in one acre is considered as hundred percent produce under this system. However due to high yield varieties presently 20-25 quintal paddy is provided in one acre. However merely 7 quintal produce constitute 35 per cent of the actual average produce but it is considered as cent percent and the farmers has to bear the loss and he does not get compensation. Hence I am of the view that this traditional system of Anewari be reviewed in present context so that the farmer may get some facility and relief in times of farmers and drought.

The agricultural produce is procured by marketing federations of the State at several places during the natural calamities or even in normal conditions. However as this produce is not procured on time, farmers have to sell it to the private dealers out of compulsion. Hence the MSP should be declared even while the crop is still in field i.e. in the months of July-August and the FCI should start its procurement in every block of each district in the months of October itself.

The premium of peak debt insurance is realised from the farmers and banks get the interest thereon but farmers do not get its benefit because not the crop of entire district is ruined. Hence I am of the opinion that the benefit of peak debt insurance should only be given in case of individual cases of loss and this scheme should be both voluntary and individualistic.

The recommendations of the Kelker Committee to impose agriculture tax is totally unjustified because the farmers has to face the problem of either natural calamity or administrative (Government) crisis every year. Hence income tax should not be imposed on the farmers.

Though farmer is experienced yet he lags behind due to lack of Knowledge to use modern technology. Hence the training centre be opened in every Taluka.

The loans worth billions of rupees due to industrialists have been waived of during the last 50 years. My suggestion is that the loans upto atleast 50 thousands rupees due to the small, medium and even big farmers be waived off to rescue the farmer meckdeep in debt. The amount of 75 thousand crore rupees is outstanding against the farmers. I am of the view that the waiving off the loans upto 50 thousand crore rupees in the Government and it would make the condition of the farmers better which would be beneficial for the entire industry or business of the country.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you. I had made this request to give me early turn to speak due to a special situation that arose. I would certainly try to stick to the time limit while speaking but I would request the Chair to excuse me if I exceed it.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it won't be excused.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing the situation of flood and drought and the main thing is that such a discussion on such a subject in the House always results in deadlock. The main cause of deadlock is the negligence on the part of Government to fulfill its obligation and duty in regard to the matters of utmost public importance.

Sir, a severe drought struck the country this time and it broke the records of the centuries but still, Government of India failed to give the desired assistance. Total budgetary outlay for this year is 4,38,795 crore rupees and the budgetary outlay for flood and irrigation is 2,03,400 crore rupees. The allocation for floods and irrigation for the year 2003-04 is 604 crore rupees which is only 0.14 percent of the total budgetary outlay. The allocation of Rs. 94 crore under this head for the year 1999-2000 was 0.20 percent of the year's total budgetary outlay. The Government did not pay the requisite attention to the irrigation and flood control head. Agriculture is the largest provider of employment for unskilled labour and the allocation for agriculture in the year 2003-04 is

Rs. 4542 crore which is 1.04 percent of total budgetary outlay. The allocation for agriculture in 1999-2000 was Rs. 4159 crore which was 1.39 percent of that year's total budgetary outlay. If we compare these figures then it becomes clear that the budgetary allocation for agriculture is decreasing instead of increasing. Government have extended 158 drought affected districts in the country as normal. There is a severe drought in approximately 107 districts of the country but most of the parts of the country are ruling under drought. The Government of India set up a task force which visited various regions and states of the country and submitted a report to the Government. I would like to make a brief mention of the report. The estimated state-wise losses suffered due to drought have been mentioned in the report. The Government of Uttar Pradesh demanded a sum of Rs. 7,539.79 crore from the Union Government but only Rs. 481 crore rupees were provided to it. The Uttaranchal Government has sought Rs. 401.81 crore but got Rs. 10.62 crore only. The Rajasthan Government has sought Rs. 7,519 crore but got Rs. 207 crore only. Actually, the Government do not have any criteria in this regard. Not even half of the amount of funds asked for by the State Governments were given to them by the Union Government. So far as natural calamities are concerned, it has been said that recovery of loans has been suspended, the hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here, he may get this statement enquired into. The farmers are still facing difficulties.

Sir, the Government have stated that they have directed the Reserve Bank of India and recovery of loan has been suspended and rural people would get loan at a lower rate of interest. ... (Interruptions) So far as the condition of rural areas is concerned, there were 33,264 banks in 1991, which has reduced to 3212. I have got the documents regarding financial assistance provided by the Uttar Pradesh Government. The Revenue Minister in Uttar Pradesh Government stated that Government got huge amount from the Union Government for each block after much persuasion. There is a provision to give about Rs. 30 lakh in each block. Rs. 24,74,927 was allocated in Shamshabad block of Agra. I have got receipts of this. The Government have given help of Rs. 151 per farmer in the name of drought. ... (Interruptions) The Marginal farmers having very less land are given one hundred fifty rupees. The farmer has to open an account of Rs. 500 for availing this facility. This is a serious issue. The present Government are making mockery of the situation in the name of drought.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge the Government to make efforts to tackle the menace of drought and thus help people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, I am allowing Shri Raghunath Jha and Shri A.K.S. Vijayan to lay their speeches on the Table of the House. You can lay your speeches on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are crores of people in 16 regions who are the victims of drought. People of these regions have not been freed from the menace of floods and drought in the last 9th Five Year Plan.

Even after 52 years of independence, our country has to depend upon monsoon. Had the Government, through some concrete schemes stored rain water through Tier wire system, check dams, ponds etc. In drought prone areas, people would have faced little problem and would also have started pisciculture.

The efforts of the Government to link rivers with each other is a very good step. Every year one or the other state of the country reels under the grip of drought. I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to direct the scientists to undertake research in drought prone areas and grow new crops there.

