

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Third Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. VI contains Nos. 11 to 17)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 16, 2004/Agrahayana 25, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

**Re: Early Adjournment due to non-functioning of Lok Sabha on 15.12.2004**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at the request of the respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the hon. Leader of the Opposition, but reluctantly with great sorrow, I had to adjourn the House yesterday soon after the Luncheon recess.

Since my assumption of this office, I have tried humbly to the best of my ability to discharge my onerous duties. I have been earnestly requesting the hon. Leaders of all the Parties for their help and cooperation for running the House and also seeking guidance from them. I am thankful to all for giving me assurance of their help and cooperation. But in spite of that, the House could not function yesterday after the Question Hour. Further, I have been accused of indulging in *tanashahi*. The Chair does not have any prestige any longer and has become totally irrelevant and it has become a matter of agony for me to occupy this Chair, which I never expected to do, far less solicited.

So long as I am here, I shall try my best to discharge my duties and functions according to the Rules of Procedure and my conscience. If Members are not happy with the present incumbent, I shall have no regrets in leaving it. I was happier facing the Chair than occupying it.

Yesterday, about 40 students of a very well known college of Pune met me in the evening. They told me that they were in the Visitors Gallery and witnessed the proceedings yesterday. They asked me that if the Parliament did not function, what was the future of parliamentary democracy in this country. I leave that

question before all the hon. Members to ponder and find out the answer, and let the country know.

11.02 hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

#### Effect of New Catering Policy of Small Vendors

\*221. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has introduced a new Catering Policy in the railways;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring vendors, stalls and canteen at railway stations and in trains under the control of Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC);

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of new catering policy;

(d) whether the new Catering Policy is likely to affect adversely the small vendors at railway stations, will render hundred to people jobless, and create monopoly of large companies/capitalists;

(e) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith corrective measures taken in this regard;

(f) whether the Government has received representations from various catering associations of the country in this regard;

(g) if so, the main demands thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(h) whether the Government propose to make changes in the new Catering Policy; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (i) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.



**Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In terms of the Cabinet decision on 23.3.1999, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) has been set up with the direction that the catering activity of Railways, whether departmental or franchised, should be completely hived off to the corporation alongwith the staff and the Railways should divest itself of this function. Consequently, in the first phase departmental catering units of seven divisions were handed over to IRCTC on 1.1.2004. In the second phase seven departmental pantry cars and 43 licensee operated cars were handed over to IRCTC and further transfer of major units and small catering units at 'A', 'B' & 'C' category of stations (around 935 stations only) is in process.

However, as of now, all catering at 'D', 'E' and 'F' categories of stations are with the railways and managed by railways only. Such stations are large in numbers (around 7100) and form 88% of total number of railway stations over Indian Railways.

The salient features of the new Catering Policy of 2004 are as under:-

- Enhanced reservation of 49.5% for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Minorities, women including war widow and widows of the railway employees, and physically/mentally handicapped persons at 'D', 'E' & 'F' category stations, which are large in number (approximately 7,100) and form 88% of the total railway stations over the Indian Railways. Earlier there was only 25% reservation for these categories in Catering Policy of 2000.
- 10% reservation will be for women including war widows and widows of railway employees and 2% reservation for physically & mentally handicapped within the 50.5% general category and 49.5% of reserved categories in allotment of catering units at 'D', 'E' and 'F' categories of stations.
- Two packet open tendering system on competitive bidding basis for award of licences of all major catering units and small catering units at 'A', 'B' & 'C' category stations, which are only 935 in numbers.

- All new licences of major units and small units at 'A', 'B' & 'C' category stations to be awarded by IRCTC.
- Licences at 'D', 'E' and 'F' category stations, which are very large in numbers (nearly 7100), would be awarded by calling applications through press notification and not by tenders.
- Licences at 'D', 'E' & 'F' category stations to be awarded by Railways and catering units at these stations remain with Railways as of now.
- A ceiling of 15% within each type of major units and overall ceiling of 10% in overall major units in holding by a particular licensee.
- Tenure of all major units and all catering units at 'D', 'E' & 'F' category stations will be 5 years and there will be no renewal of licence after expiry of contract.
- Tenure of all small units at 'A', 'B' and 'C' category stations will be 3 years and there would be no renewal after expiry of 3 years.
- **Eligibility criteria**
  - \* For major units applicant should be a reputed company/firm/etc. with a minimum of 5 years experience in the field of catering/hospitality, minimum specified annual turnover, sound financial standing etc.
  - \* For small units at 'A', 'B' & 'C' category of stations applicants must have a five years experience in the field of catering/hospitality business in case of refreshment rooms/restaurants and two years experience for stalls and trolleys, a minimum specified annual turnover, sound financial standing etc.
  - \* For all catering units at 'D', 'E' & 'F' category stations applicant must be a professional/reputed caterer with good financial standing and track record etc.

(d) No, Sir. The new catering policy will not affect adversely the small vendors at railway stations as all the licensees on expiry of contracts will be able to participate in the new tenders/selection through application against the existing and fresh licences, subject to their fulfilment of eligibility criteria. Total employment potential will not decrease as the catering/vending units are not being closed. The new policy will not create monopoly of large companies/capitalists in small catering units as the financial and other eligibility criteria are kept considerably low in comparison to the financial and eligibility criteria for award of major catering units.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. Main demands of the various catering associations and the reaction of the Government is as under:-

- Existing licencees should be given further renewal/extension of the existing licences.

Reaction of the Government: The demand of the Associations is under examination in the Ministry of Railways.

- Financial criteria for participating in tender should be relaxed and existing licencees should be exempted from it.

Reaction of the Government: The demand of the Associations is under examination in the Ministry of Railways.

(h) and (i) Yes, Sir. The following demands are under examination in the Ministry of Railways:-

- Existing licensees should be given further renewal/extension of the existing licences.
- Financial Criteria for participating in tender should be relaxed and existing licences should be exempted from it.
- To provide reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs/ Minorities/Physically & mentally handicapped/ women including war widows and Railway employee's widows in small catering unit licences at 'A', 'B' and 'C' category stations as well.
- To permit renewal of licences of war widows/ widows of railway employees, freedom fighters and physically/mentally handicapped licencees subject to satisfactory performance.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the new Catering Policy of the Ministry of Railway vendors, stalls and Canteens at railway stations are proposed to be brought under the control of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (I.R.C.T.C.) whereas this organization has been under cloud from the very beginning.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister of Railways had stated in his Budget speech that the Mafia Raj would be wiped out from the Railway Catering, but only 15-20 selected

companies have been awarded licences out of all the applications invited by the I.R.C.T.C. for awarding catering licenses. This Corporation has followed a dual policy for determining license fees. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister of Railways:-

- While there is a provision for depositing 12% of sale proceeds of Railway Catering in the form of Licence Fee, then on what basis the Corporation has allotted Food Plaza at 1% in Delhi, 2% at Agra at 4% in Chennai, at 2% at Borivali, at 3% in Jaipur, 1% at Madurai and 4% at Howrah?

- Whether the Committee on Petitions of the 13th Lok Sabha and the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the 14th Lok Sabha have recommended disbanding of this corporation and both the Committees are chaired by hon'ble Shri Basudeb Acharia Ji. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: How many questions are there? Please put one supplementary.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what action has been taken so far in this regard?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: If you would not put your question briefly and to the point, what will the Minister answer?

SHRI R. VELU: Before answering part (a) of the question, I may submit that the catering policy is to increase the earnings from the catering contracts, ensure transparency and competitiveness in award of contracts, raise standards of catering services including quality, variety in products, hygiene and better presentation, reduce congestion on platform and to bring about tangible improved catering services. This is the very idea to have the catering policy incorporated as an objective of the IRCTC.

The part (a) of the question is how it is done. This is done through an open tender system. There are two parts of the tender—one is technical and the other is financial. Depending on the eligible criteria, they have been admitted and have been allowed to tender. After scrutinising the tenders, only those who are found competitive, have been awarded the job. There is no

question of one per cent or two per cent. This is an open tender system and only the eligible people can participate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please do not interrupt. Please give up this habit.

SHRI R. VELU: No discretion or discrimination or favouritism has been shown by IRCTC in this regard.

As regards the third part of the question regarding closing it down, it is a matter of policy which cannot be decided at my level.

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked about different rates being charged at different stations. Have you got any answer?

SHRI R. VELU: He says that the contracts have been given on one per cent or two per cent. It is not correct. The contracts are awarded through open tender system.

MR. SPEAKER: You ask your second supplementary question and it should be a pointed question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that instead of stating facts the hon'ble Minister has tried to mislead the House. The new policy has the provision of security deposit of lacs of rupees regarding the Contracts of Railway Stations of A, B and C categories. Therefore, whether such competition will not lead to monopoly of larger Companies and lacs of humble people will not be rendered unemployed? I would also like to know in this connection as to what action is being taken by the hon'ble Minister on applications received from public representatives and other groups?

*[English]*

SHRI R. VELU: As regards A, B and C categories, we have received the representations and they are under review. I can say this much that the policy itself is to help people, especially those who are disadvantaged one. We have never said that those representations will not be looked into. We will definitely look into them. If necessary, the policy will be re-examined to help those people. They will not be thrown out of employment.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand the hon'ble Minister of Railways had announced doing away with the monopoly of larger companies in the field of Book Stalls which is a matter of happiness, but on the other hand, in the field of catering attempts are being made to benefit the larger Companies which is regrettable. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether certain firms and companies were selected by the I.R.C.T.C. for awarding contracts of Pantry cars, Food Plaza, Refreshment Rooms and Catering stalls at Railway Stations and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor? Further, whether unemployed people will not be able to get employment due to these reasons?

*[English]*

SHRI R. VELU: I may submit that in order to break this monopoly, for the first time, we are introducing a term called 'expiry of term' for each contract. Under this system, the contracts will be awarded only for five years. We will not renew them for the second time. They would necessarily have to participate in the tender process, if they want to have the contract for the next five years. So, there is no question of favouring any particular individual or a company. Firstly, we are breaking the monopoly by adopting the system of awarding contract for five years through open tender system. There would be no renewal for that. This is for the kind information of the Member. If any specific instance is brought to our notice in which any kind of misuse of this facility is there, we will definitely take action in that. I would again inform the Member that this is not being done in the Railways.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, in the State of Tamil Nadu, tenders for catering are being given only to big hotels, such as, Swarna Hotel, Anand Bhawan and such other hotels. What about the poor vendors at the railway platforms? I would like to know whether their licences would be renewed or not.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, we have now classified the stations from A to F for this purpose. The vendors falling under the categories D, E and F would be participating in the process of selection through applications. Taking into account their performance, status, we would try and help them and see to it that vending facilities are made available to them.

The vendors in the A, B and C categories, the smaller vending units, would be participating in the process through a tender procedure. We would see that they are not denied and deprived of the vending facilities and are able to continue with their business. But they have to participate in the tender process successfully. For other categories, there is no provision for tenders. It is only through a process of application on the basis of advertisements in the newspapers. They can also participate and continue with their business by this process as small vendors.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a very short question with regard to new catering policy. I would like to know whether regional dishes are also proposed to be made available under the policy and whether such menu can be made available on order?

*[English]*

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, as I mentioned earlier, the IRCTC has been created to provide and supply quality food, a variety of food to every region. We do not prescribe any kind of a menu for the country as a whole. The menu depends upon the region concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your assurance.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that a provision of reservation has been made for D, E and F categories.

*[English]*

You have given reservation for D, E and F categories only but there is no remuneration, there is a meager return from that as those stations are very small. But you have not given reservation for A, B and C category. What are the reasons therefor?

*[Translation]*

You should have also made a provision of reservation for A, B and C categories but you did not give reservation to these three categories and reservation has been provided for smaller stations falling under D, E and F categories which do not give much returns. Moreover whether the Government propose to provide reservation for A, B and C categories also.

*[English]*

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I would like to say that for the first time we have increased the reservation quota from 25 per cent to 49.5 per cent in the D, E and F categories. In regard to the specific question raised by the hon. Member as to whether this facility is going to be extended to the A, B and C categories or not, I would like to submit that we are examining this proposal. We want to help the people from the weaker sections of the society, the war widows, freedom fighters and the widows of the employees of the Railways.

MR. SPEAKER: So, you say that you will consider this.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, we are considering all these things.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I have a brief question. I would like to know whether the Railways have any plans to introduce food plates made of palm leaves in the trains. The hon. Minister of Railways assured this House that the farmers are in a lot of distress. Further, I would also like to know whether there is any mechanism to monitor the private food caterers in the trains, especially in the Kerala Express where the quality of food is reported to be not up to the level.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member that this matter has been taken note of. I would like to say that the quality of food would be assured.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, now many of the Railway canteens have been closed due to the catering policy of the Railways. It has been reported that the IRCTC has taken over the catering service in the Railways. I would like to point out here that the existing canteen service provides the best and cheapest quality of food to the common man at affordable prices. The food items to be provided by the IRCTC would be costly which the common man cannot afford to pay. Would the Minister be pleased to clarify the position?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the Indian Railways lose about Rs. 400 crore every year. In order to increase the revenue earnings of the Railways and also to keep in view the objective mentioned by the hon. Member, about keeping the prices of food articles served in the Railways under control, I would like to submit that we would definitely monitor the prices of the food articles served in the Railways.

Sir, for the information of the hon. Member I may submit that last week we have inaugurated a Food Plaza at Chennai. There I found the cost of a *Vada* was Rs. 8/-. At this station it is mostly the labourers who take food. So, I have requested them to reduce the price so that it was affordable by the common man, especially the labourers. We would not allow things to take their own course but we would definitely control the prices of food articles served in the Railways wherever it is called for.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, I wish to welcome the proposal of the Railways to increase the reservation up to 49.5 per cent for persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the OBCs, the physically handicapped and widows.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Ministry to grant extension to the existing licencees or not. The reply of the Minister is that the enhancement of reservation from 25 per cent to 49.5 per cent would be implemented as per the catering policy.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, earlier the reservation was 25 per cent. Now, the break-up of the reservation is as follows: 12 per cent for the Scheduled Castes, eight per cent for the Scheduled Tribes, 20 per cent for the OBCs and 9.5 per cent for the Minorities. So, we would be able to provide enhanced reservation according to this. In the proposed scheme of things, we propose to provide not only 49.5 per cent reservation, but we propose to provide ten per cent reservation to women and two per cent to the handicapped persons, notwithstanding the consideration whether they are in the reserved or unreserved category. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You must have discipline. You have put a question and now if you are not satisfied with the answer given, there are methods for doing it.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, that is why we are enhancing the reservation in the respective categories. If the hon. Member wants to have more information on this, I would furnish him the details.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Railways had stated that a way would be found to wipe out Mafia from the Railways. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Mafia have been identified by the Government and if so, who those persons are and whether the Railway officers are

also involved. Secondly, if so, please disclose their names. Besides this, keeping in view the problem of unemployment prevailing in the country, the Minister should also state whether the security money which is deposited is proposed to be reduced by forming cooperative societies of the unemployed people?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may not answer the first part of his question. The hon. Minister cannot give out the names here.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the *Mafias* are there in the Railways for a long time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may answer only the second part of his question.

Shri Prabhunath Singh, you may kindly repeat the second part of your question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are not allowing me to ask the first part of the question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How will the Minister disclose the names here?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply that the Government intend to reduce the security money. Further, I want to know whether they intend to reduce the Security money by forming cooperative societies of the unemployed in view of the unemployment problem prevailing in the country.

*[English]*

SHRI R. VELU: This is under the consideration of the Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very good and pointed answer.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARA: Sir, there are a number of non-licensed vendors at the railway stations. Does the Railways propose to screen the vendors and issue licences only to the deserving vendors?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I have already mentioned earlier that all vendors come through either the process of

tenders, or submit applications based on advertisements in the newspapers.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Book Stall Policy of the Railways.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question is about the Catering Policy.

If you do not have anything to ask on catering, then you may please put a different question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker Sir, 20% reservation is given to the people belonging to the S.Cs and S.Ts under the Catering Policy, but the monopoly of contractors prevails there. The Contractors themselves run the stalls in the name of the people belonging to the S.Cs and S.Ts. I would like to submit if the contractors manipulate to secure the stalls meant for the SCs and STs, then the allotment should be cancelled. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot follow what you are saying. How can the Minister who is coming from Tamil Nadu follow you? What are you saying? Say it categorically and clearly. What is your supplementary?

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I would like to submit that certain contractors get the stalls reserved for the SCs and STs people on their behalf by filling up applications as they enjoy monopoly there. I would like to know whether the Government are taking steps to check such practice.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Some persons are misutilising SC/ST candidates.

SHRI R. VELU: If it is brought to our notice specifically, then we will take action.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bir Singh Mahato. I have allowed eleven supplementaries.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Sir, a number of Catering Associations in the country have submitted their

representations before the Government. The reaction of the Government is that they are looking into the matter.

I would like to know from the Government as to how long will they take to take a decision on the representations submitted by the Catering Associations.

SHRI R. VELU: We are actively considering it. A large number of representations have come. The policy was announced by our hon. Minister in the tenth month and things are being evolved. In order to fine-tune them, we will necessarily take into account all the representations and do whatever is required.

#### **Vacant Executive Posts in PSUs**

\*222. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 100 top executive posts in the Public Sector Undertakings are lying vacant for a long time affecting the effective functioning of these PSUs;

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

(c) the steps being taken to fill these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) to (c) One hundred and twenty six posts of top level executives were vacant in Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) as on 31.10.2004. These include 30 posts, which are kept in abeyance by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments by way of conscious decision. The concerned administrative Ministry/Department/PSU makes alternative arrangements to look after the work of the vacant posts so that the functioning of the PSU is not adversely affected. The details of the vacant posts are given in the enclosed Annexure. Filling up of Board level vacancies in PSUs is a continuous process. A prescribed procedure is to be followed for appointments to Board level posts in PSUs. Selection is normally made by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), and appointments are made by the Administrative Ministries after obtaining vigilance clearance from CVC and approval of the competent authority. Completion of these formalities takes time. Selection has been made in

35 cases. In the remaining cases, the selection process is already underway, except where the posts are decided to be kept in abeyance.

***Annexure***

*Details of vacant executive posts in PSUs as on 31.10.2004*

Sl.No.	Name of the Post
1	2
<b>Chief Executives (34)</b>	
<b>Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Cooperation</b>	
1.	MD, National Seeds Corporation Ltd.
2.	MD, State Farms Corporation of India
<b>Department of Chemicals &amp; Petrochemicals</b>	
3.	CMD, Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
4.	MD, Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
5.	MD, Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.
<b>Ministry of Coal</b>	
6.	CMD, Coal India Ltd.
7.	CMD, Central Coalfields Ltd.
8.	CMD, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.
<b>Department of Development of North Eastern Region</b>	
9.	MD, North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms
<b>Department of Fertilizers</b>	
10.	CMD, Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd.
11.	CMD, Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.
<b>Department of Heavy Industry</b>	
12.	CMD, Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.
13.	MD, Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.
14.	MD, Bharat Wagon & Eng. Co. Ltd.
15.	MD, Bridge & Roof Co. (I) Ltd.
16.	MD, Burn Standard Co. Ltd.