Eight districts of South Bihar, located in the southern side of river Ganga have continuously remained affected by drought. God knows why is the Central Government adopting a discriminatory attitude towards Bihar. I demand, that the centrally sponsored D.P.A.P. Programme may be implemented in the said eight districts. River Ganga causes erosion on both sides of the banks from Buxar to Farakka. Several villages submerged in the river due to this erosion and fertile land also gets sub merged into the river.

Around 10 lakh hectares of land is affected with water logging problem in Bihar. Around one and a half lakh hectare of toll area is affected from water logging which comprises Farakka area of Southern Patna to Sheikhpura, Lakhi Sarai, Suryagada and from Gangania to village Kaeel.

Around 9 lakh hectare of land in almost all districts of Northern Bihar is inundated. Bihar is most flood affected state of the country. The total geographical area of Bihar is 91 lakh hectare and about 65 lakh hectares of land is affected by floods every year, and the main reason

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

behind this is the Himalayan rivers flowing from Nepal to Bihar.

The Saran and Dharki embankments that were broken, have not been repaired till date. The Agriculture produce sale related infrastructure in Bihar is very weak, as a result of which farmers of Bihar do not get the support price as declared by the Government.

Before independence, sugarcane was grown in a vast area of Northern Bihar. Around 25 percent sugar of the entire area was produced here. Today, all the sugar mills of the sugar corporation are lying closed. Thousands of crores of rupees of the labourers are farmers are due. Labourers are on the verge of starvation.

One package should immediately be given for modernisation of sugar mills. The Shasamasa and Saddha Valia sugar mills in district Gopalganj of Bihar are giving just Rs. 65 per quintal to the farmers.

Mango, Banana, Lichi and Makhana are grown in abundance in Bihar. Crop Insurance Scheme may be implemented on Panchayat level effectively. Thousands, millions and billions of rupees were spent on flood control in all Five Year Plans.

[English]

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): On behalf of my party DMK, I would like to lay my speech in this discussion on the situation arising out of drought condition in the country. Let me put forth my views while participating in this discussion taken up under Rule number 193.

It has become a routine now and more or less an annual feature to have a discussion in this august House either on drought situation or flood havoc or disaster due to cyclone or earthquake. Drought situation has become a recurrent feature in one part or the other of the country every year. When are we going to evolve a long term strategy to overcome the natural disasters that combine one form or the other we must be careful. I am afraid we do not pay enough care and attention to attend to this problem. It is also apprehended that we ignore the plight of farmers who contribute entirely to our agro-economy.

Drought situation has hit hard the Cauvery Delta ayacuts due to monsoon failure. Particularly in Tamil Nadu we witnessed drought situation almost in entire Tamil Nadu due to monsoon failure. More particularly the

Couvery Delta districts have faced draught situation for a consecutive year this year. The unprecedented drought in Thanjavur region has resulted in the loss of lives, crops and properties. At least 20 people have died in Thanjavur area which is unheard of in the recent history. A seven year old boy called Prakash died due to hunger and poverty as a result of drought which may otherwise be dismissed as death due to malnutrition. "Even if a single man is to go without food let us put an end to the ways of the world" is what Maha Kavi Subramania Bharathi said:

Farmers all over the country in Tamil Nadu and especially in Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts are facing problems due to debt burden. Their agricultural income is not adequate to attend to the agricultural needs and to repay debts. They could not arrange even the marriage of their children. To help such farmers to carry on which their occupation and to continue with cultivation activities, the farmers must get not only waivers on interests but also loan waivers.

Drought conditions are driving agriculturists and agricultural labourers to their wits' end and take them to the precipice of death. In order to protect the lives of farmers and the lifeline of our agro economy, we must have to create a chain of job opportunities.

As far as the Southern part of the India is concerned especially that of Tamil Nadu, the Ganga-Cauvery project alone can bring about a desired solution in the long run. A way out is necessary to bring to an end the Cauvery river water sharing dispute. This is essential to save the traditional agricultural activities that are going on there from time immemorial.

Farming community would be greatly helped only when the agriculturists themselves are involved in the price fixation. As of now it is only middlemen and not the farmers who determine the price of foodgrains and agro products. In Tamil Nadu especially in Thanjavur region the rice granary of the South a mere 500 tonnes of paddy has been procured by the Government. I urge upon the Union Government to procure Paddy through FCI in a big way to buy from farmers at least 1500 tonnes more. This will help the farming community to escape the exploitative open market.

Water scarcity is such that both the irrigation and the drinking water supply are hit hard. Live stock face an acute problem due to the scarcity of fodder and water.

All these aspects have to be borne in mind to evolve a long term strategy to wipe out the tears of the Farming Community.

A feature that follows drought is the scarcity and a high rise in the price of seeds. Seeds should not be kept under the ambit of value added tax system. Seeds must get tax exemption, especially when they are traditional ones. When you want to bring agro products under tax regime, the taxation must be restricted to processed foods and should not go beyond. Seeds must be exempted from taxation.

We must not forget the fact that ours is agro-economy and consumer culture is still alien to us. Our taxation must be restricted to service sector that caters to consumerism.

We must still strive to provide free electricity to agricultural activities. I hope the proper management in plugging the power theft and transmission loss will help us to conserve power and provide them to the needy farmers who contribute to gross domestic production.

The Government must come forward to evolve suitable methods to free the farmers from the burden of lease arrears. A suitable mechanism should be evolved to waive these arrears that add up to the debt burden that crush the farmers. The Union Government should evolve suitable methods and set up a viable mechanism to determine remunerative prices for agricultural produce.

Rural employment schemes that come under various heads must aim at benefiting the agricultural labourers. In Tamil Nadu we find the nomination method to provide these job opportunities to the rural poor. I urge upon the Union Government to look into it and ensure proper distribution of these generated employment to all the needy people in the rural areas. This is necessary to help the weaker sections and strengthen the panchayati raj system.

In Tamil Nadu during the DMK rule under the stewardship of our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, the compensation and the pension schemes for the farm labourers were introduced. I am happy that the Union Government is trying to strengthen the insurance schemes for the poor especially the Health Insurance Scheme. More of agricultural labourers should be involved in the wasteland development programme. Even when it is to be corporatised, enough safeguard to have social security measures must be ensured. I urge upon the Union Government to take up Sethu-Samuthiram project

earnestly which can provide off-season job opportunity to the agricultural labourers and give a fillip to the agricultural activities in the hinter land. The garland canal scheme aimed at linking the once perennial rivers of the Southern India must be taken up vigorously. These are some of the long term measures to overcome the problems that arise out of drought conditions. The Union Government must ensure proper coordination both within the Cabinet and with the States to overcome these problems.

17.29 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRADAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would extend my thanks to you, all hon. Members of the House, hon. Leader of Opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji and also the Government for giving some formal statements. What was the outcome of frequent discussions held on famine? Today, we are again holding discussion, that too under such conditions and the Budget presented by the Government is totally anti-farmers. Government did not mention a single word with regard to drought in Budget. We expected something from the Finance Minister as he is the first Finance Minister from Rajasthan. We were hoping that he would atleast make a mention of Rajasthan in the context of drought.

But unfortunately, he paid his duty merely by mentioning allocation of Rs. 1000 crore for desert development with regard to famine. So to talk of drought, or famine-all is mere a formality, these things do not have any meaning and so through you, this entire House not only urge the Government but also mount pressure on it to rise from such situation and provide relief to those states, which do not have drinking water, or employment and where agricultural fields have got dried and farmers do not have anything to grow, where there is no greenery, animals and small birds are dying as also where human beings have to make requests for providing them food. Under such circumstances, if we do not put our points in the House, then where can we do so.

Whenever discussion on famine will be held, the year 1987 would also be discussed and so would the famine of 2002-2003. In 1987-88 the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi had made good assessments and understood the pain of the people by visiting the entire country and had witnessed their plight and had not believed the Government figures. Today, we are sorry to

[Shri Girija Vyas]

say that our hon. Prime Minister believes in such figures and gives statement on the basis of those figures. The facts and figures could be wrong. The rainfall has declined by 64 percent in the year 2002-2003 and this has happened after 100 years. My colleagues have mentioned here that the situation of 2002 is more worse than 1987. 4.48 crore people and 4.52 crore animals in 32 districts of Rajasthan are affected by drought.

We are mentioning about farmers, therefore I would like to say that during Kharif season in 2002 sowing has been undertaken in less than 50% area and during 2002-2003 Rabi crops has been sown in less than 52% area. There is decline in ground water level by 3 to 6 metre and our lakhs and ponds, which are main source of drinking water, all have dried up. Even in such circumstances, if the Government is not able to provide assistance then whom should we approach for redressal of our grievances.

It is necessary to provide employment to around one crore families, whose livelihood depends on agriculture and cattle-breeding. Out of them, 76.74 lakh people are landless agricultural labourers, what would happen to them? An amount of Rs. 5600 crore would be required for such people. Hon'ble Minister is present here, he has also mentioned this but no action has been taken in this regard. We had demanded Rs. 451 crore for protection of livestock but I would mention later on as to what amount we have got. The conditions of Rajasthan is even more serious than this because earlier we used to get many things from neighbouring states. Our livestock also used to migrate to neighbouring states, people also used to migrate in search of employment and the fodder was also easily available in those areas. But now since all areas except Punjab are reeling under famine, where should the people of Rajasthan go in search of employment and for fodder to feed their cattle?

I would like to mention about drinking water scheme because are from which I belong to and which is the western and southern part of Rajasthan is reeling under famine and facing acute shortage of water. Ground water level has gone below by 35 to 60 metre and the percentage decrease in ground water level has gone up from 76% to 87%. Earlier the number of safe blocks of ground water was 135 but now only 42 blocks are left. all major lakes and ponds have dried up. There is no water in the clusters of Rajasthan. We had demanded Rs. 518 crore rupees for implementation of drinking water contingency scheme but we have got only Rs. 12 crore. Hon'ble Rasa Singhji, You please note down this, I would like to make submission to you also. *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Please remember previous figures also.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rawatji, you are a senior member. How can you get up without the permission of the Chair. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Worst condition exists in my area. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How have you got up without the permission of Chair. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except Dr. Girija Vyas's speech, no one's speech will go into the records.

*...(Interruptions)**

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the question of Malnutrition and Health is related with famine. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Chief Whip, you ask your members to resume their seats. Your Members are also speaking.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: We asked some funds from the Government for this but I would like to draw the attention of the House that we have not got even a single penny from that. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You speak during your allotted time because right now what you are speaking is not being recorded.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rawatji, you have taken your time. Jaswantji, you speak during your allotted time. Now you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What you are saying is not being recorded.

...(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rajasthan is not getting full quota of foodgrains. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Girija Vyasji, what he is saying is not being recorded, therefore, you please continue your speech.

...(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: We have mentioned this to hon'ble Soniaji. We got 18.38 crore metric tonne foodgrains on the basis of letter of leader of opposition. ...(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I need your protection because the House has been misguided again and again. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jaswant Singhji, I am calling your name. You cooperate in keeping the House in order. This is not a good convention. You are not the only one in the House. You must keep in mind the dignity of the House.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I need your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Girija Vyasji, now you please speak.