1	2
17.	CMD, Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
18.	CMD Hindustan Cables Ltd.
19.	CMD, National Instruments Ltd.
20.	CMD, NEPA Ltd.
<b>Department of Information Technology</b>	
21.	CMD, ET & T Ltd.
<b>Ministry of Mines</b>	
22.	CMD, Hindustan Copper Ltd.
<b>Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources</b>	
23.	CMD, Indian Renewable Energy Dev. Corporation Ltd.
<b>Ministry of Petroleum &amp; Natural Gas</b>	
24.	MD, Balmer Lawrie & Co.
25.	MD, Indian Oil Blending Co. Ltd.
<b>Ministry of Power</b>	
26.	CMD, Power Finance Corporation Ltd.
<b>Ministry of Railways</b>	
27.	MD, Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.
<b>Department of Secondary Education</b>	
28.	CMD, Educational Consultants India Ltd.
<b>Ministry of Shipping</b>	
29.	CMD, Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.
<b>Ministry of Steel</b>	
30.	CMD, Bharat Refractories Ltd.
31.	CMD, MECON
<b>Ministry of Textiles</b>	
32.	CMD, British India Corporation Ltd.
33.	CMD, National Jute Manufacturers Corpn. Ltd.
34.	MD, NTC (West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa) Ltd.
<b>Functional Directors (92)</b>	
<b>Ministry of Atomic Energy</b>	
1.	Director (Fin.), Indian Rare Earths Ltd.

1	2	1	2
	<b>Department of Chemicals &amp; Petrochemicals</b>	25.	Director (Pers.), Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.
2.	Director (Tech.), Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	26.	Director (Tech.), Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.
3.	Director (CP & P), Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	27.	Director (Fin.), Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.
4.	Director (Fin.), Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	28.	Director (Tech.), Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.
	<b>Ministry of Civil Aviation</b>	29.	Director (Fin.), Bridge & Roof Co. (I) Ltd.
5.	Member (Ope.), Airports Authority of India	30.	Director (Ope.), Cement Corporation of India Ltd.
6.	Member (P&A), Airports Authority of India	31.	Director (Fin.), Cement Corporation of India Ltd.
7.	Member (Plng.), Airports Authority of India	32.	Director (Prod.), Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
8.	Director (Engg.), Air India	33.	Director (Mktg.), Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
9.	Director (Pers.), Air India	34.	Director (Fin.), Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
10.	Director (Fin.), Air India	35.	Director (Fin.), Hindustan Cables Ltd.
11.	Director (Com.), Air India	36.	Director (Pers.), Hindustan Cables Ltd.
12.	Director (Pers.), Indian Airlines	37.	Director (Ope.), HMT Ltd.
13.	Director (Fin.), Indian Airlines	38.	Director (Fin.), HMT Ltd.
14.	Director (Com.), Indian Airlines	39.	Director (Fin.), HMT Bearings Ltd.
15.	Director (Engg.), Indian Airlines	40.	Director (Tech.), HMT Bearings Ltd.
	<b>Ministry of Coal</b>	41.	Director (Mktg.), HMT Bearings Ltd.
16.	Director (Pers.), Northern Coalfields Ltd.	42.	Director (Tech.), HMT (MT) Ltd.
	<b>Department of Commerce</b>	43.	Director (Fin.), HMT (MT) Ltd.
17.	Director (Pers.), State Trading Corporation of India	44.	Director (HR.), HMT (MT) Ltd.
	<b>Department of Defence Production</b>	45.	Director (Mktg.), HMT (MT) Ltd.
18.	Director (Mktg.), Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	46.	Director (HR.), HMT Watches Ltd.
19.	Director (Ope.), Goa Shipyard Ltd.	47.	Director (Fin.), HMT Watches Ltd.
	<b>Department of Fertilizers</b>	48.	Director (Mktg.), HMT Watches Ltd.
20.	Director (Fin.), Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corpn.	49.	Director (Tech.), HMT Watches Ltd.
21.	Director (Fin.), Fertilizer Corporation of India	50.	Director (Int. Mktg.), HMT (International) Ltd.
22.	Director (Fin.), National Fertilizers Ltd.	51.	Director (Int. Proj.), HMT (International) Ltd.
	<b>Department of Heavy Industry</b>	52.	Director (Fin.), Instrumentation Ltd.
23.	Director (Plng.), Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.	53.	Director (Engg. & Com.), Jessop & Co. Ltd.
24.	Director (Com.), Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.	54.	Director (Fin.), NEPA Ltd.
		55.	Director (Tech) Scooters India Ltd.



1	2
	<b>Ministry of Information &amp; Broadcasting</b>
56.	Director (Finance), National Film Development Corporation Ltd.
	<b>Ministry of Mines</b>
57.	Director (Operations), Hindustan Copper Ltd.
58.	Director (Tech.) Mineral Exploration Ltd.
59.	Director (P&T), National Aluminium Company Ltd.
60.	Director (Production), National Aluminium Company Ltd.
	<b>Ministry of Petroleum &amp; Natural Gas</b>
61.	Director (Bombay), Balmer Lawrie & Co.
62.	Director (Pers.), Engineers India Ltd.
63.	Director (Com.), Engineers India Ltd.
64.	Director (Mkt.), IBP Co. Ltd.
	<b>Ministry of Power</b>
65.	Director (Tech.), NTPC
66.	Director (Com.), NTPC
67.	Director (Electrical), Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.
68.	Director (Fin.), Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.
	<b>Ministry of Railways</b>
69.	Director (Fin.), Indian Railway Finance Corpn.
70.	Director (Fin.), Rail Vikas Nigam
71.	Director (Operations), Rail Vikas Nigam
72.	Director (Pers.), Rail Vikas Nigam
73.	Director (Proj.), Rail Vikas Nigam
	<b>Ministry of Steel</b>
74.	Director (Tech.), National Mineral Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
	<b>Department of Telecommunications</b>
75.	Director (HR), ITI Ltd.
76.	Director (Mktg.), ITI Ltd.
77.	Director (Fin.), MTNL
78.	Director (Tech.), MTNL

1	2
	<b>Ministry of Textiles</b>
79.	Director (Finance), Cotton Corpn. of India Ltd.
80.	Director (Finance), Jute Corpn. of India Ltd.
81.	Director (Finance), National Jute Manufacturers Corpn. Ltd.
82.	Director (Finance), NTC Ltd.
83.	Director (Finance), NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.
84.	Director (Tech.), NTC (West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa) Ltd.
85.	Director (Tech.), NTC (North Maharashtra) Ltd.
86.	Director (Tech.), NTC (Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan) Ltd.
87.	Director (Tech.), NTC (Tamilnadu & Pondicherry) Ltd.
	<b>Department of Tourism</b>
88.	Director (Com. & Mktg.), India Tourism Dev. Corporation Ltd.
89.	Director (Finance), India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.
	<b>Ministry of Urban Employment &amp; Poverty Alleviation</b>
90.	Director (Fin.), HUDCO
91.	Director (CP), HUDCO
	<b>Ministry of Water Resources</b>
92.	Director (Engg.), National Projects Construction Corpn. Ltd.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I must compliment the hon. Minister for making an open submission by giving a graphic representation of the total mismanagement of the public sector by one Government after another. I must thank him for that.

MR. SPEAKER: You are a very lucky person.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The basic point is, if the leading posts in the public sector administration are kept vacant over years, then how can the administration run? Surely, this is a way in which the public sector is

sought to be killed in the country by one Government after another. You may find in the list that there are 34 posts of Chief Executives vacant in the public sector which includes the leading public sector undertakings of the country like the Coal India Ltd. It includes 96 leading functionaries which include even the Director (Finance) of Air India. My friend is sitting over here. In Air India, the post is left vacant. All the leading public sector undertakings have become victims of the absence of effective people in leading posts.

My pointed question to the hon. Minister is this. Will he kindly let us know for how many years these posts will be vacant and what are the reasons for these posts remaining vacant?

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot give an answer for all the 92 posts. He may give some indications.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, public sector is the commitment of the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The hon. Member has said that this is mismanagement. Now, because of the Disinvestment Policy which was followed before and subsequently, sick industries have been taken into consideration by our Government. We are going a bit slow in appointing heavy salaried functionaries as they may not be necessary after the procedure of revitalising the public sector comes in. Rightly so, even the previous Government had gone slow in this process due to the disinvestment policy in certain sectors. The attitude of the Government is not to finish off the public sector. Rather, we give preference for revitalisation of the public sector. This is in our Common Minimum Programme. Unless otherwise a particular public sector undertaking is chronically sick, we are not going to close them.

We have a case. In the first instance, our Government has already cleared the statutory liabilities worth Rs. 517 crore which remained as backlog for a long time. I can assure this House that we are committed to revitalising those public sector undertakings which are viable and we are also filling up these vacant posts. My Ministry has taken certain steps after this Government has come. There is a regular exchange of data between the PSEB and the respective administrative organisation. There is regular review of the situation by the Chairman, PSEB and the Secretary, DoP. There is monthly review of the position by the Minister. I review it every month. I have already filled up more than 24 posts. Some are in the process which are before the PSEB. The process

has started. Another thing which delays the process is this. Vigilance clearance for executives takes a long time. It has to go all round the country. Suitable time must be given for corrective steps. You need not worry. I am giving this assurance to this House that we are taking corrective steps and the situation will improve. The hon. Prime Minister had decided that henceforth the PSEB will give names. Instead of giving a panel, they should give only one name. Otherwise, if a panel is given, it takes a lot of time for going here and there. This procedure will also reduce the time factor.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I thank him for the answer. But I must tell you. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to say anything. You have to ask a question.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am putting my second supplementary. The taste of the pudding is in the eating. There is always a gap between the promise and performance. I hope it will not be so in this case. You have accepted that the process has been slow. My pointed question is this: What will the new Government, having a commitment to reviving the public sector undertakings, do to do away with the perniciously slow moving machinery? Will he inform the Parliament as to how long it will take to fill up the posts so that the public sector undertakings have a programme for revival? How long will it take? Will there be a gap between the promise and the performance?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I am a diabetic patient. I cannot eat pudding. What I can say is that. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You will do it as soon as possible.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: We are taking steps and as soon as possible, all these posts will be filled up.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I want to know the number of posts which are yet to be filled up and the number out of them to be filled up by direct recruitment and on promotion and deputation basis and the number of posts to which experts are to be appointed by open recruitment and the specific period in which these posts are likely to be filled up.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the policy of the present Government, as of the previous Government is

to give preference to internal candidates. If suitable internal candidates are not available, then we search for alternative candidates. Search Committees are set up for this purpose. They scrutinise the applications and shortlist them. As I have already replied to the previous question, we are taking steps to fill up these posts as early as possible.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIYA: Will the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises be pleased to state: (a) whether the tenure of the Board of Directors of Panchgram Paper Mills in my constituency has expired; (b) if so, when will it be re-constituted? and (c) if not, when will the tenure expire?

MR. SPEAKER: It is your first supplementary. So, I have allowed you. But in future, do it in a manner that it is one question.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, no Board's tenure lapses because it is a continuous process. The Board in respect of Panchgram Paper Mills is still there and the members are there. Two vacancies have arisen. The process of filling them up has already started. It will be done very soon.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the hon. Minister clarify as to whether it is a fact that the Chairman, CVC has submitted a report to the Ministry?

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Chairman, CVC has submitted a report regarding the fact that some Ministers of the previous NDA Government are pressurising certain existing officers—your officers—to give them favour, because of which, they are in trouble. I would like to know whether that report has been submitted by the Chairman, CVC. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only the hon. Member's question will be noted.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker Sir, a question has been put wherein allegations have been levelled against the previous Government. Now who will reply to such a question?

*[English]*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is for the hon. Speaker to decide about it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasgupta, will you please take your seat? I have not asked for it.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking him to sit down. You also please sit down. Silence please.

Mr. Minister, are you in a position to answer that question?

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on in the House? Shri Dasgupta, please cooperate.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The CVC is a part of the Personnel Ministry. My Department does not deal with it. I have not got anything as such. It can be pointed to that Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for solving the problem.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: The Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore (FACT) is one of the most prestigious PSUs in the country. It is the number one PSU in Kerala. The Post of CMD has been vacant since more than a year. This fertilizer giant is now ailing. *...(Interruptions)* We submitted several revival packages since the tenure of the last Government onwards but nothing has taken off mainly due to the fact that there is no proper leadership to carry on with the work to implement this proposal. In the answer, the hon. Minister has stated that more than 30 posts are kept in abeyance by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments by way of conscious decision. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether FACT also falls under this category of being kept in abeyance by the Department, by the Ministry concerned by way of conscious decision. Also, the Public Sector Enterprises Selection Board. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of 'also'. Please sit down.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Our Government is firm as per the assurance in the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister that the Public Sector Undertakings Reconstruction Board will review such cases. They will review all such cases. They are sitting from today, from 3 p.m. All experts in the Public Sector, Ministry of Finance and in our Ministry also represent. All these cases will be reviewed. If questions are put in the next Session, I will be in a better position to reply.

MR. SPEAKER: You can put another question in the next Session.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know, from the hon. Minister about the various categories of posts lying vacant in the P.S.U.s and whether a quota of reservation has been prescribed for the S.C., S.T. categories and the minorities for filling those posts, and further, whether the Government propose to launch a special drive for recruitment in view of problem of unemployment prevailing in these sections.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: These executive posts are filled up without any reservation. It is the survival of the fittest. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Varma ji, please sit down. It is not being recorded. You know it. You are a senior Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is said to have made the statement that all the Public Sector Undertaking will be freed from the grip of the bureaucrats. Only experts and professionals will be appointed on higher posts. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the news is authentic and if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented. There was also a news about doing away with the Government's confirm it and state the steps have taken for doing away with such interference in the PSUs?

*[English]*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, now-a-days, when we fill up the vacancies, we take care that people from other sectors, like those who are settled in the private industry and others, also get representation and a 10 per cent programme has been announced by the Government at the instance of the Prime Minister. We are working according to that and these aspects are being taken care of. It will take some time because we cannot remove those who are already there. In the process of selecting new persons, the new policy will be followed.

\*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated in the reply that posts of 34 Chief Executive Officers and 92 Directors are vacant and no hurry is being shown in filling up these posts so as to reduce expenditure in those undertakings. The Minister has also stated in the reply that the post of the Chairman of Coal India Ltd. has been lying vacant for the last 16 months and an Acting Chairman is working instead. Many a post of this kind are lying vacant. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a very comprehensive answer. If you go on asking each question like this, it is not correct.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that since the post of the chairman or the C.M.D. of the Coal India Ltd. is lying vacant for the last one or one and a half year then the time by when this post is likely to be filled and whether any time frame will be fixed for this.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I think he has answered that.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, this process is getting delayed for want of clearance from vigilance and we cannot make appointment unless we get clearance from vigilance. The recommendation has come, but vigilance clearance is not there.

MR. SPEAKER: You have answered that. Shri Alok Kumar Mehta.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with Shri Mohan Singh.

MR. SPEAKER: You have no question!

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: My question is the same as that of Shri Mohan Singh.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you: I would like to know, whether a provision of reservation for SCs and STs in filling up higher level posts has been made? The officers belonging to the SCs and STs are not appointed despite their competence. Such questions come up before us during the tours of the Committee, and further, whether qualified and knowledgeable candidates belonging to the SCs and STs will be considered for appointment while making new recruitments.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, he has pointed out that these are brought out by the Standing Committees. The Government has now formed a cell in each Ministry to examine the suggestions given by the Standing Committees. If any specific example comes, we shall take care of that.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact is, we cannot get away from something that stares us in the face that this is a gift that has been given to us by the past, NDA Government in the sense that many corporations have been left headless for a number of years. It is, unfortunately, a shame, but it is a fact that we have to tackle. I was quite disturbed to hear the answer of the hon. Minister that preference would only be given to those people within the bureaucracy and the Government. If we consider them as our *Navratnas*, then we need to resuscitate them and we need to get the best talent that is out there to steer these corporations, to head them so that we can really consider them as *Navratnas* for future.

Is the Minister open to the idea of bringing in outside talent, from the private sector or from other areas to these corporations, to turn them around and take them into the 21st century?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, this is a good suggestion for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: He will consider.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) could easily be considered as a *Navratna* company. However, the post of CMD or the Chief Executive Officer of this company has been in the hands of a caretaker for more than eight months. The previous Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had sanctioned a huge expansion

project for this company. It is a prestigious company and yet nothing is being done to appoint a CMD or a CEO. So, what will be the fate of this company? I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government will pay attention to this company.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I will give my due attention to this programme and let him know.

#### Private Domestic Carriers on Overseas Destination

\*223. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:  
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to allow private domestic carriers to operate scheduled flights to any overseas destination after upgradation of all airports to the international standards, as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara', dated November 18, 2004; -

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries to which such operators are likely to extend their services;

(d) the total private operators who have applied for and how many of them have been accorded permission to operate;

(e) the norms fixed by the Government for private carriers in this regard;

(f) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(g) the impact on Indian Airlines/Air India by this move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) Government has presently permitted private airlines to operate to SAARC countries against unutilized entitlements of the India side subject to the provision for designation of multiple airlines in the

respective Air Services Agreement. Designation of private airlines for operating to overseas destinations is not linked to the proposal for upgradation of airports to international standards.

(c) to (f) Government have designated Jet Airways and Air Sahara for operations to Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh as requested by them against the unutilized entitlements of the Indian side. As regards allowing private airlines to operate to other countries, no final decision has been taken in this regard.

(g) The operations of private airlines to SAARC countries are against the unutilized entitlements of the Indian side. No adverse impact on Indian Airlines/Air India is, therefore, envisaged because of this decision.

*[Translation]*

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, significant efforts have been made in the Civil Aviation Sector ever since the U.P.A. Government has come into power which is a revolutionary initiative in the history of our country. I have received the reply of the hon. Minister which is not fully clear. I am of the opinion that the Government should consider the safety aspects before allowing the private companies to operate in other countries.

Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to know, from the hon'ble Minister the quantum of funds estimated for the programme chalked out by the Government for the modernization of airports. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of this. Reply only to the first part.

*[Translation]*

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK: What steps will be taken for mobilizing the funds and whether this will be done in a time bound manner?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has sought the information whether safety aspects will be taken into account before allowing the Indian Private Companies to operate overseas. I would like to inform in this regard that no Airlines whether they are in private or Public Sector, whether they are operating

in India or abroad, will be allowed to fly unless they have security clearance.

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a number of small airports in our country which are not fully functional due to lack of adequate facility and funds, for example the Kolhapur airport in my Constituency has been non-functional for the last 25 years. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government have prepared any concrete action plan for such airports and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and whether there is any possibility of this work being started in future.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Although, it does not arise out of this, we have a knowledgeable Minister, he may reply to this. Can you reply?

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have rightly stated that this question does not arise from the original question, still I would like to state for the kind information of the hon'ble Member that Air Services have started at Kolhapur. That is an airport of the Maharashtra Government. We shall provide full cooperation so as to further improve the Air Services there.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Also think of Kolkata.