...(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: While considering famine situation in Rajasthan, the state government of Rajasthan had already started relief work in the month of August. The State Government of Rajasthan has not received any other assistance except import subsidy worth rupees 11.66 crore for cowsheds and rupees 105.68 crore for farmers from the National Calamity Contingency Fund. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are rising every now and then. This is not proper.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, this is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the way. You please sit down. Dr. Girija Vyasji, since what he is saying is not being recorded,

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Yadav, this is not fair. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jaswant Singhji, why are you provoking hon'ble Member?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jaswant Singhji, you please sit down. You are speaking without the permission of Chair. This is not right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are interrupting despite being in the treasury benches. It is not a good practice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All are equal, be one is from ruling party or from opposition. Your behaviour is not conducive for conducting business of the House.

...(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: I would like to draw the attention of all the Members of Parliament towards this ...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you worrying, nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was decided on the basis of the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission and the Government have accepted that in addition to Calamity Fund, National Calamity Contingency Fund should be created. I would like to tell that as per Chapter Ninth, para 9, 12, 22 of the report of the 11th Finance Commission recommendations has been made to provide urgent aid to the States in the event of a natural calamity. Accepting the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission, the Government of India had created a National Calamity Contingency Fund. I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that though this scheme was implemented w.e.f. 15.12.2000 yet so far the Government have not initiated any process for creation of this centre. It reflects the intention of the Government as most of the States that are facing famine are ruled by the Congress or parties other than the NDA combine. I think, non-creation of NCCF and not providing them any relief is a great offence. ...(Interruptions).

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: The Government are providing relief as per the rules framed by the Eleventh Finance Commission. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: My charge is that though the scheme was implemented on 15.12.2000 but so far the Government of India has not opened this centre. Under National Calamity Contingency Fund States are to be provided relief as per their requirement. But the Government have done nothing so far. Our condition is quite serious. Despite this, Andhra Pradesh has been allocated 20 lakh metric tonne rice up to February, 2003 under Sampurna Gramin Rajgar Yojana whereas only 18.88 lakh tonne grains have been allocated to Rajasthan. Only Rs. 11.66 crore were given to Rajasthan for Goshala. Not a penny has been made available under the employment generation policy of the Government. The State Government have fully utilised the funds available under Calamity Relief Fund. So far, Rajasthan Government has spent Rs. 242 crore on famine relief work.

Hon. Prime Minister had made a mention of 1987. He said that the Government are providing three time more relief than that of 1987. My submission is that there

is a lot of difference if we look at price index of 1987 and that of the current year. If relief works to the level of 1987 are undertaken today, there would be a need of Rs. 4278 crore. If input subsidy is included in it then it works out to be Rs. 5237.87 crore. The daily wages being paid at that time ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Girijaji, please do not go into the figures.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Figures will have to quoted as the hon. Prime Minister has entwined us in figures. If we want to make a mention of it, I would surely like to quote some figures. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: There was demand of Rs. 207 crore and the Centre provided Rs. 707 crore. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You rise without the permission of the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: The Centre provided Rs. 133 crore ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Girijaji, please continue your speech. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Dr. Vyas says.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: ...(Interruptions). Today, 46990 villages are affected. That time the number of affected cattle was in lakhs but now it is 451.63 ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The list of speakers from your party is long, please leave sometime for them also. Conclude your speech now.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Since everyone makes a mention of 1987 I too had to mention it. There is a need of same type of arrangement as were made by Shri Rajiv Gandhi then. We were expecting same type of arrangements.

It is often asked how much relief we got? I would like him to note that 18.98 lakh metric tonne foodgrains have been allocated by the Central Government under

Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana Special Component. A mention of Rs. 50 crore was made for Goshala whereas we have received Rs. 11.36 crore only. The farmers have received Rs. 155.68 crore as input grants against a provision of Rs. 500 crore and 30 thousand metric tonne fodder has been received ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude now. About a dozen hon. Members of your party are to speak so take care of them also.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Two Members of my party have said that they would not make a speech.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Time of Members of my party too has been given to her.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Sir, the demand of Rs. 7519 crore is justified and I do not need to reiterate it as funds will be required for employment generation, providing drinking water, for fodder and for cattles. Often it is mentioned as to what the Government of Rajasthan is doing? I would like to sum up that we have not received even a pie from the Central Government for providing grants for employment. The State Government have spent Rs. 448 crore on it. In addition to it, work involving cost of Rs. 86,281 crore are under progress. Labour ceiling is still Rs. 17.64 lakh ...*(Interruptions)*. Who makes the provisions, Rajivji had also provided funds. ...*(Interruptions)* 4854 cattle centres and 4592 fodder centres also have been opened. The Government have provided Rs. 27,57,075, so far for Goshala. Similarly, 4289 water tankers have been provided. Work for boring of tubewells has started. The Government have spent Rs. 32,303 under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. But, most serious problem is how to provide employment to the people. In this connection, I would like to say about the project pending with the Central Government. Under the Chairmanship of hon. Prime Minister, a meeting of Task Force was held on 16.11.2000 wherein Rs. 207.68 crore were sanctioned for subsidy to framers, employment generation, protection of live-stock, drinking water in rural and urban areas, medicines and grants-in-aid. Not a single pie has been provided to Rajasthan under this Scheme. Therefore, I urge him to provide some funds to Rajasthan. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please request the Government.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Today, we are printing for employment. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: The State Government have announced in the Assembly that they are surrendering Rs. 53 crore as they could not spend it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Today, we are pinning for fodder and drinking water problem is equally serious. Under these circumstance the Government have presented anti-farmers Budget. Therefore, I oppose it. ...*(Interruptions)*. With these words I would like to say that the Government hardly means what it says. Discrimination against the states has compelled me to oppose the Government strongly in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bir Singh Mahato wants to lay his speech. You may say your speech.

[English]

*SHRI BIR SINGH MAHTO (Purulia): Sir, I would like to lay my speech on drought situation in country due to the paucity of time.

Sir, I am deeply concerned over the widespread drought situation in the country. It has affected 15 states in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, drought is an inevitable natural phenomenon which is not all together preventable. The current drought situation is very same in nature. All of us stand together to tackle it without politicising the issue.

Sir, every year on an average of 7000 Indians die in natural calamities and the lives of 80 million people are affected by it. India is a vast country. It has 85% of its area as disaster-prone area in some form of other. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has officially acknowledged that the current year has been first ever All India Drought year since 1987.

Sir, I am coming from west Bengal. The Govt. of West Bengal has declared drought in three districts i.e. Purulia, Bankura, Midnapore. Purulia is my district and is my constituency. The Govt. of India send central team in each state to assess the drought situation. But the Central Government has not sent any central team to West Bengal. Is it not step-motherly attitude that not a single

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Bir Singh Mahto]

paise has so far been sent to the Govt. of West Bengal for the drought affected people.

I would therefore, request the Central Government through you to come forward for assistance for the drought affected people of West Bengal. The Central Government should formulate the instrumentalities in the form like irrigation, watershed development programme, dry-land farming techniques, crop diversification, adaptation of varieties, drought resistance crops to mitigate the effects of drought.

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): I am grateful to Mr. Chairman for having given me an opportunity to speak. Predominantly, India is an agriculture country. Today, we are discussing the problems of peasantry. In addition, problems of flood, hail-storms, heavy rain fall are directly related to agriculture work. But I would like to underline here that we are not thinking about the farmers. Farmers should be categorised. They should be categorised as farmers with large holdings, farmers with medium holdings and farmers with small holdings. The number of small farmers is maximum in the country. They have no problem such as not getting remunerative price as they have no surplus stock of grains. Their problem is that they do not have enough foodgrains even for their survival. The produce of big and medium farmers reach the market. Today, we are discussing the problem of farmers. The farmers may or may not get water for irrigation, may or may not get fertilisers and power and subsidy. The greatest problem before them is that their crops are destroyed by hail-storms, resulting in negative yield, who would provide them relief? If yield is positive, as farmers got bumper tomato crop in Assam, farmers in Maharashtra got bumper crop on onion and cotton, still the farmers in both these States committed suicide. It so happened because of problem of plenty. They had large stocks of these crops and there was none to buy it. In the same way, the farmers of Punjab, which produces maximum wheat in Asia also committed suicide. I mean to say that farmers are committing suicide even if they have bumper crop or their crops are damaged. Therefore, a policy should be framed in this regard.

I would like to say that the Government should pay attention for making agriculture remunerative. Water, food and air are not only basic but a natural necessities of a man. A man needs nothing else to stay alive. We will

have to produce wheat even if wheat becomes dearer to gold. Therefore, the Government should provide security to farmers whose crops have been destroyed.

Crop Insurance Schemes has been implemented. But, if a farmer wants to claim insured amount he has to face bureaucratic and other hassles. He gets lost in fulfilling formalities and ultimately gets nothing. In addition to Indian Council for Agriculture Research, an Agriculture Commission should also be constituted so that the problems of farmers, their survival and human aspects should be taken care of.

We are discussing the problems of farmers of Uttar Pradesh. I too hail from the same State. When Shri Mulayam Singh was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, tens to sugar mills in Devaria and Ramkola had arrears of farmers. When the farmers approached sugarmill owners demanding their arrears, they had to face bullets. Shri Mulayam Singh connived with mill owners and the mills were closed down so that payment of arrears could be avoided.

Though we are discussing the problem of farmers, we should also pay attention towards education for their children and food for their families. It is wrong to say that drought or flood has created scarcity of foodgrains. I would like to say that it has happened because of mismanagement. Government's godowns are building with surplus grains and the Government should pay attention towards providing grains to drought or flood affected areas. Agri-production has increased in our country. There was a time when our population was just 35 crore, still people used to eat Goda Savan Kodo and Mahua in the event of famine as there used to be no grains. Today, we have surplus stock. Green revolution has provided plenty of foodgrains and we can provide food to every one despite we have a population of one billion. But either the foodgrains are spoilt by rats or gets rotten because of mismanagement which compels the people to commit suicide. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should frame a policy whereby foodgrains should be provided to those farmers in a systematic way who have no foodgrains. I would like to conclude with these words.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to participate in the discussion on the situation arose due to drought. The hon. Member from all the parties have expressed their concern on the drought condition. I, through you, would like to say that the discussion on flood and drought takes place in every

session. Hence it has become a matter of routine. Discussion is held and the facts are presented but no permanent solutions sought out for this problem.

55 years have passed since independence but the country still faces the problem of floods and drought. The hon. Finance Minister had stated in his budget speech that India has the largest area under irrigation in the world. He has compared India's area under irrigation with that of America and has claimed that India has the largest area under irrigation. I do not associate with what the hon. Minister has stated and would like to say that only 35 percent of the area in India is under irrigation and rest of the area comes under the area lacking in irrigation facilities.

India is an agriculture dominated country and agriculture contribute 35 percent of country's GDP. These are the official figures. The drought has hit 12-14 states. Several animals and people have died of starvation due to drought. The State Governments do not hold the news of starvation death correct but the people are dying of starvation. I hail from Bihar. Bihar has been facing the scourge of drought on one hand and floods on other.