Shri Brajesh Pathak—Not present.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, both Indian Airlines and Air India have social obligations like North-East operations, evacuation during national emergencies like Iran-Iraq crisis, whereas the private domestic airlines do not have any social obligations.

The hon. Minister very well knows that bilateral forms the value of Indian Airlines and Air India. I want so ask him whether there has been any study conducted on how this permission for private airlines to operate in SAARC countries and beyond will affect the financial status of both Indian Airlines and Air India. I would also like to know whether the hon. Minister has any plans to extend this beyond SAARC countries and if so, what will be its impact.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the hon. Member was my predecessor and I am sure, he is aware what the obligations of the Indian Airlines, Air India and the private carriers are. In fact, Indian Airlines and Air India, being national carriers, do take upon themselves the onus of any situation which may be in the national interest, maybe due to a calamity, due to any other circumstances, like war or otherwise. But as far as private carriers are concerned, it is not obligatory on them to have such kind of responsibility. However, of late, I am given to believe that they have also been conducting some exercise of ferrying troops of Army and otherwise.

The other issue which the hon. Member wanted to know was about airlines going to SAARC countries and beyond.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Is there a study?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: In fact—just to refresh your memory—the private airlines were given permission to operate in SAARC countries during the time of the previous Government. Also, there was an initiative by the previous Prime Minister, who is very much sitting here, to enlarge the canvas and go beyond SAARC, and even to go to the ASEAN region. I would like to just bring to the notice of the House that today, as far as the present air connectivity to and from India is concerned, we are facing a serious capacity constraint. In fact, the limited open sky policy, which we have started this year for a period of five months well in advance, has led to an increase in capacity. In fact, foreign airlines have asked for additional seats to take passengers in and out of India, to the extent of almost six lakh seats in this open season period itself. Therefore, there are issues which will have to be looked into. If India is to be made a tourism hub, if India is to be made a destination for commerce and industry to generate more employment, I think, we will have to look at increasing air connectivity to and from India. As of now, Indian Airlines and Air India, between them, operate at only about 28 per cent of the capacity to and from India. Almost 72 per cent of the capacity is taken by the foreign carriers. Therefore, we will have to look at increasing connectivity to and from India.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, as has been replied, no final decision has so far been taken with regard to permitting the private Airlines to operate abroad. The airport of Ahmedabad, which has been

named after Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, has a runway of 11500 feet. In the Khera district of Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about private domestic carriers on overseas destinations.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: The flights of the Air India arrive there and the British Airways has also sought permission for introducing flights from there as there are a large number of N.R.I.s from Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already committed it.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: I am saying because this matter is related to the Khera district. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I can assure the hon. Member that—the earlier part of my answer was that—we are operating at only about 28 per cent of the capacity. So, if 100 passengers are going, only 28 passengers are being flown by Air India and Indian Airlines. If India has to increase its connectivity, we will have to increase the number of aeroplanes and flights going out of India. That is a natural corollary. That is what I said. The earlier Government had started the SAARC Region initiative, now it should extend beyond that.

MR. SPEAKER: He is really interested about Ahmedabad.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: As far as Ahmedabad is concerned, it is one of our premier cities. It deserves special attention.

MR. SPEAKER: I am also getting interested about Ahmedabad now.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Ahmedabad does deserve special attention and there is no issue about it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the Government propose to send private domestic carriers on overseas destinations as has been stated in the reply. In Uttar Pradesh we have the Allahabad Bamroli airport of the Indian Air Force. now, the 'Magh Mela' is going to be held at Allahabad which is attended to by the foreign tourists in great number. So, will the hon. Minister kindly let us know whether any air-services will be introduced from there so as to benefit the Indian Airlines and the Air India which are incurring losses.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: For this subject, sky is the limit.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, this is a different question but I can only tell you that as far as Air India and Indian Airlines are concerned, we have tried to push them to the maximum extent possible to operate maximum services. It must be put on record again that the last planes for Indian Airlines were bought during the time of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, about 16 years back. The same thing applies to Air India also. If we do not buy planes, how do we expect Indian Airlines and Air India to fulfil their national obligations?

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Sir, during the time of the last Government, the only international flight to Guwahati was cancelled. Now, I compliment the hon. Minister that he is starting the Bangkok flight next year. Guwahati has got very close connections with Dhaka and Nepal.

Will the Minister consider allowing operations of Guwahati-Dhaka or Guwahati-Kathmandu flight by private airlines?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have taken a lot of time, please.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the hon. Member is aware that on the 1st of January, the Guwahati-Bangkok flight is being started by the Indian Airlines. It is at the initiative of the Prime Minister, who wanted the North-East to be better connected. I can assure the hon. Member that if there is demand and if there is an application to operate between Dhaka and Guwahati, we will consider it favourably.

*[Translation]*

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker. Sir, hon'ble Minister is repeatedly stating in his reply they are against unutilized entitlements and there would be no adverse impact of the operation of private airlines because of its being bilateral. Since there has been no fleet expansion in the Air India and the Indian Airlines for many years, we are operating 28 per cent flights. Non-expansion of fleet had two consequences first, we couldn't enjoy the entitlement and secondly, Kolkata and Guwahati, which had the potential of being hubs of international flight could not turn out to be so, as the fleet was short, we therefore, continued our operation from Delhi & Mumbai. At present, when we are allowing the private airlines to conduct their operations in the SAARC Countries and would further extend our services to ASEAN or other destinations it has had two impacts. It may be suppose you wouldn't be affected—the Indian Airlines and the Air India get benefited by code sharing at one hand, as Anant Kumar ji has said, it is one of its sources of income and on the other, the hubs in north-east India which could have been made more naturally, they could not reciprocate with the Indian Airlines because of no fleet expansion while the foreign airlines like the British Airways wanted to operate, but the Govt. had no fleet. Why did you allow the private sector while not implementing the proposals for expansion in that direction? Were you not expected to compensate for the accumulated deficiency of 15-20 years. Rather you are affecting the Indian Airlines & Air India by doing so.

*[English]*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, this is a very larger question but I would like to address it very simply in two parts. Firstly, if our country has to grow in every sense of word in trade, commerce, tourism and employment, we must open up our skies to the maximum extent possible. If we do not do that, I think, we are doing a disservice to the nation. If 72 per cent of the business is anyway being taken away by foreign carriers, what is the logic in depriving Indian carriers to take a share from them?

Secondly, as far as aircraft are concerned, well, this is a historical problem. I have just mentioned it. In fact, I would like to state that on this matter there should be unanimity. Indian Airlines and Air India cannot succeed, they cannot grow, and they will never be able to do the service which you are expecting out of them unless you give them aircraft. With 20-year old aircraft, how can you expect both these carriers to compete in the international forum? That is exactly the reason why even Kolkata,



Sir,—coming to your bastion—is not getting connectivity the way everybody would desire from the region. That is because Air India simply does not have the planes to fly, and that is a serious concern. If you say that yes, Air India and Indian Airlines should be first strengthened and then private carriers should be allowed, I would like to state that the acquisition programme in Air India and Indian Airlines is well underway, and we are trying to expedite it to the best extent possible. But that does not stop us from looking at the larger national picture, where air connectivity gives you ten other benefits. The benefit of Air India and Indian Airlines is paramount to us, but at the same time, country's interest should also be addressed. And if people cannot get a seat in and out of India on any given day on any carrier, I think, that is a larger question, which I think, all of us should agree and accept.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, we can take it that you have Kolkata in mind.

Now. Q. No. 224, Shri Devidas Pingle—not present.

Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar.

*[Translation]*

#### **Assistance to Soldiers**

\*224. <sup>†</sup> PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance extended by the Government to the soldiers, who have become disabled in war and to those, who are still undergoing treatment;

(b) the total number of soldiers, who became disabled after the wars till date and the number of soldiers, who are still undergoing treatment;

(c) the type of assistance being provided by the Government;

(d) whether it is a fact that under the Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Service Scheme, Government proposes to exclude the soldiers disabled in wars;

(e) whether it is also a fact that certain sections are not required to make any monetary contribution to become members of the scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the reasons for denial of free medical facilities to the soldiers, disabled in war;

(h) whether the Government proposes to reconsider its decision; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (i) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) to (i) The soldiers injured in the battlefield are treated as battle casualties and granted War Injury Pension.

Disabled soldiers (battle casualties) of all operations (excluding Operation Vijay—Kargil) invalided/boarded out/prematurely released from services in low medical category are entitled to one time ex-gratia grant of Rs. 1 lakh. The disabled soldiers injured during Operation Vijay-Kargil were entitled to ex-gratia payment from National Defence Fund ranging from Rs. 6 lakh to Rs. 3 lakhs depending upon the percentage of disability.

The disabled soldiers, who continue in service, are paid a grant from Army Central Welfare Fund depending upon the disability percentage as under:—

(a) 75% & above disability	Rs. 30,000/-
(b) 50% to 74% disability	Rs. 20,000/-
(c) Less than 50% disability	Rs. 10,000/-

The disabled soldiers are also entitled to the following facilities:—

- (i) 75% concession in 2nd class rail sleeper for self and dependent family members.
- (ii) Free installation charges and 50% concession in rental charges on telephone connection.
- (iii) The wards of disabled soldiers studying in government recognized/government aided schools, military/sainik schools are eligible to get reimbursement of tuition fees, hostel charges, books upto Rs. 250/-, cost of uniform and clothing upto Rs. 250/-.

- (iv) Loan assistance on liberalized terms under self employment schemes to set up tiny/small scale industries, small scale service enterprises, to undertake agriculture and allied activity and to set up khadi and village industries in rural areas.
- (v) Reservation of limited seats in professional institutes, such as Medical Colleges and Indian Institutes of Technology through joint entrance examination.
- (vi) Financial assistance from Raksha Mantri's Discretionary Fund for house repair, marriage of daughter, medical treatment etc.
- (vii) Mobility equipment upto Rs. 50,000/- such as wheeled chair.
- (viii) Allotment of Petrol Pump/Gas agency under 8% defence quota.
- (ix) Officers disabled in the battlefield are entitled for 75% air travel concession on domestic flights.

The number of disabled soldiers boarded/invalided out after 15th August, 1947 is 5581. These soldiers were paid compensation under Army Central Welfare Fund and National Defence Fund (for Kargil operation).

The War disabled soldiers including battle casualties and battle accidents of Operation Parakram and on going counter-insurgency operations under the Northern Command and Eastern Command are admitted to various Military hospitals for active treatment/review/fitment or repair and replacement of artificial limbs. The total number of soldiers still admitted in Military hospitals is 113.

**Medical facilities available to disabled soldiers:**

Comprehensive medical care is provided to all disabled soldiers as and when required.

They also get treatment at paraplegic homes at Kirkee (Maharashtra) and Mohali (Punjab). They are provided artificial limbs by Artificial Limb Centres. Blind soldiers are provided psychological support to overcome the shock of blindness and imparted vocational training by St. Dunstan's After Care Organisation, Dehradun.

**Ex-servicemen's Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS):**

All ex-servicemen including those disabled in wars who are in receipt of any pension, including disability pension, are permitted to join ECHS on payment of the

prescribed contribution. The amount of contribution is based on basic pension of an individual which varies from Rs. 1800/- to Rs. 18000/-. They will get free medical care for rest of their lives by making the one time contribution which may be paid in three consecutive instalments.

War widows are exempted from payment of contribution under ECHS.

All disabled soldiers who join the ECHS membership are entitled to utilize medical facilities available under ECHS for themselves and their dependents free of charge.

There has been no case of denial of free medical facilities by a military hospital to any war disabled soldier.

*[Translation]*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the soldiers rendered disabled during the operation Vijay in the Kargil War deserve an ex-gratia aid of three to six lakhs of rupees from the national exchequer, as has been stated here. For this I extend my special thanks to the NDA Government for giving that aid. Alongwith this my question is that. ...*(Interruptions)* I also told the same thing as has been stated here.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not distracted.

*[Translation]*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the army soldiers who get injured and those who have to necessarily undergo heart surgery, they are not operated upon at Srinagar City in the State of Jammu-Kashmir. They are not looked after there, rather they are taken to Jammu while surgery can be done at the govt. hospital, Srinagar where these facilities are available. If there are any deficiencies, these can be removed. So, I would like to ask the hon'ble Prime Minister whether he would get the Government hospital upgraded and make facilities for heart surgery available there so that seriously injured soldiers are not taken to Jammu from there and could be operated at Srinagar itself.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am noticing all the disturbing elements here.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the Question is concerned, I have given a very exhaustive reply, which is almost running into three pages, as the hon. Member had put as many as nine questions. The specific point which he referred to is that it is true that in the Kargil operation, the compensation was larger compared to the normal one. It is mainly because of the fact that at that point of time, a substantial contribution was made available in the National Defence Fund (NDF). From that, the quantum of compensation was increased.

So far as his second question about the treatment of some soldiers in Srinagar hospital is concerned, it depends on the nature of the ailment and the facilities available in the hospital. If it could have been treated at Srinagar hospital, it would have been done there. It was not done. That is why, they were taken to Jammu.

*[Translation]*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I felt as if the hon'ble Minister of Defence in response to my question would say that Srinagar Government hospital would be upgraded in order to provide facilities for heart surgery therein, but he did not answer the way I had expected.

I would like to ask the second supplementary question that the personnel injured during the war have to contribute Rs. 1800 to 18000 under the contributory health scheme, while contribution is not taken from their widows. My question is that whether the Government would think over the issue of not taking this contribution from them, they happen to be the officials of very lower rank in the Army?

*[English]*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: As far as the Ex-Servicemen Health Service Scheme is concerned, the pensioners, those who are entitled to have pensions, are eligible. Depending on the quantum of pension made available to a person, a one-time contribution to this fund has been decided. Therefore, the minimum, which has been decided, is the one-time contribution. For this one-time contribution, free treatment for the person and the dependents of the person concerned will be made available throughout the duration of his life. This contribution can also be made in three instalments. There is no way that we can reduce it further, and we can exempt further section of the beneficiaries.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the last supplementary. Mr. Lal Singh, you put it in one line.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Defence that the disabled persons of the Army.  
...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The question was in the name of Prof. Shiwankar that is why, I allowed him.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: He is not an Ex-Serviceman.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been in the name of Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar. So I have given him the chance for asking the supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I can be given the chance instead of the other Member. I am an Ex-Serviceman. It is wonderful. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am so sorry. Do not dictate. I have given chance to one Party in the Opposition. I am giving one chance to another Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. Please do not record anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not dictate to the Chair. You are trying to dictate. There is a Member of your Party in whose name the Question has come. I have given him two supplementaries. Now, you are asking me not to give it to the other Member. I am sorry. I reject your request.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, Chaudhary Lal Singh. Why you have lost your turn, everybody knows.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Adulteration in Kerosene

[English]

\*225. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of adulteration in the kerosene, sold in the country;

(b) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to check such adulteration;

(c) whether there is a proposal to ban import of kerosene by Non-Governmental companies;

(d) if so, the details of the same; and

(e) the extent to which ban imposed on import of kerosene would ensure availability of pure kerosene in the markets?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) While there is no adulteration in kerosene, Government is aware of attempts by unscrupulous elements to adulterate auto fuels with kerosene.

(b) In order to reduce, minimize and eventually eliminate the possibility of diversion of kerosene for adulteration, a number of steps have been taken by the Government and the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). These include the following:-

- Government have issued the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. MS/HSD (Regulation of Supply and Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 1998 also provides for prevention of use of petroleum products other than MS/HSD as auto fuel. These Orders provide powers of search and seizure to the officers of the State Governments and OMCs with a view to check adulteration. State Governments and OMCs have been advised to take strict action under these Orders against persons indulging in adulteration.
- Blue dyeing of kerosene supplied under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to differentiate it from the free sale kerosene.

- Furfural doping of kerosene to detect its presence in petrol/diesel.
- A strict upliftment schedule has been laid down wherein wholesale kerosene dealers are required to uplift the product in three instalments each month.
- Prohibition of use of kerosene under the PDS for purposes other than cooking and illumination.
- Oil Marketing Companies undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices.
- Marketing Discipline Guidelines provide for penalty of termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.
- Oil Marketing Companies have also introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en route adulteration by transporters.
- Trials have been undertaken for introduction of Marker System which would enable easy detection of an adulterant in petrol/diesel.

(c) to (e) As per extant Government policy, there is no ban on import of kerosene, but the import of kerosene has been canalized through Public Sector Enterprises, namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and IBP Company Limited (IBP). Government Oil Marketing Companies have been allowed to market their indigenously produced surplus kerosene (non-PDS) direct to customers. Such surplus non-PDS (kerosene is available in adequate quantity at prevailing market prices.

[English]

### News Channels

\*226. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:  
DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the correspondents of various News Channels have no hesitation in spreading rumours and misleading police to remain exclusive and number one in the competition, as

reported in the Hindi daily *Dainik Jagaran*, dated September 22, 2004; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to restrain the arbitrariness of such News Channels so that the public may not be misled in the name of exclusive news and a healthy good impartial and honest competition may emerge and public may get factual news?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. However, no specific complaint has been received by the Government regarding the spreading of rumours and misleading the police as regards the case reported in the Hindi daily *Dainik Jagaran* dated the 22nd September, 2004.

(b) Programmes of television channels transmitted or re-transmitted through the cable network are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, *inter alia*, prescribes that no programme should be carried in the cable service, which contains anything obscene, false or suggestive innuendos etc. The Central Government can take action under Section 20 of the said Act for violation of the Programme Code. Central Government has constituted an inter-Ministerial Committee to look into violations of the Programme Code.

In accordance with the guidelines for uplinking, the channels being uplinked from India have to conform to the Programme Code and Advertising Code. The permission granted is liable to be revoked on violation of any of the guidelines.

[English]

#### Gas Pipeline from Iran

\*227. SHRI AJRUN SETHI:  
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister had talks with the Pakistan President in New York in September about the long pending proposal of Iran-India gas pipeline through Pakistan;

(b) whether the Minister had discussed the same issue with the visiting Pak Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz in New Delhi, recently;

(c) whether India could explore the LNG from Iran through Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof including the price Iran has fixed with transit expenses?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Options to import natural gas from Iran through pipeline and as LNG are open.

(d) The proposal is at a preliminary stage. Commercial terms and price details have not been worked out.

#### Domestic Passenger Share of Indian Airlines

\*228. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the domestic passenger share of Indian Airlines in percentage for last three years;

(b) whether Indian Airlines is losing passenger share due to improper management and old aeroplanes;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to upgrade the services of Indian Airlines;

(d) the number of aeroplanes owned by Indian Airlines and their average use in a year;

(e) whether Indian Airlines would purchase or lease aeroplanes in view of fleet addition; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The domestic Passenger Share of Indian Airlines during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Market Share of Indian Airlines (%)
2001	47.4
2002	41.2
2003	38.6

(b) Ageing fleet of Indian Airlines and increase in capacity induction by private airlines have affected the market share of Indian Airlines adversely.