Mr. Chairman Sir, you also hail from Bihar. I want to tell you that more than 700 persons have lost their lives due to floods in Bihar. Similarly, drought has also affected Bihar. Three children of Mohammed Ilyas of Sakara in district Muzzaffarnagar have died of starvation. Similarly, Sitaram of Rajkhand in Aurai Legilsative Assembly Constituency and Baiju Shah of Bajpatti in Sitamarhi district died of starvation. Administration said in regard to the death of these that they did not die of starvation, but the truth is that they have actually died of starvation. Through you, I would like to say that the name of llays of Sakora in Muzzffarnagar was included with the consent of all in Anatoydya Scheme but the neither received any red card nor did he get the ration in previous two years. Similarly, Sitaram of Rajkhand-Aurai in Muzzaffarnagar had red card but when we went to his house we saw that he did not get any ration under this ambitious scheme of targeted public distribution which was started when the hon. Chairman was heading the concerned Ministry. As the said person did not get any benefit from that scheme, he died of starvation. The Government declared to provide Rs. 10,000 and a House under the Indira Awas Yojana, but did not accept that he died of starvation. Similarly, Baiju Sah of Bajpatti in Sitamarhi district died. Not even a handful of grains was given to them under public distribution system.

18.00 hrs.

The drought and flood situation is quite severe. A long term project should be formulated to tackle this serious situation. We have read in the newspapers that the Government have constructed a committee on water harvesting under the Chairmanship of Shri Chandra Babu Naidu and another committee of experts to link Ganga and Cauvery under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu who is the Member of this House. It is a matter of happiness but the area of concern is that nothing was done in 55 years and now the demand is being raised from every quarter. The constitution of the committees to solve the problem of drought and floods is not enough.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is six o'clock. If the House Concurr the time of the House be extended till the hon. Member finishes speech.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I request that the time of the House be extended to complete the discussion on such an important subject of drought.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, my submission is, let the hon. Member, Shri Naval Kishore Rai, conclude his speech. You please allow him to continue after 6 o'clock. It is a normal procedure in the House. We also support it.

Secondly, since several Members from the Ruling Party, our party and from other parties wanted to speak on this very serious issue, I think, we can ensure justice to this debate, if you do not conclude this debate hurriedly for paucity of time. If you adjourn the House after his speech and if the Government has no objection, we can continue this debate in the next Session. Of course, it is according to the time fixed by the Business Advisory Committee. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is ready for it if the House is unanimous. The discussion on the subject could be resumed when the House reassembles after recess period.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission I lay my speech on drought on the Table of the House.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Sir, I was mentioning that two committees, i.e. one under the Chairmanship of Shri Chandra Babu Naidu and the other under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu have been constituted. I express my happiness at the proposal of linking Ganga and Cauvery, but, through you, I would like to express my concern that this arrangement could not be made during the 55 years and the severity of floods and drought has been increasing. Merely, the setting up of two committees is not satisfactory. No funds has been allocated for the said proposed projects in this year's budget. Unless the funds are provided for these subjects it is hard to believe that the problems could be solved. Hence, through you, I would like to request the Government to provide funds for these projects so that rivers could be connected with each other.

Sir, the hon. Minister of Food and Public Distribution and the hon. Minister of Agriculture are not present here. I hail from Bihar and you have also served as the Minister of Food & Public Distribution. Hon. Raghuvanshi is not present in the House and he has also served as Food Minister. The welfare schemes of the Government of India are Anatyodya Scheme, Food for Work Scheme, Annapurna Scheme, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana and the Targeted Public Distribution Scheme started by you. Therefore, if the House does not ensure the proper implementation of the schemes of the Ministry of Food and Public Distribution then their benefits will not percolate down to the masses. 55 years have passed since independence. The benefits of welfare schemes formulated by the Government have not reached to the villages. I hail from Bihar. Three children of Mohammad Ilyas of Sakara in district Muzzaffarnagar died of starvation. Similarly starvation of villages Rajkhand in Aurai Assembly Constituency and Baiju Shah of Bajpatti in Sitamarhi district also died of starvation. I visited these villages. We saw the red cards. The names of the said persons were missing in red cards. Anatyodya and Anapurna Schemes are not yielding desired results. I would like to cite figures that three and a half lakh tonnes of foodgrains is allocated in Bihar under this scheme but only 49 percent foodgrains are lifted. Remaining 61 percent lapses. The Government will have to pay attention to the situation of food in Bihar. Central Bihar is reeling under drought. In Bihar poor do not get justice. The people of Bihar migrate to Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Gujarat etc. in search of employment. Small farmers also work as labourers. The Government

should formulate a scheme to ensure that nobody dies of starvation. The Government claim that it would provide food security. The Government should ensure that grains allotted under the scheme should reach the villages. The Government should chalk out an effective programme to save people from onslaught of flood and drought.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, drought situation is quite critical as our hon. Members have discussed. I as well as you hail from northern Bihar. 18 districts in my state are flood affected. Akhileshji has left the House. Northern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam are getting destroyed because of constant spate of flood. Every year the situation is becoming more grave. As silt has reduced depth of rivers therefore they are unable to accommodate more water-causing flood in more area. The Government have no river conservancy plan, not to speak of its channels. Main rivers belong to Avdhara group. There are 13 rivers such as Avdhara group, Bagamati, Kamala Balan, Kosi, Gandak, Lal Bakia and other rivers connected to Ganga. These are not as deep as were 100 years ago. These are filled up with silt. And there is no arrangement for drainage of water. Same is the condition in Nepal I do not know what problem has come up in our water treaty with Nepal. Hon. Minister of Water Resources is sitting here. Every year more water is released from Nepal which destroys us causing worries for farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a farmers' agitation was held under your leadership. 55 years have elapsed since our independence. We are often told that talks between India and Nepal are going on, Experts Committee has been constituted and its office is about to be opened. But so far it has not been materialised. My submission is that Hon. Minister of Water Resources should prepare an action plan which should be implemented in a time bound manner. Whether the Government propose to increase depth of the rivers and construct dams so that permanent solution to floods in Bihar can be found out? Whether the Government want to solve this problem permanently or not? If so, give details of said programme and also by when it is likely to be done?