(c) The Government, from time to time, encourages Indian Airlines to upgrade its services and undertake economy measures. Further, the proposal of Indian Airlines to expand/upgrade its fleet is under active consideration of the Government.

(d) Indian Airlines, at present, have 51 aircraft, while its wholly owned subsidiary Alliance Air has a fleet of 15 aircraft (including on lease basis). The daily average flying time of aero planes used by Indian Airlines during 2003-04 is as under:

1.	A-300 aircraft	—	7.8 hrs.
2.	A-320 aircraft	—	9.4 hrs.
3.	B-737 aircraft	—	7.0 hrs.
4.	DO-228 aircraft	—	1.9 hrs.
5.	ATR aircraft	—	5.6 hrs.

(e) and (f) Indian Airlines has proposed to acquire 43 new aircraft in order to replace its ageing fleet and to augment its capacity. Further, in order to meet its short-term requirements, Indian Airlines also opts for dry lease of aircraft, which is a continuing exercise.

#### Direct to Home Broadcasting Policy

\*229. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Direct to Home (DTH) broadcasting policy is likely to be revived;

(b) if so, whether a committee headed by Information and Broadcasting Secretary was set up for a fresh look into DTH;

(c) if so, whether the committee was asked to focus on content related issues;

(d) if so, whether the committee has submitted its Report;

(e) if so, how many recommendations thereof have been accepted and implemented; and

(f) the extent to which the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India wants to make it mandatory for TV channels to give their content to all DTH providers on a non discriminatory basis?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) The Government prescribed DTH guidelines for permitting DTH service in India on 15th March, 2001. These guidelines are available on this Ministry's website ([www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in)). Currently, there is no proposal to review these guidelines.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed before the Delhi High Court, expressing concerns regarding the possible misuse of DTH service for viewing pornographic channels and its susceptibility to misuse for secret/anti national messaging. The matter was examined in the Ministry in the month of August 2004, and the concerns raised in the PIL were discussed in a meeting convened by Secretary (I&B) with representatives from concerned Ministries. It was further decided to constitute a committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Broadcasting) in this Ministry to examine various possibilities of breach of security through messaging particularly in the context of the situation in J&K and North-East. This committee examined security concerns and concluded that Government could set up its own monitoring station for the purpose of monitoring not only the DTH services but also the satellite beams receivable in India in other bands. Accordingly, Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has been asked to prepare a detailed proposal.

(f) TRAI on 10th December 2004, has notified "The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection Regulation, 2004", which contains, *inter alia*, general provisions relating to Non-Discrimination in Interconnect Agreements. A copy of this Regulation is available on TRAI's website (<http://www.trai.gov.in>). Para 3.2 of the Regulation lays down that every broadcaster shall provide on request signals of its TV channels on non-discriminatory terms to all distributors of TV channels including Direct-to-Home Operator.

#### Book on Mahatma Gandhi

\*230. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:  
SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

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

(a) whether the collected works of Mahatma Gandhi published by the Publications Division under this Ministry has been revised and new version published in print and C.D. Rom in 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are complaints that the Revised Version is full of errors, omissions and deletions and the 'Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust' has asked for the cancellation of the revised version and the reinstatement of the original version with archival status; and

(d) if so, the details and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The project of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi (CWMG) was initiated in 1956 and publication of its English version was completed in 1994 with the publication of 100 volumes, as under:-

- Collected Works in chronological order (Volume Nos. 1-90)
- Supplementary volumes (Volume Nos. 91-97)
- Subject Index (Volume No. 98)
- Name Index (Volume No. 99)
- Prefaces (Volume No. 100)

In Hindi version, the publication of the corresponding 97 volumes of the text was completed in 2000.

Given the prestigious nature of this project, the Government of India appointed an Advisory Board in 1956, to facilitate the compilation of the series. The Advisory Board consisted of the following:

1. Late Shri Morarji Desai	Chairman
2. Shri Ramlal Parikh	Member
3. Shri Jitendra Desai	Member
4. Joint Secretary in the Ministry in-charge of Publications Division	Member
5. Director, Publications Division	Member
6. Chief Editor, CWMG	Ex-officio Secretary

S/Shri Kaka Saheb Kalelkar, Devdas Gandhi, Pyarelal, Maghanbhai P. Desai, Ramdhari Sinha 'Dinkar', G. Ramchandran, Shantilal H. Shah, Jivanji Desai,

Thakorebhai Desai, P.M. Lad, Shriman Narayan and R.R. Diwakar were also members from time to time. The last meeting of the Advisory Board was held on 27.12.1978. In February 1980 the Chairman of the Advisory Board informed the Chief Editor, CWMG that as the work of CWMG was nearing completion and there was no policy matter for the consideration of and submission to the Advisory Board, it was not necessary to convene any meeting of the Advisory Board.

At the time of the publication of the 100th volume of the CWMG in 1994, Shri R.P. Dhasmana was the Chief Editor.

Earlier the following persons headed the project of CWMG as Chief Editors: Dr. Bharatan Kumarappa, Jairamdas Doulatram and Prof. K. Swaminathan.

On October 2 1999, Publications Division also released a CD-Rom on Mahatma Gandhi which contained an Electronic book, consisting of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi arranged in a chronological order. The e-book has more than 50,000 pages with comprehensive indexing. The highlight of this CD is an interactive multimedia component comprising of 30 minutes of film footage, over 550 photographs and 15 minutes of Gandhiji's voice.

Simultaneously, the Publications Division also brought out a revised edition of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi (CWMG). This was a series arranged in a chronological order along the lines of CD-Rom on Mahatma Gandhi.

(c) Yes, Sir. A number of complaints have been received regarding large volume of errors, omissions and deletions from organizations and individuals, such as Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust, Ahmedabad, Servants of the People Society, New Delhi, Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi, Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, New Delhi, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad, the Albert Einstein Institution, U.S.A., Shri La. Su, Rengarajan, Shri Tridip Suhrod, Shri Chunibhai Vaidya, Shri Hasamukh Shah and Ms. Dina Patel. All of them have sought reinstatement of the original series and scrapping of new series including the CDs based on the new series.

(d) The complaints about errors and omissions have been found true. Enquiries so far made do not show the basis on which the new series were launched in the first place. Nor do the enquiries show the names of scholars chosen by the Government for the purpose. After the

complaints were received, efforts were initiated in November, 2003 to take corrective actions both in regard to errors and omissions. Although this process of correction has been initiated, complaints from the authoritative sources are continuing with the demand that the new series have so many defects as to make any remedy impossible. The situation resulting from this problem is under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

**Reservation in Allotment of Catering Contract at Railway Station**

\*231. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for classification of railway stations in respect of awarding railway catering contract;

(b) whether the Government has decided to provide reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs and Minorities in stations of second category, but not for those in the first category;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is considering to provide reservation to said categories at stations of first category;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to award catering contracts at block level so that people of backward communities get the proper benefit of reservation; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Criteria for classification of Railway stations in respect of awarding railway catering contract is mainly based on annual earning of the concerned stations as described below:

Annual Passenger Earning	Category of Station
1	2
More than Rs. 6 Crore	'A'
Rs. 3 crore and upto to Rs. 6 Crore	'B'

1	2
Suburban Stations except Categories 'A' & 'B' stations	'C'
Between Rs. 1 crore-Rs. 3 Crore	'D'
All stations other than Category 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' & 'F'	'E'
All Flag/Halt Stations	'F'

(b) Government has decided in new Catering Policy 2004, to provide enhanced reservation of 49.5% for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes. Minorities, women including war widows and Railway employee's widows and physically/mentally handicapped persons, against 25% in earlier Policy of 2000 in catering units at 'D', 'E' and 'F' categories of stations, which are very large in number (approx. 7100), but there is no reservation for above in licences of small units at 'A', 'B' & 'C' categories of stations, which are only 935 in number. Further there is no reservation in licences of Major Catering units.

(c) To keep a balance between the drive to increase revenue to Railways and social obligations it was decided to increase reservation from 25% to 49.5% in catering units at 'D', 'E' & 'F' categories of stations only and no reservation was provided in small catering units at 'A', 'B' & 'C' categories of stations and all major catering units.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Provision of reservation to said categories in the licence of small catering units at 'A', 'B' and 'C' categories of stations is under examination.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[*English*]

**Advertisements by DAVP**

\*232. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:  
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1295 dated July 15, 2004 regarding Advertisements by DAVP and state:



(a) the criteria for giving advertisements to newspapers or magazines;

(b) the details of advertisements released by DAVP since June, 2004, in newspaper/magazine-wise;

(c) the amount paid to these newspapers and magazines so far;

(d) whether the Government is aware that even after four months the payment to several newspapers has not been made resulting in financial hardships to them;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the complaints have been received by the Government from peoples representatives in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(h) whether the Government has made any enquiry on the working of the DAVP;

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

(j) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the working of the DAVP?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) issues advertisements on behalf of Central Government Ministries/Departments, Autonomous Bodies and Public Sector Undertakings to newspapers and periodicals empanelled with it in accordance with the Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP. The guidelines are available on DAVP's web-site ([www.davp.nic.in](http://www.davp.nic.in)).

(b) and (c) The list containing the details of advertisements released by DAVP, newspaper/magazine-wise, since June 2004, and the amount paid to them is quite voluminous. The status of the bills, as well as the payment position has been put on DAVP's web-site ([www.davp.nic.in](http://www.davp.nic.in)).

(d) to (g) The payment to newspapers is made as per the Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with

DAVP. As per the policy, the newspapers are required to submit their advertisement bills, complete in all respects and supported with relevant documents within 30 days of the publication of the advertisement. Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity makes efforts to pay the advertisement bill within 60 days of receipt of the bill. The reasons for occasional delays include shortcomings/discrepancies and disputes regarding advertisement bills and late receipt of funds from the clients. Any reference/complaint received in this regard is attended to promptly.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

(j) The steps taken by the Government to streamline DAVP are as under:

- (i) Revised Advertisement Policy of the Government has come into effect since 1.5.2002.
- (ii) Application form for newspaper empanelment and renewal of rate contract has been simplified since the year 2002-03.
- (iii) Newspapers have the facility to download any advertisement through DAVP from DAVP's web-site ([www.davp.nic.in](http://www.davp.nic.in)).
- (iv) Payment to newspapers through Electronic Clearance System has been introduced.
- (v) Availability of status of pending bills and newspaper empanelment on DAVP's web-site.

#### **Crash of Helicopters**

\*233. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of helicopters of Defence forces crashed during the past three years, till date;

(b) whether the Government has ordered an enquiry into such crashes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of compensation paid to the victims;

(e) the steps being taken to check such air crashes;

(f) whether it is a fact that the Government had decided to set up an expert group to probe the reasons for the frequent crashes of IAF fighters;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether it is also true that a similar Committee was set up almost a decade ago;

(i) if so, whether the Government had implemented the recommendations of the said Committee; and

(j) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (j) Till date, a total number of 22 helicopters of Defence Forces have crashed during the last three years. Out of these, 11 belonged to the Air Force, 9 to the Army while 2 belonged to the Navy. After every aircraft accident, a Court of Inquiry is set up to find out the cause of the accident and to recommend remedial measures.

Of the 11 accidents on Air Force helicopters, 6 were due to Human Error, 3 were due to Technical Defect, 1 remained unresolved while 1 is under investigation. In the case of Army helicopters, 4 were due to Technical Defect, 1 was due to Human Error, 1 remained unresolved, 1 was due to operational problems in snow-bound areas while in the remaining 2, the investigation is under progress. Similarly of the two accidents which took place on Navy helicopters, 1 was due to Technical Defect while the other remained unresolved due to non-recovery of the wreckage.

Compensation to the next of kin of the deceased service personnel and to injured personnel is paid as per the rules. In case of the Air Force helicopter accident, which took place in May 2001, a compensation of Rs. 25,000/- was also paid for the damage caused to civilian property. In case of the helicopter accident in July 2004, compensation of Rs. 5,50,000/- was paid to the next of kin of the civilian killed.

The Defence Forces continuously undertake measures to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Steps to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft.

Government have not set up any fresh expert group to probe the reasons for the crashes of Indian Air Force's fighters.

A Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA) was set up in February, 1997 by the Government under the Chairmanship of Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri, to identify the causes for the aircraft accidents and prepare a comprehensive action plan to reduce the same to a minimum. The Committee also considered the recommendations of the earlier Committees *i.e.* Kohli Committee and La Fontaine Committee on flight safety. The Committee submitted its report to the Government in August, 1997.

Out of a total of 84 recommendations made by the Committee, 53 have been implemented, 21 are under various stages of implementation, while 10 are treated as closed as it is not possible to implement them.

[*Translation*]

#### Construction of New Rail Line

\*234. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of resources has come down sharply for construction of new rail lines during the current plan period;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure allocation of sufficient funds for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. The expenditure incurred on new lines including restoration of dismantled lines in the 9th Plan was Rs. 2913.40 crore. As against this the likely expenditure to be incurred in the first three years of the 10th Plan would be about Rs. 4770.00 crore.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of initiatives have been taken in the past few years for generation of additional resources through project specific funding for National Projects, funding from Ministry of Defence, Public/Private partnership and non-budgetary initiatives for National Rail Vikas Yojana. Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana has also been

announced in the interim budget 2004-05 which envisages investment of Rs. 20,000 crore in 5 years on projects which have been taken up on socio-economic considerations for development of backward, remote and under-developed areas. However, the resources for this Yojana are yet to be tied up.

*[English]*

#### **Loading of Petroleum and Lubricants**

\*235. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways supplied empty Tank Wagons to Indian Oil Corporation Refineries, which were totally unfit for transportation of petroleum and lubricants and were thus rejected by the IOC, as has been reported by CAG in its latest report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for supplying unfit wagons to IOC; and

(d) the losses suffered by the Railways due to rejection of these wagons by the IOC?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. Indian Railways supply fit tank wagons for loading of petroleum products. However, some of the wagons are rejected later on by Oil Companies at the time of their loading on technical reasons.

(b) CAG Report mentioned by the Hon'ble MP in part (a) of this question refers to supply of unfit empty tank wagons to M/s Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) refinery at Barauni. As per CAG report a total of 811.5 tank wagons (in terms of 4-wheelers), out of a total of 20,524 tank wagons supplied for loading (3.95%), were rejected by IOC siding during 2000-01 to 2002-03. However, as per Railway records, a total of 968 tank wagons (in terms of 4 wheelers) out of a total of 1,43,610 tank wagons supplied for loading, during the same period of 3 years, were rejected by M/s. IOC at this refinery. The rejection is merely 0.67% of the total wagons supplied. The difference in figures is on account of the fact that the CAG Report does not include all the wagons which were supplied for loading. All such rakes wherein there was no rejection have apparently not been included in the CAG Report.

(c) Tank Wagons are rendered unfit for loading on account of non-evacuation of the product completely from the tank wagons at the unloading points, an activity which is performed by Oil Industry and its customers. The residual product allow heavier distillates to settle at the bottom of tank wagons, which ultimately transforms into black/hard sludge over a period of time. However, the status of wagons developing deposits of black/hard sludge inside the shell cannot be ascertained beforehand and their loading worthiness can be confirmed only at the time of loading of petroleum products in tank wagons.

Tank wagons also get rejected on account of defective master valve, bottom discharge valve, and various other fittings. Such rejection, too, can be reduced further if all the fittings are properly put back in place after decantation of product from the tank wagons at the unloading points. Railway Administration carries out carriage and wagon examination of rakes at its yards prior to their supply for loading, at terminals. Wagons with missing or defective fittings are attended to wherever such defects are detected. Possibility of rejection of such wagons, therefore, gets minimized.

Thus the loading worthiness of all the tank wagons supplied for loading because of sludge or defective fittings cannot be ascertained before hand as explained above.

(d) As per the CAG Report, Indian Railways have suffered a consequential loss of freight of Rs. 1.4 crores and a loss of Rs. 0.28 crores on account of empty haulage of rejected wagons thus totalling to a figure of Rs. 1.68 crores. The originating freight earnings to Indian Railways in the aforesaid period of three years (2000-01 to 2002-03) have been Rs. 2,26,03,40,244 (Rs. 226.03 crores). The loss of Rs. 1.68 crores as mentioned in CAG Report works out to be 0.74% only.

Indian Railways have a wagon holding of about 4.5 lakhs (four wheeler units). Out of this figure around 43,000 wagons (four wheeler units) are tank wagons. These tank wagons are utilized to cater to the Petroleum transportation demand received not only from M/s. Indian Oil Corporation but from other Oil Companies too. In the process of Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants (POL) operations of this magnitude, minor rejection of tank wagons is unavoidable. Hence the loss is only notional.

#### **Funds for Modernising Non-Metro Airports**

\*236. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to generate funds through Special Bonds and borrowings both in the domestic and overseas markets, for the modernisation of some of the non-metro airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total funds likely to be generated;

(c) the concrete programme of action being chalked out to implement this project; and

(d) the extent to which the Government has been able to operate in both overseas and domestic markets, for meeting part of its funding requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans to modernize 25 Non-Metro Airports in phases with focus on air-side and city-side development and enhancement of non-aeronautical revenues. AAI has appointed Indian Financial Consultant (IFC) and Global Technical Advisor (GTA) for carrying out a detailed techno-economic feasibility study on the expansion of terminal building by inducting high/state-of-the-art technology and land use plans to enhance non-aeronautical revenue through city side development of 10 airports in the first phase. AAI is in the process of appointing IFC and GTA for remaining 15 airports in phase II. Global architectural design competition for new International Terminal Building at Ahmedabad and Trivandrum have already been finalized.

The modalities of funding for the development of selected Non-Metro Airports can be worked out only after finalization of detailed techno-economic feasibility reports by the IFC and GTA.

#### **Private Cable Network**

\*237. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount received by the Government from various private cable network organisations in the country;

(b) whether the Government has any monitoring agency to check and inspect the *modus operandi* of these major cable network companies and their total monthly income/earnings;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for allowing those major cable network companies to remain unaccounted and unmonitored; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken to keep a check on them in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No separate statistics on the total amounts received from various private cable network organizations in the country are centrally maintained.

(b) to (e) The Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, contains provisions to regulate the operation of Cable TV Networks in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Cable Operators are required to conform to the provisions of the said Act in their operations. There are no legal provisions in the said Act or the Rules framed thereunder to regulate the issue of earnings by a Cable Operator. However, the Tariff Orders issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time under the relevant provisions of TRAI Act would have impact on the overall earnings of the Cable Operators.

#### **Shortfall of Wagons**

\*238. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a considerable shortfall in the supply of wagons by the private as well as public sector units;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to overcome the causes of shortfall in the supply of wagons;

(c) the total requirement of four wheeler units of wagons per year and the number of wagons being supplied;

(d) whether there is any proposal to establish more number of wagon manufacturing units in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Against target of 18500 four wheeler units (FWUs) of wagons for 2003-04, 16573

FWUs of wagons were manufactured. Railway wagons are being mainly manufactured by 12 wagon building units in Public and Private Sector. Shortfall in supply of wagons is due to under performance of Public Sector Units. Necessary assistance is being extended to these units by the Department of Heavy Industry and Ministry of Railways for improving their productivity.

(c) Requirement of wagons is broadly assessed for Five Year Plan period and fine-tuned on annual basis from year to year keeping in view, volume of freight traffic expected to be carried in that particular year. During 10th Plan Period, *i.e.* from 2001-02 to 2006-07, the total requirement assessed was 65000 FWUs which has been increased to 94214 FWUs during mid term appraisal of 10th Plan conducted in 2004 (second half) Actual Production of wagons vis-a-vis target during the current Five Year Plan is as under:-

(Figures in four wheeler Units)

Year	Target	Actual Supply
2002-03	17000	16584
2003-04	18500	16573
2004-05	20000	11967 (Till Nov. 2004)

(d) and (e) Adequate capacity for wagon manufacturing is already available in the country. Efforts are being made to improve their production performance. A small quantity of wagons are also being manufactured in three railway workshops namely Amritsar, Samastipur and Golden Rock. It has been decided to start wagon manufacturing in Jamalpur workshop at the rate of 100 wagons per year by utilizing existing facilities and man power.

#### **Recovery of Outstanding dues by Railways**

\*239. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards/Power houses have increased despite a decision taken in October, 1996 that railways would transport coal only on pre-payment of freight and realize the outstanding dues from the Central Plan assistance to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the total amount of outstanding dues as on date and how do the same compare with the preceding five years;

(c) the reasons for violating the decisions to transport coal on pre-payment and not recovering the outstanding dues; and

(d) the action the Government proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The total outstanding dues recoverable by Railways from State Electricity Boards/Power Houses as on 30.09.1996 were Rs. 1126 crore which have increased to Rs. 1762 crore as on 30.09.2004 is enclosed as statement-I. The decision of October 1996 was not applicable to State Electricity Boards/Power Houses who had adopted the scheme of advance payment of freight. The increase is mainly in the cases of Badarpur Thermal Power Station, Delhi Vidyut Board, Punjab State Electricity Board, Rajasthan State Electricity Board and Gujarat State Electricity Board. The reasons for increase are enclosed as statement-II.

(b) The total amount of outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards/Power Houses as on date (up to 30.09.2004) are Rs. 1762 crore. The comparative position of outstanding dues for the preceding five years to end of September and March is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Position as on 30th September	Position as on 31st March
1999-2000	1446	1306
2000-01	1761	1661
2001-02	1901	1616
2002-03	2145	1754
2003-04	1910	1633
2004-05	1762	**

\*\*Note the position for the period ending March 2005 will be compiled after closing of March Account.

(c) Decision to transport coal on pre-payment was taken but could not be enforced in some of the cases due to difficult financial position of State Electricity Boards/Power Houses, non-deposit of adequate amount under advance payment of freight scheme resulting in levy of surcharge giving rise to disputes in some of the cases.

Outstanding dues of Rs. 159 crore were recovered during the period 1997 to 2002 from Central Plan Assistance payable to State Governments.

(d) The matter is being pursued regularly with the concerned State Electricity Boards/Power Houses.

**Statement-I**

*Break-up of outstanding dues as on 30.09.1996 as compared to the position upto 31.3.2004 and 30.9.2004*

				(Rs. in Crore)
S.No.	Name of State Electricity Board/P.H.	30.09.1996	31.03.2004	30.09.2004 (Provisional)
1.	A.P. State Electricity Board	29.97	0.00	9.75
2.	Assam State Electricity Board	6.91	0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar State Electricity Board	3.94	0.95	1.59
4.	Delhi Vidyut Board	86.31	183.76	183.97
5.	Gujarat State Electricity Board	10.86	0.45	36.34
6.	Haryana State Electricity Board	71.00	1.75	12.83
7.	Jharkhand State Electricity Board		0.44	1.48
8.	Karnataka State Electricity Board	0.07	0.03	0.54
9.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	31.35	0.54	16.22
10.	M.P. State Electricity Board	4.14	2.94	1.71
11.	Punjab State Electricity Board	37.97	440.11	439.82
12.	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	1.19	58.29	69.85
13.	Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board	1.29	0.50	1.69
14.	U.P. State Electricity Board	47.58	60.69	46.99
15.	W.B. State Electricity Board	29.28	1.12	14.87
16.	Badarpur Thermal Power Station	711.12	866.40	865.04
17.	National Thermal Power Station	50.85	8.82	49.02
18.	Damodar Valley Corporation	*	6.42	8.69
19.	Private Power House-Sabarmati	2.54	0.21	1.18
<b>Total</b>		<b>1126.37</b>	<b>1633.42</b>	<b>1761.58</b>

\*SEB/PH was not there on the list of Railways.

**Statement-II***The reasons for increase and further action***(i) Badarpur Thermal Power Station:**

The outstanding dues from Badarpur Thermal Power Station have increased from Rs. 711 crore at the end of September 1996 to Rs. 865 crore till date (up to September 2004).

Even after the introduction of Advance Payment of freight scheme w.e.f. 1.1.97, the outstanding increased to Rs. 966 crores to end of 1999-2000, mainly due to their inability of maintain the required deposit.

Constant chasing and meetings with Ministry of Power have resulted in payment of Rs. 111 crores from Badarpur Thermal Power Station during 2003-04 and a time bound program for clearance of remaining old outstanding dues of Rs. 857 crore pertaining to Badarpur Thermal Power Station by November 2009 has also been received. In order to arrest further accretion in the outstanding dues and to expedite realization of railway freight earning, facility of electronic payment gateway at the convenience of State Electricity Boards is being introduced.

**(ii) Delhi Vidyut Board:**

After constitution of Indraprastha Power Generation Company (GENCO), Delhi Vidyut Board have started booking of coal rakes on pre-payment at booking points w.e.f. 22.1.2004. This has helped to check the rising trend to some extent. In order to overcome the problem of old outstanding dues, very recently Delhi Vidyut Board has agreed to reconcile the outstandings with Railways. Accordingly, Northern Railway has been instructed to reconcile the outstanding dues with Delhi Vidyut Board.

**(iii) Punjab State Electricity Board:**

Outstanding dues against Punjab State Electricity Board have risen to Rs. 440 crore up to September 2004 due to accrual of "To-Pay" surcharge for not maintaining adequate security deposit with the Railways as per terms of Advance Payment Scheme. Outstanding dues of Punjab State Electricity Board have been disputed by them and Civil Writ Petition is pending in Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh. The case is subjudice. However, Punjab State Electricity Board has switched over to pre-payment at the loading point since 14.5.2003.

**(iv) Rajasthan State Electricity Board:**

Under the Advance Payment Scheme, they have not been able to maintain the requisite deposit with the railways and are disputing the outstanding which are mainly due to levy of 'To Pay' surcharge. The issue of switching over to pre-payment scheme is being pursued with Rajasthan State Electricity Board authorities.

**(v) Gujarat State Electricity Board:**

The increase in outstanding dues as on September 2004 is only temporary and is likely to be cleared by March 2005.

*[Translation]***Policy Regarding Advertisements by PSUs**

\*240. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any policy in regard to the advertisements given by various public sector undertakings for the newspapers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether public sector undertakings do not give their advertisements in small newspapers and magazines; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) is the nodal agency of the Government of India for release of advertisements by various Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertakings. Advertisements are released in accordance with the Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP. These guidelines are available on DAVP's website [www.davp.nic.in](http://www.davp.nic.in). The release of advertisements to newspapers is dependent upon the budget provision, target audience and preference of media list indicated by the clients.

*[English]***Gas and Oil in Godavari Basin**

\*241. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance and some private companies have struck oil and natural gas in Godavari and other basins;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will assist private agencies

financially and technically to explore and put the same to commercial use;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The following 32 gas and oil discoveries (11 in onland, 9 in shallow water and 12 in deepwater) have been made by Private companies/ Joint Ventures including Reliance Industries Limited in Krishna—Godavari and other basins of India:

Basin	Block	Operator	Onland/ Shallow water/ Deep water	No. of Discoveries
Cambay Basin	CB-OS/2	Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd.	Shallow Water	5
	CB-ONN-2000/2	Niko Resources ltd.	Onland	2
Krishna- Godavari Basin	KG-DWN-98/2	Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd.	Deep water	3
	KG-DWN-98/3	Reliance Industries Ltd.	Deep water	9
Mahanadi NEC Basin	NEC-OSN-97/2	Reliance Industries Ltd.	Shallow water	4
Rajasthan Basin	RJ-ON/90-1	Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd.	Onland	9

(c) to (e) Under the Production Sharing Contracts signed between the Government and the Contractor, the latter is obliged to carry out all petroleum operations, including development and production, and provide the required technical and financial resources for this. One of the major considerations for selecting companies for the award of any area/block for exploration of oil and gas following open international competitive bidding is the technical and financial capability of the company(s) to fulfil its obligations under the contract, which includes exploration, development & production from the contract area.

**Commercial use of Encroached Land at Airports**

\*242. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently taken initiatives to make the commercial use of encroached land at major airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the airports in the country run by AAI are not profit earning;

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

(e) the extent to which the commercial use of encroached land at major airports will be helpful in making the loss suffering airports viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.



(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Out of the 126 airports managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI), only 10 airports/Civil Enclaves made profits during 2003-04. Rest of the airports incurred loss to the tune of Rs. 275 crores. The major reason for incurring losses at the airports is due to very low traffic at these airports.

(e) Major airports like Mumbai and Hyderabad, where encroachments exists, are already viable airports making profit. At other major airports, impact of removal of encroachment on commercial viability of airport will be dependent on potential, demand and extent of possibility of using the land for commercial purposes.

*[Translation]*

#### **Cancellation of Trains' Stoppage**

2504. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Railway stations where stoppages of trains have been cancelled alongwith name of those trains during the current year, till-date, zone-wise;

(b) the details of requests for restoration of the cancelled stoppages have been received alongwith the time of their receipt, zone-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on those requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details of the stations from where stoppages have been withdrawn during current financial year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Representations for the restoration of the cancelled stoppages are received from various quarters from time to time at various levels of the organization ranging from station to the Ministry and their compilation is not done.

(c) Cancellation/provision of stoppages over Indian Railway is an ongoing process and action as justified and feasible is taken.

#### *Statement*

Sl.No.	Train No. & Name	Station(s) from where stoppage withdrawn	Zonal Railway
1	2	3	4
1.	3143/3144 Sealdah-New Jalpaiguri Mail	Dalkhola, Barsoi, Aluabari	North East Frontier
2.	3143 Sealdah-New Jalpaiguri Mail	Kumedpur	North East Frontier
3.	2977/2978 Jaipur-Ernakulam Express	Godhra	Western
4.	2961/2962 Indore-Mumbai Central Express	Unhel	Western
5.	9149/9150 Dhanbad-Ahmedabad Express	Nagda	Western
6.	9311/9312 Indore-Pune Express	Khachrod	Western
7.	109/110 Virar-Bharuch Shuttle	Hansapore, Gandhismiti	Western
8.	9672 Khandwa-Ajmer Express/Passenger	Runija	Western
9.	489/490 Mhow-Chittaurgarh Passenger	Matyakheri	Western
10.	581/582 Purna-Ajmer Passenger	Siran	Western
11.	9671/9672 Khandwa-Ajmer Express/Passenger	Siran	Western
12.	1107/1108 Gwalior-Varanasi Express	Orchha, Barwa Sagar, Bela Tal, Bahilpurwa, Badausa, Teharka, Ranipur Road, Rora, Kabrai, Mataundh, Khairar Jn., Dingwahi, Shivrampur, Khoh	North Central

1	2	3	4
13.	7210 Kakinada Town-Bangalore Express	Mandavalli	South Central
14.	2779/2780 Vasco-Nizamuddin Express	Belapur	Central
15.	5625 Bangalore-Guwahati Express	Kuppam	South Western
16.	327/328 Tata-Nagpur Passenger	Kapan, Kotmisonar, Paniajob, Bortalao, Darekasa, Gudma, Gangajhiri, Kachewani, Mundikota, Khat, Rewral, Chacher, Sal	South East Central
17.	4707/4708 Ranakpur Express	Deshnok	North Western
18.	2307/2308 Jodhpur-Howrah Express	Kuchaman City	North Western
19.	2307/2308 Jodhpur-Howrah Express	Banastha Niwai	North Western
20.	4519/4520 Delhi-Bathinda Express	Bhawani Khera	North Western
21.	9771/9772 Amritsar-Jaipur Express	Charkhi Dadri	North Western
22.	2465/2466 Jodhpur-Sawai Madhopur Express	Sambhar lake	North Western
23.	181/182 Jaipur-Rewari/Bhiwani Passenger	Ghatala	North Western
24.	4059/4060 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Jaisalmer Express	Bassi	North Western
25.	9615/9616 Udaipur-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Express	Govindgarh Malikpur, Ateli, Bhupal Sagar	North Western
26.	4059 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Jaisalmer Express	Ajerka	North Western
27.	193/194 Kota-Jaipur Passenger	Siras	North Western
28.	9263 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Portbander Express	Sendra	North Western
29.	9265/9266 Okha-Dehradun Express	Kishangarh	North Western
30.	4311 Bareilly-Bhuj Express	Rajgarh	North Western
31.	9943/9944 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Ahmedabad Express	Lachipura	North Western
32.	4846 Ahmedabad-Jodhpur Express	Rani	North Western
33.	4848 Bandra (T)-Jodhpur Express	Rani	North Western
34.	8411/8412 Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam Express	Tapang	East Coast
35.	2620 Mangalore-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express	Mangaon	Konkan
36.	327 Tata-Nagpur Passenger	Dadhapara, Dagori, Urkura	South East Central
37.	429 Ramnagar-Moradabad Passenger	Jalpur Halt	North Eastern

#### Helicopter Service to Amarnath

2505. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for introduction of a helicopter service by Pawan Hans for the benefit of pilgrims to Amarnath is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) may introduce helicopter service for benefit of pilgrims to Amarnath during the season in the year 2005 subject to such a proposal being received from Shri Amarnath Shrine Board or Jammu & Kashmir Government.

*[English]*

#### **HIV among Soldiers**

2506. SHRI KHIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the soldiers in Indian Army are found HIV positive;

(b) if so, the number of soldiers found HIV positive in the Indian Army;

(c) whether the Government has chalked out any scheme to protect the Indian Army from HIV infection; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government is aware of the existence of some HIV positive cases in the Indian Army. The incidence of HIC positive cases in the Indian Army is below 0.02 percent.

Government has taken several steps to protect the Indian Army from HIV infection. These steps include the following:-

- (i) Health education on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS through audio-visual and other media have been stepped up.
- (ii) Only HIV infection free blood is used for transfusion to Service personnel and their families.
- (iii) Condoms are made available freely in the units for Service personnel.
- (iv) Service personnel found sero-positive for HIV are examined frequently and preventive

measures are taken against the spread of infection from such personnel.

- (v) Surveillance of High Risk Groups such as blood donors, patients of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Tuberculosis patients, Ante natal cases, personnel proceeding abroad in peace keeping missions and returning from same etc.

#### **Films Rejected by Censor Board**

2507. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether films rejected by Censor Board of a region get necessary certificates for exhibition from the appellate authority; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Central Board of Film Certification certifies films in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. In accordance with Section 5 C(1) of the Act, any person applying for a certificate in respect of a film who is aggrieved by any order of the Board may within 30 days from the date of such order prefer an appeal to the Tribunal. The Tribunal, after due consideration, may grant the film which has been rejected by the Examining Committee/Revising Committee, the necessary certificate.

#### **VRS for Employees in Air India**

2508. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently approved Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for the employees of Air India and its subsidiary Hotel Corporation of India (HCI);

(b) if so, whether the VRS approved for employees of HCI is different from VRS approved for Air India employees;

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

(d) whether DPE guidelines in implementing the said VRS and Air India were violated;

(e) if so, whether some employees of HCI who were given VRS have represented to the Government for not giving them one month's notice or notice pay which is mandatory under VRS; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government to ensure that the employees are given one month's notice or notice pay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Voluntary Retirement Schemes implemented by Air India and HCI were based on DPE guidelines (Gujarat Pattern). Only difference in both the Schemes is with regard to VRS compensation. In the case of Air India, the pay scales of the employees are yet to be revised and as such, the VRS compensation, which was paid, was based on the last salary drawn in the pre-revised pay scales and the VRS compensation was enhanced by 50%. These were based on the detailed guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises. In HCI, the pay scales of employees were revised effective 1997. Hence, the VRS compensation was calculated/paid based on revised Scales.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. DPE guidelines were not violated while implementing VRS. However, some employees of HCI had made representations, which were replied by HCI appropriately. HCI had displayed/notified the names of the employee by serving 30 days notice and also issued individual letters. In the case of Air India, the Notice conveying acceptance of VRS was conveyed with one month's Notice/the date from which the employee had preferred to retire, which did not involve payment of any salary. As the VRS is voluntary in nature, the question of giving one month's notice or notice pay by Air India did not arise and therefore, had not been provided in the scheme of Air India as mandatory requirement.

[*Translation*]

#### **Establishment of CARA**

2509. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has established Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) for inspection, guidance and regulation etc. of the functioning of the recognized social child welfare agencies working in national and trans-national adoption;

(b) if so, the brief progress of the said agency; and

(c) the number of Indian children adopted in other countries during each of the last three years, till-date, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) was set up on 28th June, 1990 to regulate, inspect and monitor the working of recognized social/child welfare agencies engaged in inter-country adoption and to promote in-country adoption. It started functioning as an autonomous body w.e.f. 18.03.1999. After the ratification of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption, 1993, CARA has been designated as the Central Authority in the matters of adoptions under the Convention w.e.f. 1.10.2003. A statement showing country-wise number of inter-country adoptions as per records of CARA during 2002, 2003 and 2004 (upto November) is enclosed.

#### *Statement*

Sl.No.	Name of the Country	2002	2003	2004 Upto November
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Austria	15	20	15
2.	Australia	37	29	19
3.	Belgium	28	22	30
4.	Bahrain	02	0	01
5.	Canada	19	12	08
6.	Denmark	116	36	106
7.	Finland	06	05	12
8.	France	16	21	13
9.	Germany	23	15	28
10.	Hong Kong	01	0	01
11.	Iceland	09	07	04
12.	Ireland	02	03	04
13.	Italy	100	113	130

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Luxembourg	4	5	2
15.	Mauritius	3	1	1
16.	Netherlands	29	24	26
17.	Norway	40	23	21
18.	New Zealand	0	2	3
19.	Singapore	10	17	0
20.	Spain	104	111	102
21.	Sweden	51	39	39
22.	Switzerland	34	22	30
23.	UAE	15	45	12
24.	UK	13	17	19
25.	USA	381	429	289
26.	Kenya	3	0	1
27.	Japan	1	0	0
28.	Russia	1	0	0
29.	South Africa	1	2	2
30.	Tanzania	2	2	0
31.	Vietnam	0	1	0
32.	Republic of Benin	0	0	1
33.	Indonesia	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1066</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>919</b>

#### **Irregularities in Respect of Land Construction**

2510. SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN:  
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:  
SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI:

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

(a) the total number of complaints received by the Government against the junior and senior officers of H.P.C.L. about the irregularities in respect of the land construction and operation of jubilee, COCO and retail outlets during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken by the Government on these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) During the last three years, & complaints were received against officers of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) about irregularities in respect of land construction and the operation of Jubilee, COCO and Retail Outlets (ROs). These were investigated by HPCL.