I am deeply concerned, be it implementing programmes of Ministry of Food, finding out permanent solution to the problem of flood, death of live stock, connecting basins of rivers, increasing depth of rivers for permanent solution of floods or making arrangements for irrigation. The provision of funds made by the Government in the Budget for irrigation and flood control, is insufficient.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the allocation of Rs. 604 crore is like a drop in the ocean. Unless the Government takes

a serious note of it and prepares a long term plan by pruning its expenses and tackles drought or flood permanently, merely discussion would be of no use.

Therefore, I conclude with a submission that the Government should prepare a time bound programme for permanent solution of drought and flood.

[*English*]

*SHRI P.S GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to express my views in the discussion regarding situation arising out of drought and other problems being faced by farmers in the country.

Sir, 13 districts of Gujarat are badly affected by drought, Kutch and Banaskantha are facing third consequent drought.

Sir, as you know that Kutch has faced more than 34 droughts in the last 52 years are faced two worst cyclones. In 1998 calamity, we had lost 3000 precious human lives, and more than 3 lakh fruit bearing trees.

In second cyclone of 1999, more then 50000 cattle including cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, camels etc. died and lastly in 2001 world' worst devastative earthquake caused damage to moveable and immovable properties worth 20,000 crores and lost more than 18000 precious human lives only in Kutch district.

Sir, this year our nation is facing century's worst drought and as per one study this drought would cost more than Rs. 1000 crore. More than 16 states have been affected by the drought.

In Gujarat also more than 13 districts are affected by the drought. However, Sir, these 13 districts of Gujarat have not been included in the list of States and areas declared to get special reliefs from Centre.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister announced in Parliament that interest on Kharif loans taken by farmers in 14 drought affected states would be waived for a year. Sir, Gujarat State was not included in the list for getting benefit as per the announcement of Hon. Prime Minister. But Sir, I thank hon. Prime Minister and hon. Agriculture Minister for sending experts team to survey the grave situation in these 13 drought affected districts of Gujarat.

I urged the hon. Finance Minister to declare the benefits as announced by the hon. Minister to be extended to these 13 districts of Gujarat.

Sir, I would like to invite attention of hon. Agriculture Minister to reply given by him on S.Q. 62 in Rajya Sabha on 21.02.03 in which he had stated that considerable area had remained unsound even in Rabi, due to lingering effects of drought in many states including the state of Gujarat.

He had further stated that for area which were sown- however the State Governments had made adequate arrangements, to provide irrigation and other inputs including supply of electricity for operation of pumps and tube-wells. No serious damage to such crops, is therefore, apprehended during the "summer Month" Unless there are large scale diversions of water for irrigation, for drinking water purposes.

Sir, in this respect I would like to submit that particularly in my constituency ground water level has gone down to more than 300 to 400 feet deep and there is acute shortage of electricity. Farmers from my constituency have lost completely there sown crops and thus they have been ruined very heavily.

Sir, in the said S.Q. No. 62 in R.S. on 21.02.03 the hon. Agriculture Minister has made mention of some Schemes of the Central Government which seeks to bring eco-systemic improvements and water conservation as measures to deal with droughts on long term basis.

Sir, I would like to request through you Sir, the hon. Agriculture Minister to exercise his good office and see that my constituency and other drought affected districts of Gujarat could get benefit of these schemes. Sir, I request, through you, the hon. Agriculture Minister to exercise his good office and please see that Kutch district should get at least 200 watershed projects under (NWDPR) and other projects under DPAP-DDP, IWPD etc.

Sir, through you I would like to request hon'ble Agriculture Minister to exercise his good office and see the Narmada Project is declared as a national project, because this project is the only hope for continuously drought affected areas of North Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch (Gujarat).

Sir, this year due to failure of oil-seed crops particularly groundnut, til, soyabean etc. prices of edible oil have gone so high that edible oil has become beyond reach of poor persons and persons living B.P.L.

I request, through you, the Agriculture Minister to exercise his good office to permit the Govt. of Gujarat to

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

import Palmolein oil for distribution to B.P.L. families and poor persons, without custom duty.

Sir, the hon'ble Agriculture Minister should see that special package relief be given to 13 drought affected districts of Gujarat from National Calamity Contingency Fund.

Sir, I shall be obliged to the Govt. of India if special package be given for establishing a 'Grass-Bank' in Kutch district for the reasons that Kutch district is having more than 4 lakh population of very good original "Kankerj" and "Simdh" breeds. Sir these breeds require to be preserved.

Moreover in Kutch we are having more than 5 to 6 lakh population of sheep and goats and also a large number of other cattles including camels, donkeys etc. Sir, due to acute shortage of grass, which is being imported from areas at the distance of more than 700 to 800 Kms., large number of cattles died, and condition of cattle breeders in my constituency have become much miserable and they are facing starvation situation.

Sir, special package to help cattles in drought affected areas requires to be provided as early as possible. Sir, in my constituency more than 35000 poor labourers who are working in salt producing units are facing man made calamity. Sir, why I say so is because all these labourers are not in position to get any job from agricultural activities.

Sir, in Gujarat salt producing units are in a way doing activities of farming with saline water.

Sir, due to unbearable 135% hike in Railway freight on edible salt in Railway Budget of 2002-2003, all salt producing units in Gujarat are on the verge of closure and more than 35000 families are facing loss of their jobs and large number of these labourers have already lost their jobs and facing starvation.