(b) After investigation, no irregularities could be established in respect of these complaints.

[English]

#### **Broadgauge line from Pipavav Port of Surendranagar**

2511. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of broadgauge line of Pipavav port to Surendranagar has been finished; and

(b) if so, the time by which the passenger train started from Pipavav to Ahmedabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The gauge conversion of the line has already been completed and line commissioned for goods traffic. The passenger services are running between Surendranagar-Dhola. The passenger trains beyond Dhola will be planned after completion of some residual works and thereafter, certification of Commissioner of Railway Safety.

#### **Upgradation of New Jalpaiguri Railway Station**

2512. SHRI D. NARBULA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that New Jalpaiguri (NJP) is one of the most important railway station in Eastern India and NJP comes under ADRM at present;

(b) whether the Government is also aware that lot of railway problems could not be solved in the absence of DRM;

(c) if so, whether the Government is initiating step to upgrade NJP and have a DRM instead of ADRM with HQ at NJP for the convenience of the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) There is no such problem. The Additional Divisional Railway Manager, New Jalpaiguri works under Divisional Railway Manager, Katihar. The present arrangement is functioning satisfactorily.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**World Bank's Assistance for Development of Lord Lingaraj Temple**

2513. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is providing funds for the development of Lord Lingaraj Temple at Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the amount of grants likely to be obtained from the World Bank;

(c) whether any agreement has been made with the World Bank for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) World Bank is not providing any funds for the development of Lord Lingaraj Temple at Bhubaneswar.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**LPG Gas Agencies**

2514. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to open more LPG agencies in Barasat, Jalpaiguri, Balurghat and Cooch Behar constituencies to meet the demand of the public;

(b) if so, the time by which new agencies are likely to be set up in these areas; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are free to identify and set up LPG distributorships at various locations, on the basis of commercial considerations. At present, OMCs are identifying viable locations across the country and it is most likely that some of the locations in these constituencies would be included in their future plan for setting up LPG distributorships.

*[Translation]*

**Shankar Dayal Sharma Rajya Swatantrata Sangrahalaya**

2515. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a proposal of Rs. 102.00 lakh for upgradation and development of Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma Rajya Swatantrata Sangrahalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A total amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs has been approved for the purposes of Construction of gallery, Publication, Purchase of Equipment, Documentation and Museum Library.

**Facilities at Phoolpur Railway Station**

2516. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the category of Phoolpur railway station of North-Central railway;

(b) whether the required facilities are available at this station according to its category;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide computerised reservation facility at Phoolpur railway station and to renovate the dilapidated building of this station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Phoolpur railway station is in Northern Railway. It is a 'D' category station.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. As per norms of Minimum Essential Amenities, there is a shortfall of 2 Nos. of Lavatory, 4 Nos. of Urinals and 20 Seats on platform No. 2/3. This is targeted for completion by 31.3.2005.

(e) The workload at Phoolpur Railway Station is not adequate to qualify for providing computerised reservation facility under the extant PRS policy at present. The station building is in good condition. The need based normal maintenance/repair of the station building is carried out to keep it in satisfactory condition.

#### **Connection of Kota with Jaipur Zonal Office**

2517. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to connect Kota with Jaipur Zonal Office;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which Kota is likely to be connected with Jaipur Zonal Office; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) While operationalising the new railway zones, the jurisdictions of all the zones were once again reviewed keeping in view the geographical contiguity of the Divisions, smooth movement of traffic and to improve efficiency by providing better control and it was decided to place Kota Division under West Central Railway Zone with Headquarters at Jabalpur.

#### **Appellate Tribunal for Regulator to Oil Sector**

2518. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Appellate Tribunal to hear appeals regarding decisions of the proposed oil sector regulator;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main functions of this tribunal; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Government is proposing to set up a Petroleum and Natural Gas Appellate Tribunal to hear appeals against the orders and decisions of the proposed Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board. The proposal is under consideration and when finalised, the details will be included in the Bill to be introduced in the Parliament.

#### **Petrol Pumps on Highways**

2519. SHRI A.F.G. OSMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of newly installed petrol pumps of HPCL on National Highway in Haryana and Punjab are not having clearance from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways;

(b) the amount of investment on such pumps has been made by HPCL for developing the A and B sites, category-wise; and

(c) the action proposed by the Government against the responsible officers for wasting the funds?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The number of newly installed Retail Outlets (ROs) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) in the States of Punjab and Haryana not having final clearance from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is 9 and 14 respectively.

(b) The amount spent by HPCL on 'A' sites (Company owned) and 'B' sites (Company leased) is Rs. 62 lakh and Rs. 38 lakh respectively.

(c) The expenditure incurred is mainly on preliminary activities like boundary wall, site development etc. which is a commercial practice followed by the Oil Industry. For delays by the officers of the State Government, the State Government is responsible.

#### News on FM Channels

2520. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding permission to broadcast news on private FM channels is lying pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Dr. Amit Mitra Committee, constituted to make recommendations for 2nd Phase of Private FM Radio Broadcasting recommended that News & Current Affairs be permitted. Further, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended that the current restriction on coverage of News & Current Affairs should be reviewed, keeping the policies in other media segments in view and these restrictions be lifted once the security implications of this step are adequately addressed.

(c) The matter is currently under examination and no time frame can be indicated for final decision.

#### Laying of Gas Pipeline from Krishna-Godavari Basin

2521. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Southern gas grid has been set up by laying gas pipeline from Krishna-Godavari basin; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No Southern gas grid has been set up by the Government. However, Gas Transportation & Infrastructure Company Limited (GTICL), a company promoted by M/s Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has been given permission for laying natural gas pipelines along the Kakinada-Hyderabad-Uran-Ahmedabad and Hyderabad-Goa routes.

In addition, GAIL has also conceptualized pipeline projects from Kakinada to Chennai and Kakinada to Uran, subject to tying up gas supplies with the producers.

#### Road Over Bridges in Bihar

2522. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started the construction of Road Over Bridges in various parts of Bihar;

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

(c) the estimated cost and period during which construction of each of such bridges are likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c) A Statement is attached.

#### Statement

##### (b) Details of Cost sharing works:

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Railway Share (Rs. in lacs)	State Share (Rs. in lacs)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ara ROB in lieu of LC No. 49 at Km 593/9 on Jhajha-Patna section	194	108	Railway portion ROB completed in 1988.



1	2	3	4	5
2.	Mithapur-ROB in lieu of LC No. 79A at Km 543/14-15 on Patna-Gaya section near Mithapur	1456	4198	Sub structure works completed. Bridge proper work in progres.
3.	Road Over Bridge near level crossing No. 75-C between Rajendemagar & Guljarbagh at Km. 540/7-8	385	385	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
4.	Chukti-ROB in lieu of LC No. 28/Spl. (k. 113/5-6) Between Mahesh Khut and Mansi	350	350	All 40 piles completed.
5.	Bhagalpur ROB-Replacement of ROB No. 153 near Bhagalpur	345	1116	Work on State Govt. portion is shortly to start. Bridge proper work is in progress.
6.	Saharsa-Panchgachchi ROB-ROB in lieu of LC No. 31/Spl	462	474	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
7.	Chiraiya Tand (Patna) ROB-New cable-stayed ROB with widening of existing ROB No. 127A	794	594	Physical work commenced. 12 piles of 1000 mm dia and 5 pile of 1200 mm dia have been completed.
8.	Manpur ROB at Km. 462/19-20 between Manpur-Bandhua in lieu of LC No. 67-A	255	277	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
9.	Anugarhnrayanpur ROB in lieu of LC No. 30 between Anugarhnrayan-Phesar	892	915	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
10.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 34 at Km 188/13-14 between Raxaul and Bhalwa station	586	586	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
11.	Sasamusa ROB in lieu of LC No. 10/A between Sasamusa and Jalapur station	578	570	GAD approved detail design and drawing awaited from State Government.
12.	Adapur ROB in lieu of LC No. 33 at Km 186/13-14 between Adapur and Raxaul station	586	586	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
13.	Gaya ROB in lieu of Lc No. 2 between Gaya and Kastha.	539	561	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
14.	ROB in lieu of Lc No. 54/A at Km 0/11-12 between Hazipur and Sarai Station	586	586	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
15.	Sonepur ROB in lieu of Lc No. 33 between Sonepur and Dehri-on-sone	873	895	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Patna Sahib ROB in lieu of Lc No. 72 between Patna Sahib and Guizarbagh	918	940	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
17.	Rajendranagar ROB in lieu of Lc No. 74 between Guizarbagh and Rajendranagar station	926	948	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
18.	Bihta ROB in lieu of Lc No. 45 between Bihta and Keolwar	300	922	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
19.	Narayanpur ROB in lieu of LC No. 101/A at Km 85/19-20 in Samastipur-Muzaffarpur section	573	573	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
20.	Sonpur ROB in lieu of Lc No. 4 at Km 276/10-11 beteen Sonpur-Parmanadpur station in Hazipur-Chappra section	627	627	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
21.	Samastipur ROB in lieu of Lc No. 101 at Km 84/14-15 between Narayanpur Anant-Muzaffarpur station	627	627	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
22.	Digwara ROB in lieu of Lc No. 16 at Km 296/3-4 beteen Digwara and Baragopalganj station	627	627	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
23.	Darbhanga ROB in lieu of Lc No. 26 at Km 37/12-13 in Darbhanga Station yard	590	590	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
24.	Sarai ROB in lieu of Lc No. 47 at Km 6/11-12 between Hazipur and Sarai Station	567	508	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
25.	Darbhanga ROB in lieu of Lc No. 27 at Km 0/6-7 in Darbhanga Station	566	566	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
26.	Construction of 2 lane ROB in lieu of Lc No. 11A at Km 289/14-290/0 between Sitalpur-Nayagaon station	574	574	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
27.	ROB in lieu of Lc No. 32 at kms. 9/15-16 between Kakar Ghati-Tar Sarai Rly. stn.	586	586	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
28.	Chappra ROB in lieu of Lc No. 47 at Km 326/2-3 between Chappra and Chappra Ky station	568	568	SE/PWD/Chappra has been requested to give the GAD at the earliest. In the meantime site data collection from railway side is in progress.

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Hazipur ROB in lieu of Lc No. 54/A at Km 266/0-265/15 between Hazipur and Bidrupur station	579	586	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
30.	Gulzarbagh ROb in lieu of Lc No. 73 between Gulzarbagh and Rajendranagar station	892	914	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
31.	Purnea ROB in lieu of Lc No. 15/KJ at Km 27/3-4	453	464	GAD is not yet submitted to the Railways.
32.	Kudra ROB in lieu of Lc No. 52/1 in Kudra station limit.	557	579	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
33.	Sachivalya and Fulwarisharif ROB in replacement of Lc No. 31	905	927	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
34.	Sasaram ROB in lieu of Lc No. 43 between Sasaram station limit	855	877	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
35.	Sachivalaya ROB in lieu of Lc No. 30 between Sachivalaya and Phulwari Sharif	892	914	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
36.	Talaya-Marjhew Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 47	486	508	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
37.	Samastipur yard-Foot over bridge with ramps at level crossing No. 52	69	0	Work sanctioned in 2003-04.
38.	Gaya-kastha ROB in replacement of Lc No. 1	526	548	Work awarded to M/s IRCON.
39.	Muzzafarpur-Raxaul Section: ROB in lieu of Lc No. 175 at Km 186/3-4 between Semra-Sagauli stations	743	743	Work sanctioned in Works Programme 2004-05.
40.	ROB in lieu of Lc No. 92 at Km 387/14-15 in Siwan station yard in Chhapra-Gorakhpur section	515	515	Work sanctioned in Works Programme 2004-05.
41.	ROB in lieu of Lc No. 46 'A' at Km 393/0-1 between Jamaui-Bhalau stations on main line (4 lane)	700	1645	Work sanctioned in Works Programme 2004-05.
42.	ROB in lieu of Lc No. 48 'A' at Km 591/25-27 between Kulharia-Ara station on main line (4 lane)	723	1694	Work sanctioned in Works Programme 2004-05

1	2	3	4	5
43.	ROB in lieu of Lc No. 60 'B' at Km 619/3-5 in Bhabau station limit in GC section	767	767	Work sanctioned in Works Programme 2004-05.
44.	Sultanganj-Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 10/B/T-	504.07	504.07	Work sanctioned in Supplementary Demand for Grant 2004-05.
45.	Bariyarpur-Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 15/B/T	500	500	Work sanctioned in Supplementary Demand for Grant 2004-05.

(c) Anticipated cost of cost sharing works has been shown in the statement above. Railway construct the Bridge proper *i.e.* Bridge over the Railway Track and approaches by State Government. All efforts shall be made by Railway to complete its portion of work alongwith approaches by State Government. In some cases Railway at request of State Government have entrusted the execution of complete work by single agency M/s IRCON.

#### Re-opening of Cycle Corporation of India

2523. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering the re-opening the Cycle Corporation of India, Asansol, the only cycle manufacturing industry in Eastern India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government has taken steps to consider the interested promoters for re-starting the cycle factory through the Government of West Bengal;

(d) whether the Government has received proposal for re-opening of the cycle factory (Cycle Corporation of India); and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) to (e) Government of West Bengal had forwarded a request from a private company for taking over one of

the units of the Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) *viz.* the Asansol Unit. Government of India have informed Government of West Bengal that the BIFR on 10.7.2000 had passed orders for winding up of CCIL under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, and that the matter was before the High Court for the process of winding up. Kolkata High Court, on 9.12.2002 accepted the recommendation of BIFR and directed Official Liquidator (OL) to take charge of the assets of the Company. The O.L. has since taken over the charge of the assets of the Company on various dates in the year 2003. The transfer or sale or any other mode of disposal of assets is, thus, no longer within the competence of the Government.

#### Conversion of Mahuva-Dhasa in Gujarat

2524. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the conversion of Mahuva-Dhasa rail line in Gujarat from meter gauge to broad gauge is likely to be taken up;

(b) whether the Pipavav Port Authority was involved in this project and to share the expenditure towards the same but the amount has not been paid by the Authority;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry of Railways is keenly watching Pipavav Line which put lot of inconvenience to the masses; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Gauge conversion of Mahuva-Dhasa has already been completed and section commissioned for goods traffic.

(b) Yes, Sir. M/s Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd. (GPPL) which is involved in this project has not paid its full equity.

(c) and (d) The work of gauge conversion of Surendranagar-Pipavav line has been implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle, Pipavav Rail Corporation Ltd. (PRCL) with participation of Ministry of Railways & GPPL. To enable Zonal Railway to complete the balance works, adequate funds have been made available after making necessary adjustments from apportioned earnings of PRCL.

#### **Court Marshal of Soldiers**

2525. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers prosecuted/court marshalled/summary tried under the Army Act 1950 from 2000 to 2003; and

(b) the number of them were convicted and sentenced to undergo imprisonment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The number of courts martial held during the years 2000 to 2003 was 4225. The number of soldiers prosecuted and convicted therein were 3966, out of which 2203 soldiers were sentenced to undergo imprisonment.

#### **Transportation of Onion**

2526. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ad-hoc Committee of Maharashtra Legislature on Onion had requested the Union Government for making special transport arrangements for Onion including availability of ventilated wagons, reduction in freight rates for the perishable commodity and making a railway siding available near different onion growing areas like Lasagaon, Manmad and Nasik;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) whether the Government has assured the State Government during a meeting on November 6, 2003 to take effective steps in the matter; and

(d) if so, the steps so far taken in the matter?

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

(b) to (d) To facilitate loading of Onion from the State of Maharashtra, following steps have been taken:

- (i) The concerned zonal railway is arranging railway wagons for loading of Onion at the earliest.
- (ii) The movement of Onion is being done on priority. Presently, no indent is outstanding.
- (iii) Adequate Railway siding facilities for loading of Onion are available at Nasik Road, Lasagaon (Lasalgaon) and Manmad.
- (iv) Freight rates of Onion are already at lowest classification (class-90). Any further reduction is not feasible.
- (v) Railways are providing adequate wagons for loading of Onion. However, in view of the seasonal loading of Onion, special ventilated wagons are not operationally justified as it involves additional expenditure without commensurate benefit.

#### **Reconstruction/Strengthening of Railway Bridges**

2527. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for reconstruction/strengthening of railway bridges in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the bridges identified in West Bengal alongwith the funds earmarked for this purpose for this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Statistics for Bridge Works are maintained Zonal Railway-wise and State-wise. As on 01.04.2004 there are total 823 bridges sanctioned for rebuilding/rehabilitation under Eastern, South Eastern and North Frontier Railways which serve State of West Bengal also. Railway wise position of bridge works and allotment of fund during current year budget is given as under:

Sl.No.	Railway	Number of bridges Sanctioned as on 01.04.2004	Number of bridges targeted for completion in 2004-05	Budget Allotment in 2004-05 (Rupees in Crores)
1.	Eastern Railway	381	101	75.00
2.	South Eastern Railway	158	55	32.00
3.	North East Frontier Railway	284	122	19.00
	Total	823	278	126

### Congestion at Airport

2528. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the Air Traffic congestion at Delhi airport especially in the evening of winter season and the inconvenience caused to travellers;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to alleviate this problem;

(c) the number of delayed departures of Indian Airlines in the last six months;

(d) the reasons for such delays while the private airlines maintain their punctuality; and

(e) the steps proposed to run the flights in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cat-III A Instrument Landing System (ILS) is already operational at Delhi Airport to facilitate arrival and departure of flights in a visibility range of not less than 200 metres. The Government has plans to install Cat-III B ILS so as to enable landing/take off of aircraft even when visibility is less than 200 meters. Airlines have been impressed upon to step up training activities for pilots to use these advanced technical equipments. Fog preparedness for the ensuing winter has been reviewed with all concerned agencies. A Coordination Committee shall monitor the start up clearances to manage and prioritize the movement of flights during fog. Meteorological Department shall be providing timely trends and forecast of fog and also make it available on the internet site. Air India has prepared a Contingency Plan for ensuring timely

movement of flights during Winter Season. Private Airlines are also taking measures to manage operations during fog to mitigate any inconvenience to passengers.

(c) During the last six months (June-November, 2004), 26.07% flights of Indian Airlines were delayed.

(d) Main reasons for the delay are adverse weather, Airport restrictions, Bird hit damage, Security checks, VIP movement, technical snags, non-availability of crew etc.

(e) Steps proposed *inter-alia* include modernization of Airports, upgradation of technical equipments, achieving greater use of these equipments, improving the ground handling facilities and passenger facilitation etc.