Sir, I request, through you, the hon'ble Agriculture Minister to exercise his good office and see that this unbearable 135% hike in railway freight on edible salt be reviewed and this freight be brought back as it was prevailing prior to railway budget 2002-2003.

Sir, I also request the hon'ble Agriculture Minister to exercise his good office and see that unedible wheat lying at Kandla in F.C.I. godowns be given to Gujarat for cattle feed as it is being given to Rajasthan and other drought affected areas.

Sir, I request the hon'ble Agriculture Minister to see that increase in premium rates on cotton crop insurance and on other crops be reviewed and it be reduced so that drought affected farmers can afford such premium.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj): Sir, I am very glad to take part in discussion on drought under Rule 193. I know that farmers contribute a lot to our economy. Farmers feed entire population of our country. 70 percent people in our country depend on agriculture. But, it is so painful that the farmer is facing problem from every quarter, be it flood, drought or hail storms.

Sir, though 55 years have elapsed since our independence so the condition of farmers is not good. Many Government have come to power, but everyone tried to cheat them and none provided them the relief indeed.

I would like to congratulate the present Government under the leadership of hon. Vajpayeeji which has provided relief to the farmers, be it in the form of Kisan Credit Card or Crop Insurance Scheme.

Sir, I remember the farmer used to work very hard but fury of flood or drought or hail storms used to break its back bone. The Government used to provide only Rs. 500 per acre as compensation which was not even enough to compensate the amount spent on purchase of fertilizers. Not only this, some times prices of fertilizer were increased, sometime of diesel or irrigation charges.

Sir, but this Government have provided relief to the farmers in the form of credit cards. Farmers felt the need of fertilizer or diesel. The farmer used to sell its produce at throw away price and was compelled to take loan from money lenders. Now credit card has made his task easy. A farmer holding Kisan Credit Card with 2½ acre land will be able to take a loan up to Rs. 25,000 and with 10 acre land loan upto one lakh rupee.

Present Government have also provided relief in the form of Crop Insurance Scheme. A premium of Rs. 3000 will be required to be deposited and in the event of natural calamity such as flood, drought or hail storms an amount of Rs. 1 lakh will be provided to the farmers.

Sir, the Government have done a good job by not increasing the price of fertilizers. Simultaneously, provision for providing loan to farmers at a concessional rate of 2-3 percent is praise worthy.

As far as Crop Insurance Scheme is concerned, I would like to urge the Government to decide the area on the basis of Gram Panchayat and not on block basis so that farmers can avail benefit of crop insurance.

Sir, I urge the Government to prepare a special action plan for linking of rivers so that farmers can get a sigh of relief from flood and drought and ensure supply of adequate power, water and diesel at cheap rates and to provide remunerative price for their produce.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the house agrees.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, allow me that the report on Orissa. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion on the issue will be held after break of this session. You may lay your speech if you want.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I want to make a submission. I may be allowed to lay two reports on the table. One is the Human Rights Commission's Report on KBK Region in Orissa. I would like to lay this on the Table. I would also like to lay the Memorandum, it is a Report on the drought situation in Orissa, which the State Government has given to the Central Government. I want to lay these two Reports on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): What precedents are we setting up? What are we doing? Sir, kindly listen to me for a moment. We are in the midst of a debate on a particular subject.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may lay your speech if you want.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: These are authenticated Reports.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: How the report will be laid without being seen and authenticated by the Chairman? Only speech can be laid on the Table of the House. Report

can be laid only after contacting hon. Speaker. You may lay your speech. All hon. Members, who want to lay their speech, may do so.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He is laying something else. Sir, I am on a point of order.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Normally, with the permission of the Chair, speeches can be laid on the Table of the House. If a Member wants to present or lay a particular report on the Table, first, it has to be communicated to the hon. Speaker. After authentication, if the Speaker gives the consent, then only it can be laid. He is not laying his speech; he is laying two Reports.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am allowing only a part of his speech to be laid on the Table and not any reports.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I am authenticating these Reports.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your report will be returned to you after its authentication.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In what context?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: In the context of drought and farmers' problems.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may lay your speech if you want. In addition, any Member, who wants to lay, may do so. Discussion on it will continue in the next session. Whosoever Members want to lay their speeches, may do so at the earliest. Ramshakalji, do you want to lay your speech?

*As the Speaker subsequently did not accord the necessary permission, the papers were not treated as laid on the Table.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Sir, we should either continue or adjourn till the next sitting. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale, I am not allowing you to speak. Why are you standing up like this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I will continue my speech in the next Session. It is inconclusive. This is only part of my speech, and my speech is inconclusive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it will not be possible. Shri Dasmunsi, I am giving my ruling.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let him lay his speech. He should either lay his speech on the Table or he should begin his speech in the next Session. We do not mind that.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I am speaking, and there are instances where the speeches have been inconclusive.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, we do not agree with you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, on this subject, you will not be allowed to speak in the next Session.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: This discussion relates to 70 per cent of our population living in the rural areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is not your speech, it will not be treated as laid.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: That is a part of my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If that is your speech, you will not get a chance next time.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I come from the KBK region. The Human Rights Commission has made a finding.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Deo Saheb, You are a senior Member.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I am a new Member. There was an allegation of hunger and migration from my state. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you have laid I will not allow to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record now.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bhavanaji, please convince your Member. Treasury Bench should control its Member.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ramdas ji please sit down. Hon. Member Kailasho Devi too had urged but it is all the same for every one. You may raise your point when next session starts.

Now the House adjourns till Eleven of the clock on Monday, April 7, 2003/Chaitra 17, 1925 (Saka)

18.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 7, 2003/Chaitra 17, 1925 (Saka).

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