[English]

### Directives for Welfare of Minorities

2529. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is complying the 15-point directive of Government of India regarding the welfare of the minorities and their adjustment in the services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons belonging to minority community employed during the last three years in various Organisations under the Ministry of Civil Aviation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 370 persons belonging to minority community have been employed in various organisations under the Ministry of Civil Aviation during the last three years. The details are as under:-

Ministry (Main)	—	1
Bureau of Civil Aviation Security	—	7
Airports Authority of India	—	112
Air India Limited	—	112
Indian Airlines Limited	—	137
Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academy	—	1

#### Oil Spill in Sea

2530. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Seventh National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan and Preparedness meeting (NOS-DCP) was held on September 17, 2004;

(b) if so, the conclusions/recommendations thereof;

(c) the details of the eight incidents of unseaworthy ships sinking in or near Indian waters noticed during the last one year;

(d) the measures being taken for comprehensive oil spill management in Indian waters and to check the movement of unseaworthy ships to prevent environment disasters;

(e) the time by which the proposed three state-of-the-art ships are likely to be inducted in Coast Guards

service to monitor oil spill in sea and to check sinking of unseaworthy ships; and

(f) the time by which the Merchant Shipping Amendment Act, 2003 is likely to be enforced to prevent sinking of unseaworthy ships?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) The Seventh National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan and Preparedness meeting (NOS-DCP) was held on September 17, 2004.

Recommendations of the meeting were:-

- (i) All stakeholders to expedite setting up of required facilities for oil spill response.
- (ii) Stakeholders to submit their Oil Spill disaster contingency plans at the earliest.
- (iii) Stakeholders to expedite signing of Memorandum of Understanding with ports for sharing the cost of Pollution control equipment and associated expenditure.
- (iv) Director General (Shipping) to monitor and regulate operations of unseaworthy ships.
- (v) State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) to prepare and submit contingency plans for shoreline clear up, in case of oil spills.
- (vi) Conduct of quality training for stakeholders in oil spill management.

The details of the eight incidents of ships sinking in or near Indian waters during the last one year are as follows:-

Date & Year	Ship	Status
1	2	3
20th February 2004	MSV Jal Jyoti	Indian Registered vessel Sank off Okha, Gujarat
19th March 2004	MT Delta-1	Panama Registered vessel collided with MV APL Pusan and broke into two parts off Vadinar, Gujarat
31st March 2004	TUG TB Mayang SARI	Malaysian registered TUG sank outside Indian water off Nancawry island in the Andaman group of Islands.
13th April 2004	MV Genuis Star VI	Malaysian vessel sank off Sagar island near Haldia
28th May 2004	MV Azbul Bher	Wooden vessel Sank off Port Blair

1	2	3
16th June 2004	MV Dorest (Old Name Nancy)	DPR Korea Ship Sank off Mumbai Harbour
16th August 2004	MV Ken Explorer	Liberian vessel ran ground off Gulf of Cambay
28th August 2004	AL-Sah-in-Sah Hind	Sailing vessel sank off Mundra, Gujarat

With the growing concern about environment protection, a project Review and Monitoring Committee (PRMC), having representatives from the Government and public & private sector oil companies was constituted in September 2002 to prepare a Road map for an oil spill management policy for India.

The Government issued directives to the Coast Guard, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) and DG (Shipping) on 8th December 2003 for dealing with marine pollution.

The DG (Shipping) has issued guidelines for charters and oil terminal operators of crude oil and product tankers on international voyages to and from any Indian port whereby:

- (i) Use of such tankers which are more than 25 years old has been prohibited.
- (ii) All such tankers must be classified either with a full member of the International Association of Classification Society (IACS) or Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- (iii) Tanker charterers and Oil Terminal operators shall exercise due diligence in ensuring the quality of tankers taken on charter basis. The guidelines have come into force with effect from 1st April 2004.

DG (Shipping) has also opened offices at Haldia, New Mangalore and Kandla where an officer of the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) has been positioned to carry out the inspection of the tankers.

The Coast Guard Pollution Control Vessels are under construction. The first vessel is expected to be inducted by 2006 and subsequent vessels are expected to be inducted at six monthly intervals.

The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act has come into force with effect from March 1, 2004.

#### **DOPT's Instructions for Promotions of SC/ST Candidates**

2531. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India, I.G.I. Airport, New Delhi has implemented own merit concept in promotions as instructions contained in DOPT's O.M. No. 36028/17/2001-Estt. (Res) dated 11.7.2002;

(b) if so, the number of SC & ST candidates have been promoted on their own merit and counted as UR in post based roster from 1997 to till date;

(c) the number of SC & ST candidates have been promoted by virtue of reservation against reserved posts during the same period;

(d) the details of status of SC & ST candidates short fall year-wise since July 2, 1997 by implementing own merit concept in promotion and without implementing this;

(e) the number of grievances received on the above subject from individuals and from the SC & ST Employees Welfare Association; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Inclusion of MES in CSS**

2532. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MES has not been empanelled in the Central Staffing Scheme (CSS) which is represented by



various other Central Government Departments thus depriving MES officers of this valuable exposure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action intended by Department of Personnel and Training to include MES in the Central Staffing Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Military Engineer Services (MES) has not been empanelled in the Central Staffing Scheme (CSS).

(b) The Central Staffing Scheme is based on the Centre's need for fresh inputs at senior levels in policy planning, formulation of policy and implementation of programmes. The Central Staffing Scheme does not provide for career betterment for any of the participating services. Growth, development and career prospects of the officers belonging to services participating in the Central Staffing Scheme, lie in their own cadre. Moreover, there is already a large number of Organized Group 'A' Services participating under the Central Staffing Scheme. As of now, the necessity of having more services to participate in the Central Staffing Scheme is not urgent.

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above, question does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Celebration of Anniversary of Taj Mahal**

2533. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated schemes for celebrating 350th Anniversary of the Taj Mahal in Agra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also formulating any scheme to sanitise the Taj Mahal and its surroundings, provide public utilities and for environmental protection;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Supreme Court of India has allowed the viewing of the Taj Mahal by tourists during moonlight; and

(f) if so, the number of domestic and foreign tourists expected to visit the Taj on this occasion?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To celebrate 350 years of Taj Mahal, six cultural events have been proposed. Of these, Musical programme at Agra Fort and cultural events at Fatehpur Sikri were organised by Government of Uttar Pradesh on 28.10.2004 and 1.11.2004, respectively. Discussions to finalise the details of the remaining programmes are underway.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken up the following measures for the security of Taj Mahal and providing public amenities and environmental protection:—

- (i) The internal security of Taj Mahal is looked after by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). The external security is looked after by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- (ii) Tourist facilitation centres with provision for toilets, drinking water, souvenir shops, interpretation centre etc. are being provided in the area adjacent to the east and west gates of the Taj Mahal.
- (iii) Development and maintenance of Mehtab Bagh as a part of developing green belt around the Taj Mahal. The stretch of land between the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort is maintained as a green belt by the Agra Development Authority.
- (iv) Regular monitoring of the Suspended Particle Material (SPM) level in and around the Taj Mahal.
- (v) Restrictions on the movement of petrol and diesel vehicles within a radius of 500 metres of the Taj Mahal.

In addition to the above, other pollution control measures, like shifting of polluting industries are being implemented by the UP Government.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. On 27th and 28th November 2004, following number of tourists visited Taj Mahal during moonlit nights:

	27th Nov. 2004	28th Nov. 2004
Indian	229	204
Foreigner	49	119
Children	23	24

[English]

#### Films on Cultural Heritage

2534. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to have films on the cultural heritage of the country particularly from Gujarat;

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

(c) the number of films have been made on the culture, tourism and pilgrimage particularly from Gujarat during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

#### Crude Oil Scam

2535. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI is entrusted to enquire the crude oil theft scam in Assam;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in the enquiry;

(c) the target set, if any, to complete the process of enquiry; and

(d) the details of involvement of officials of various Government and PSUs detected so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) As per information received from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) there is at present no case of theft of crude oil in Assam under investigation by them. However, the Govt. of Assam have referred some cases of pilferage of Crude Oil in Assam

from 1992 onwards to the CBI for investigation, and they have shortlisted five such cases. Notifications under the DSPE act 1946 to empower CBI to investigate these cases are yet to be issued. According to ONGC, the involvement of one security officer of their Assam Asset in crude oil theft has come to their notice. He was arrested by the Sibsagar Police on 2.8.2004 and released on bail on 14.10.2004. The security officer has been placed under suspension.

#### Regular Flight for Guwahati

2536. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to convert the Delhi-Imphal flight via Guwahati to a regular daily flight instead of the present arrangement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the basis/criteria of providing Apex fare scheme in certain sectors only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Airlines/Alliance Air have no such plans due to capacity constraints.

(d) The APEX fares are aimed at stimulating the market by creating a new market segment. These are based on business policy considerations like extent of competition, market size, capacity offered and the potential to generate new market by diversion of existing traffic from other modes of transport.

#### Doubling of Rail Lines in Kerala

2537. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:  
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the doubling of the rail tracks in Kerala between Kozhikode and Mangalore, Shomur and Kozhikode, Emakulam and Piravom, Kayamkulam and Haripad, Kayamkulam and Mavelikkara;

(b) whether any new proposals are under consideration to complete the doubling of Railway tracks between Ernakulam and Kayamkulam via Alleppey and via Kottayam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details of on-going doubling projects along with the estimated cost, expenditure incurred till 31.03.2004, outlay provided during 2004-05, and the target, wherever fixed, are as under:-

(Rupees in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost	Expenditure upto March, 2004	Outlay 2004-05	Status
<b>Doublings</b>					
1.	Calicut-Mangalore (221 kms)	583.74	502.28	15	Work has been completed in 215.69 kms out of 221 kms. The balance work is of Netravati bridge where works are in progress.
2.	Shoranur-Calicut (86 km)	178.23	82.92	30	Doubling of Calicut-Tanur (30 kms) has already been completed. Doubling of Tanur-Pallipuram (31 kms) is targeted for completion during 2004-05.
3.	Ernakulam-Mulanturutti (17.37 km)	53.23	16.70	8	Earthwork, bridgeworks and other works are in progress. The work is likely to be completed during 2005-06.
4.	Kayankulam-Mavelikkara (7.89 km)	21.84	3.83	2.34	Land acquisition papers submitted to State Government. Work on major bridge has started.
5.	Kayankulam-Cheppad (7.76 km)	21.48	3.34	2	Final location survey completed. Land acquisition papers submitted to State Government.
6.	Mavelikkara-Chengannur (12.3 km)	33.65	0	2	Final Location Survey completed. Detailed estimate processed. Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges processed.
7.	Cheppad-Haripad (5.28 km)	14.39	0	2	Final Location Survey completed. Detailed estimate processed. Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges processed.

(b) and (c) An updating survey for doubling of balance section of Kayankulam-Ernakulam via Kottayam/Alleppey is in progress. Further consideration of the proposal would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

#### **Railway Projects Under East Coast Railway**

2538. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Railway projects completed and taken up during the last three years in Orissa under East Coast Railway;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the poor quality of construction work in those projects; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not initiating any action against the private sector undertaking who are constructing the projects with substandard materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details of railway projects completed and taken up during the last three years in Orissa under East Coast Railway are as given below:-

#### *Projects Completed during the Last Three Years in Orissa under East Coast Railway*

S.No.	Name of Project
1.	Kapilas Road—Nergundi and Nergundi—Birupa Cabin (8.7 Kms) Doubling
2.	Salegaon—Nergundi (5.5 Kms) Doubling
3.	Joruli—Keonjhar (48 Kms) of Daitari—Banspani New Line
4.	Rahama—Paradeep (23 Kms) Doubling

#### *Projects included in Budget in the Last Three Years in Orissa Under East Coast Railway*

1. Sambalpur—Rengali Doubling
2. Cuttack—Barang Doubling
3. Khurda Road—Barang 3rd line

(b) There is no case of poor quality of construction work of projects being executed by East Coast Railway which has come to notice.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Flight Schedule of I.A. and Private Airlines**

2539. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:  
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE  
PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for fixing flight schedule of Indian Airlines and other Private Airlines;

(b) the method by which it is fixed and the controlling officer thereof;

(c) whether the passengers of Indian Airlines reach their destination late in comparison to Private Airlines due to difference in their schedule;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in regard to coordination in flight schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a), (b) and (e) The flight schedules are decided and prepared by the airlines themselves on the basis of commercial inputs and operational feasibility.

All airlines including private scheduled airlines submit flight schedule prepared by them to various airport operators like Airports Authority of India, Air Hqrs, Naval Hqrs., HAL Bangalore, Cochin International Airport Ltd., for time slot approval. These schedules are also submitted to Bureau of Civil Aviation Security for security clearance. The flight schedules are finally approved by DGCA based on the approvals received from these agencies.

(c) Indian Airlines has been operating to the historical timings established over a period of time based on market experience. Passengers of Indian Airlines normally reach their destination as per schedule.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Completion of Abhayapuri Bongaigaon-New Maina Guri-New Jalpaiguri Railway Line**

2540. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed a target for the completion of the Abhayapuri-Bongaigaon New Maina Guri-New Jalpaiguri Railway line; and

(b) if so, the present position/progress of the said line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Abhayapuri-Bongaigaon New Mainaguri-New Jalpaiguri is already an existing broad gauge line. However, the work of new line from New Maingauri-Jogighopa (Abhyapuri) is in progress for which no target has yet been fixed.

(b) Land acquisition has been taken up in West Bengal & Assam State Government Earthwork and bridges are in progress where land has been handed over to the Railways.

**Munabao-Khokrapar Rail Links**

2541. SHRI K.S. RAO:  
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Munabao-Khokrapar rail link was frozen since 1965;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to resume this rail link;

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

(d) whether the Government has also decided to resume some other rail links with Pakistan; and

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

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Operationalisation of Munabao-Khokrapar rail link is under technical discussions between Government of India and Pakistan e.g., laying of railway tracks and other related infrastructure. No time-frame has been given by Government of Pakistan for completing the infrastructure.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**STD/ISD/PCO Booths at Stations**

2542. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has allotted a number of STD/ISD/PCO booths at various railway stations on recovery of on and above one hundred twenty per cent commission from them;

(b) whether it is a fact that in addition to above a land license fee @ 20 per cent of the notified is also recovered;

(c) whether the above action of the Government has allowed the STD/ISD/PCO booth holders to adopt illegal methods for more and more earnings by cheating travelling public for fulfilling the tendering amount in question; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At a few stations the allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths has been done on the basis of the financial bid quoted by the tenderers on more than 100% of the commission offered to them by BSNL/MTNL etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) In the revised policy issued in the year 2004 the maximum commission to be offered in the tender has been restricted to 100%.

*[Translation]***Ticketless Travellers**

2543. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of travellers apprehended travelling without tickets in trains and the estimated loss suffered by the Railways during the last six months, till date, zone-wise;

(b) the total amount recovered/collected as penalty from the ticketless travellers during the said period, zone-wise;

(c) whether the Government is considering to check entry in Railway platforms with proper ticket in all important Railway Stations to check ticketless travel in trains;

(d) whether the Railways propose to increase frequent surprise check in different local and express trains to stop ticketless travel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other plans of the Railways to control ticketless travel in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A statement is attached. However, loss suffered by the Railways on account of ticketless travel is not quantifiable.

(c) System already exists for manning of various gates to curb entry of unauthorised passengers in Railway platforms.

(d) and (e) Apart from routine checks, special drives are conducted regularly by the Railways against ticketless travel by identifying the trains as well as sections prone to more ticketless travel. As one of the measures to check ticketless/irregular travel in trains, the minimum penalty in respect of ticketless/irregular travel has been increased to Rs. 250/- from Rs. 50/- with effect from 1.7.2004. The persons apprehended travelling without ticket/with improper ticket are dealt with as per law.

**Statement**

Railway	No. of travellers apprehended travelling unauthorisedly in trains (In lakhs)	The total amount recovered/collected as fare and penalty from the unauthorised travellers (In crores)
	April, 2004 to September, 2004	April, 2004 to September, 2004
1	2	3
Central	4.99	11.39
Eastern	4.10	4.61
East Central	3.47	5.53
East Coast	0.85	1.53

1	2	3
Northern	12.98	21.29
North Central	3.95	8.90
North Eastern	2.90	6.03
Northeast Frontier	1.08	2.58
North Western	1.67	3.12
Southern	1.78	3.76
South Central	4.62	9.29
South Eastern	1.45	2.63
South East Central	1.28	1.85
South Western	0.70	1.82
Western	6.21	10.83
West Central	2.05	4.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.08</b>	<b>99.91</b>

*[English]*

**Amount due from Producers**

2544. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether huge amounts are due from the TV serial producers to Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details of each defaulters in the country, Doordarshan centre-wise; and

(c) the steps the Government has taken to recover such dues?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of defaulting TV serial producers on National Network as on 10.12.2004 is enclosed as Statement-I and those on Regional Networks is enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous Corporation, has informed that the steps taken include

invocation of the arbitration clause, legal action to make arbitrator's award rule of court and placing the company in the advance payment category for the current programme on adherence to the approved re-payment plan for the undisputed dues.

***Statement-I***

***Defaulting TV Serial Producers on National Network as on 10.12.2004***

(All figures are in Rs. in Lacs)

Sl.No.	Name of Producer	Dues as on 10.12.2004
1	2	3
1.	FILM CRAFT Andheri (W), Mumbai	1266
2.	CREATIVE EYE Peeragarhi, Delhi	1200
3.	SHREE MADHAV Khar (W), Mumbai	1156
4.	MULTI CHANNEL Khar (W), Mumbai	1102
5.	FAME COMM. Worli, Mumbai	1074
6.	PLUS CHANNEL Andheri (W), Mumbai	1012
7.	NUMERO UNO Juhu, Mumbai	1010
8.	NIMBUS COMMUNICATION K.G. Marg, New Delhi	649
9.	MARKET MOVERS Breech Candi, Mumbai	311
10.	DRISHTI INDIA Andheri (W), Mumbai	294
11.	ADVANCE TV NETWORK Naraina, Delhi	213

1	2	3
12.	SAGAR ENTERPRISES Natraj Studio, Mumbai	196
13.	CONCEPT ADVTG. Jhandewalan, New Delhi	188
14.	GURUJI ADVTG. Preet Vihar, Delhi	185
15.	B4U MULTIMEDIA Andheri (W), Mumbai	179
16.	MBM Pali Hill, Bandra (W), Mumbai	163
17.	GLOBAL ENT. Greater Kailash, New Delhi	161
18.	L.R. ENT. Link Road, Malad (W), Mumbai	155
19.	PRITISH NANDY COMM. Opp. Lion Gate, Mumbai	154
20.	CREATIVE CHANNEL Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi	150
21.	NAND ADVTG. Daryaganj, Delhi	140
22.	WORLD MEDIA Jhandewalan, New Delhi	132
23.	MEDIA ASIA K.G. Marg, New Delhi	122
24.	MAYA ENT. Kandivli (E), Mumbai	120
25.	MAGNA VISION Jungpura-B, New Delhi	105
26.	PRABHA FILMS Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	75

1	2	3
27.	UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATION J.S.S. Marg, Mumbai	73
28.	FIRST OPTION Tele Films Andheri (W), Mumbai	72
29.	KINE SCOPE Khar (W), Mumbai	70
30.	AALIYA PRODUCTIONS K.G. Marg, New Delhi	60
31.	ABHINAV CREATIONS G.K.I, New Delhi	55
32.	JAYA ADVTG. V.T., Mumbai	47
33.	URANUS Khar (W), Mumbai	46
34.	COPY DESK Mayapuri, New Delhi	45
35.	JOSLIN COMM. Rajori Garden, New Delhi	42
36.	CINEMA VISION Jogeshwari (W), Mumbai	35
37.	NETWORK 7/Video I Bellasis Road, Mumbai	33
38.	TRACER ADVTG. Mumbai	33
39.	PAS INTERNATIONAL Inder Puri, Delhi	30
40.	BAG FILMS Green Park Extn., New Delhi	29
41.	LEHAR PUB. SERVICE Tula Ram Bagh, Allahabad	27

1	2	3
42.	G.N. COMM. East of Kailash, New Delhi	25
43.	INNOVISION FILM Santacruz, Mumbai	25
44.	NEERJA FILMS Rohtak Road, New Delhi	23
45.	STAR GAZER Sukdhev Vihar, Okhla	22
46.	TRANSLINK TELE. Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	22
47.	I.D. TV Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi	21
48.	PRIME TIME MEDIA Rajender Nagar, New Delhi	20
49.	ASIAN AD AGE Green Park Extn., New Delhi	19
50.	PARAS MARKETING Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi	19
51.	CORRUM COMM. South Extn., New Delhi	18
52.	ADVISION MULTIMEDIA Noida	17
53.	W.D. CONSUMER Nirlon House, Worli, Mumbai	17
54.	JOS MARKETICA Khirki Extn., New Delhi	15
55.	RADHA PUBLICITY Jublie Hills, Hyderabad	13
56.	TIME SHOP ADVTG. Mumbai	13



1	2	3
57.	ASHA COMMUNICATION	
	Preet Vihar, Delhi	12
58.	BIDHAN ADVTG.	
	Ellsbridge, Ahmedabad	11
59.	FUTURE COMM.	
	Goregaon, Mumbai	11
60.	MAGIC BOX	
	Andheri (W), Mumbai	11
61.	A&A FILMS	
	Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi	6
62.	AK INT.	
	Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi	5
63.	GLOBAL VISION	
	Laxmi Nagar, Delhi	5
64.	UNITED TELEVISION	
	Sakinaka, Mumbai	3
65.	VIGYAPAN	
	New Delhi	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>12565</b>

**Statement-II**

*Defaulting TV Serial Producers on Regional Networks  
as on 10.12.2004*

(All figures are in Lacs of Rupees)

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Amount
1	2	3
<b>AHMEDABAD</b>		
1.	Pinky advtg.	12.95
2.	Translink	9.35
3.	Kunal Ads	8.44
4.	Vihira	3.30

1	2	3
5.	Universal	1.45
<b>Total</b>		<b>35.49</b>
<b>GUWAHATI</b>		
1.	Delcom	17.01
2.	Prominent	4.47
3.	Sweet Melody	3.71
4.	Translink TV	2.44
5.	Sweet Sound	1.70
6.	Joslin	1.61
7.	Sunrise	0.94
8.	Telstar	0.37
<b>Total</b>		<b>32.25</b>
<b>JULLANDHAR</b>		
1.	Translink	26.90
2.	Telstar	22.57
3.	Paras Marketing	13.37
4.	Prema	11.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>74.34</b>
<b>BHOPAL</b>		
1.	M.P. Madhyam	9.48
2.	Crataive Video	8.27
3.	Translink TV	6.98
4.	PNC	5.20
5.	Sweet Sound	5.16
6.	Lehar Communication	3.89
7.	Art Commercial	3.43
8.	Prema	0.42
<b>Total</b>		<b>42.83</b>
<b>LUCKNOW</b>		
1.	Advision M/Media	25.09
2.	PEN	18.86

1	2	3
3.	Tracer	18.68
4.	Lehar Communication	18.08
5.	Twin Ads	13.52
6.	Translink TV	10.69
7.	Star Gazer	9.68
8.	Innovation	6.96
9.	Filmana	3.00
	Total	124.56
<b>CHENNAI</b>		
1.	Multi Channel	185.02
2.	Kinescope	80.49
3.	Channel 8	68.15
4.	Green Signal	40.68
5.	Profad	35.90
6.	Vision Time	26.52
7.	Translink TV	25.86
8.	Prema	19.64
	Total	482.26
<b>JAIPUR</b>		
1.	Film Craft	3.98
2.	Translink TV	2.50
3.	Suyojan	1.92
4.	Clea	1.42
	Total	9.82
<b>BHUBANESHWAR</b>		
1.	Sweet Sound	38.52
2.	Pinky Advtg.	14.15
3.	Sweet Melody	8.45
4.	Translink TV	7.47
5.	Brahma Vision	3.06
	Total	71.65

1	2	3
<b>BANGALORE</b>		
1.	Kinescope	98.05
2.	Magic Box	92.48
3.	Unit One	74.33
4.	Cue-Corn	70.25
5.	Prime Time IP Media	45.19
6.	Translink TV	20.10
7.	Profad	16.52
8.	Uranus	10.01
	Total	426.93
<b>HYDERABAD</b>		
1.	F.S. Advtg.	58.63
2.	Hansa Vision	30.77
3.	Profad	23.51
4.	Creative Unit	11.32
	Total	124.23
<b>MUMBAI</b>		
1.	Sitara Vision	59.59
2.	Advision M/Media	39.02
3.	Film Craft	32.08
4.	Media Cafe	29.20
5.	Prime Time IP Media	28.81
6.	Translink TV	21.76
7.	Omega	19.00
8.	Art Commercial	17.53
	Total	246.99
<b>KOLKATA</b>		
1.	Aarambh Advtg.	236.00
2.	Channel 8	155.20
3.	Sweet Sound	94.64
4.	Sweet Melody	85.32

1	2	3
5.	Spell Binder	69.02
6.	Sunrise media	66.58
7.	Asian Ad Age	34.17
8.	Continental	22.55
9.	Prema	18.45
10.	Sar Video	17.53
	Total	2919.46

## TRIVANDRUM

1.	A&A Films	181.00
2.	Baseline	83.39
3.	Innovation	77.62
4.	Vision Time	25.15
5.	Translink TV	22.04
6.	Universal	21.12
7.	Vanguard	13.45
8.	Omega	11.54
	Total	435.31

All Kendras are taking necessary actions including Filing of court Cases for recovery of outstanding dues. As regards, outstanding of M/s Arambh Advertising of Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata it may be mentioned that matter is pending before Hon'ble High Court of Kolkata. At present all the programmes have been taken off the air.

[Translation]

**Permanent Pay Commission for Armed Forces**

2545. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up a permanent Pay Commission for armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Revision in the pay and

allowances of Government employees are undertaken on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commissions, both for uniformed and civilian employees. No change in the same is envisaged for the Armed Forces.

**Appointment on Compassionate Ground**

2546. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amendment to the existing policy regarding appointment on compassionate ground in defence institution is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether it is a fact that as per the present policy, 5 per cent of the vacancies are filled up every year on compassionate ground and at least 60 to 70 cases for appointments on compassionate grounds added every year to the already pending list in Jabalpur and relatives of the deceased never get a chance to get a job on compassionate grounds; and

(d) if so, whether the Government will consider the fixation of 50% vacancies out of the vacancies for direct recruitment to be fixed on compassionate grounds in order to provide relief to such bereaved families?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the existing policy followed throughout the country, 5% of the vacancies in Group 'C' & 'D' posts to be filled up through direct recruitment each year are meant for appointment on compassionate grounds. Offer of appointment is made for such vacancies on the basis of a merit list drawn up after taking into account the assets and liabilities of the deceased government servant. Since the number of applications for compassionate appointments is much higher than the vacancies available for making such appointments, it is not possible to offer appointments to all the applicants.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration.

[English]

**New Railway Terminal in Kerala**

2547. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:  
SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work for the construction of a new railway terminal at the capital city of Kerala at Kochu Veli;

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed and the terminal commissioned; and

(c) the main features of this terminal and the estimated expenditure of its construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The progress of the works is about 45%. Pit line work of 540 meter and platform work of 150 meter have been completed.

(b) This work is likely to be completed by 31.03.2005.

(c) The main features of this work is creation of a new terminal with one platform line, one stabling line, one pit line, station building, service buildings etc.

The estimated cost of the work is Rs. 8 crore.

*[Translation]*

#### **Construction of Rail Siding in Giridih**

2548. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct rail siding in Giridih to supply iron ore and other items to industries in Giridih district of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Petroleum Regulatory Authority**

2549. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:  
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:  
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:  
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:  
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

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

(a) whether an independent Petroleum Regulatory Authority will be constituted by early next year;

(b) whether the Government is also putting 21 new oil and gas exploration blocks for bidding in January 2005;

(c) if so, whether the Government has already cleared for introduction of a bill for regulatory;

(d) the role of this Authority in the international market;

(e) whether the Government would also be restructuring the directorate general of hydrocarbons in order to improve the upstream business; and

(f) the extent to which this oil and gas regulators will be helpful for the petroleum products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a), (c), (d) and (f) The Government propose to set up a Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products, and natural gas to all parts of the country including remote areas, at fair prices and to establish sectoral regulations to ensure competition, protect consumers and encourage investment as well as take action against violation of Rules and Regulations of the Board. The details of the proposal will be made public when the revised draft legislation is tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government of India is putting 20 exploration blocks for offer under global bidding in NELP Round-V.

(e) Owing to the increasing number of contracts and the work load this involves, Government are reviewing the functional requirements of the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons with the objective of improving operational efficiency and taking the required steps to meet such requirements.

**Rail Tutorial Army Camp**

2550. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRI RAJARAM PAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Tutorial Army Camp was working with the co-operation of Ministry of Defence at Jamalpur Rail Factory in Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Railway Tutorial Army Camp was established with a view to run the emergency services of Railways;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that the said Railway Tutorial Army Camp was closed down by the Government;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry of Defence propose to restart the Railway Tutorial Army Camp with a view to run the emergency services of the Railways; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There was no Tutorial Army Camp at Jamalpur Rail Factory in Bihar. However there was one Railway Engineers Regiment (Territorial Army) which was established to run the emergency services of Railways but was closed down.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Defence have already conveyed its 'no objection' to the Ministry of Railways in May, 2004 for the raising of Railway Engineers Regiment (Territorial Army) At Jamalpur.

*[English]*

**Reconstitution of Trust of IGNC A**

2551. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reconstituted the Trust of Indira Gandhi National Cultural Centre;

(b) if so, the names of the members inducted/removed by the Government; and

(c) the terms of conditions of the members of the Trust?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) As per the Trust Deed of IGNC A, the appointment of the Trustee will be for a period of 10 years.

**Statement**

*List of Trustees who were removed by the Government of India vide Order dated 6.11.2004*

1. Shri R. Venkataraman
2. Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao
3. Smt. Sonia Gandhi
4. Prof. Yash Pal
5. Shri Abid Hussain
6. Pt. Bhimsen Joshi
7. Shri Vidya Nivas Mishra
8. Dr. H. Narasimhaiah
9. Shri M.V. Kamath
10. Dr. Bhupen Hazarika
11. Ms. Anjolie Ela Menon
12. Ms. Sonal Mansingh
13. Dr. K.J. Yesudhas
14. Shri L.M. Singhvi
15. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
16. Dr. Vedantam Satyanarayana Sarma
17. Prof. P.V. Krishna Bhat
18. Dr. Suryakant Bali
19. Union Minister of Culture
20. Union Minister of Urban Development
21. Member Secretary, IGNC A

*List of newly appointed Trustees of IGNC A as per the Order dated 6.11.2004*

1. Shri Adoor Gopalakrishnan,  
Darsanam, Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram-695017  
Tel. No. 0471-2446567
2. Shri Salman Haider  
A-65, Nizamuddin East,  
New Delhi-13

3. Dr. R. Narasimhan  
C/o Centre for Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences,  
Indian Institute of Science,  
Bangalore-12
4. Shri Mrinal Sen  
14, Baltala Road,  
Kolkata  
Tel. No. 030-24754799
5. Prof. A. Ramachandran  
22, Bharati Colony,  
Vikas Marg,  
New Delhi-92
6. Shri Ratna Tata  
Chairman, Tata Sons Ltd.,  
Tata House, Mumbai
7. Union Minister for Urban Development
8. Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting &  
Culture
9. Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre  
for the Arts.

*[Translation]*

#### **Resitement of LPG Godowns**

2552. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government to allow resitement of Petrol Pumps and LPG Godowns;

(b) the number of cases of resitement have been recommended by the Ministry to DDA for resitement;

(c) the number of cases in which DDA has provided alternate sites for resitement of petrol pumps and LPG godowns;

(d) whether DDA is having its own policy of resitement of Petrol Pumps and LPG godowns;

(e) if so, the difference between the resitement policies of his Ministry and DDA; and

(f) the action proposed to make an exhaustive and transparent guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (f) Resitement of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products is permissible subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions, such as viability of the new locations, the facilities at the old locations to be decommissioned before commissioning those at the new site, the interests of remote/low service areas, etc. In order to provide commercial freedom to the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), the Government have authorized OMCs to frame their guidelines on resitement on the basis of parameters advised by the Government.

(b) Government do not make recommendations to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on resitement, but do bring to DDA's attention exceptional requests requiring special consideration.

(c) During the period April, 2002 to September, 2004, alternative sites have been provided by the DDA to Indian Oil Corporation Limited for two cases of resitement of LPG distributorship in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

(d) As per the present policy of the DDA, resitement is made only if the land in question is being utilized for any planned project/scheme which directly necessitates the closing down of the petrol pump/gas godown; and that no resitement is to be made on any other ground.

(e) While the policy of DDA, as stated in reply to part (d) of the question, is very specific and is in the context of resitements in the NCT of Delhi only, the policy of the Government, which is applicable for the country as a whole, takes into consideration other aspects like viability of the existing and new locations, interests of the consumers, etc.

*[English]*

#### **Construction of Railway Lines between Chamarajnagar and Mettupalayam**

2553. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey was ordered by the Government for the construction of a railway line between Chamarajanagar and Mettupalayam;

(b) if so, whether the survey report has been submitted to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the whether a fresh survey is being ordered by the Government for this long pending railway line; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Gauge conversion of Mysore-Chamarajanagar (Phase-I) with extension to Mettupalayam is already included in the budget 1997-98 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances. Requisite clearances to take up work on Mysore-Chamarajanagar gauge conversion only have been received in September, 2001 and the work is in various stages of progress.

As the survey of this project was conducted long back, the survey for extension of rail line from Chamarajanagar to Mettupalayam is being updated.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Electrification of Rail Lines**

2554. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the rail line from Katni to Satna-Manikpur and Itarsi to Jabalpur is likely to be electrified; and

(b) the time by which the proposal relating to land acquisition in district Balaghat and Mandla for gauge-conversion of Jabalpur-Balaghat-Gondiya rail line is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Electrification of railway track is a need based exercise which is reviewed on a continuous basis. Investment on Railway Electrification is based on the traffic requirement of the system and those sections which are considered necessary, are taken up for electrification.

There is, at present, no proposal to electrify Katni-Satna-Manikpur and Itarsi-Jabalpur rail line.

(b) The applications for land acquisition in district Balaghat and Mandla have been filed with the State

Government and the funds have also been deposited with them.

*[English]*

#### **Commissioning of Transmitters**

2555. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

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

(a) whether a number of HPTs, VLPT and LPTs installed by DD and AIR during the last two-three years back have not been commissioned till date;

(b) if so, the details of these projects which are technically ready but not commissioned and the amount spent on each one of them alongwith the date since technically ready, State-wise;

(c) whether the delay in commissioning of these projects is due to non-sanctioning of staff;

(d) if so, the steps has been initiated for sanction of staff;

(e) whether the Ministry proposes to commission these technically ready projects by redeployment of staff from other projects; and

(f) if so, the time by which these projects are expected to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) State-wise details of transmitter projects which are technically ready but are yet to be commissioned are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Except AIR, Churachandpur, all other projects have been held up for want of staff sanction.

(d) to (f) Many projects have been commissioned by Prasar Bharati by redeploying staff. Efforts are being made on a continuous basis to obtain staff sanction for other stations from the Competent Authority. The projects will be commissioned after requisite sanction is received. No definite time frame can be indicated.

**Statement***Doordarshan transmitters technically ready*

State	Name of LPT	Date of completion	Exp. incurred (Rs. Lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	Punganur	Jan., 02	84.42
	Mudhol	Jan., 02	67.69
	Sindhur	March, 02	61.18
	Kolhapur	Jan., 03	71.44
Assam	Satrasal	March, 03	78.58
Haryana	Kaithal	March, 04	72.27
	Fatehabad	Sep., 04	66.10
Orissa	Bahalda	Feb., 03	81.76
Rajasthan	Khajuwala	Feb., 04	57.69

*All India Radio**Technically Ready Projects Awaiting Commissioning*

Sl.No.	Place	State	Project	Technically ready since	Capital Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Agartala	Tripura	10 KW FM Tr. & Studio	March, 01	335.00
2.	Aizawl	Mizoram	6 KW FM Tr. & Studio	March, 02	351.80
3.	Dharmapuri	Tamil Nadu	LRS with 10 KW FM Tr.	March, 01	469.65
4.	Himmatnagar	Gujarat	LRS with 1 KW MW Tr.	March, 01	284.15
5.	Imphal	Manipur	10 KW FM Tr. & Studio	March, 01	335.00
6.	Macherla	Andhra Pradesh	LRS with 3 KW FM Tr.	March, 02	353.00
7.	Mandla	Madhya Pradesh	LRS with 1 KW FM Tr.	March, 02	265.65
8.	Manjeri	Kerala	LRS with 3 KW FM Tr.	March, 02	358.60
9.	Rajgarh	Madhya Pradesh	LRS with 3 KW FM Tr.	March, 02	285.00
10.	Saraipalli	Chhattisgarh	LRS with 1 KW FM Tr.	March, 02	265.65
11.	Shillong	Meghalaya	10 KW FM Tr. & Studio	March, 02	300.00
12.	Soro	Orissa	LRS with 1 KW MW Tr.	March, 01	284.15
13.	Churachandpur	Manipur	LRS with 6 KW FM Tr.	March, 00	315.00



1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh	10 KW FM Tr. & Studio	March, 04	620.00
15.	Port Blair	A&N Islands	10 KW FM Tr. & Studio	March, 04	570.00
PROJECTS SET UP UNDER J&K PLAN					
1.	Diskit	J&K	Relay Centre with 1 KW MW Tr.	Sep. 02	210.00
2.	Nyomarap	J&K	Relay Centre with 1 KW MW Tr.	March, 02	210.00
3.	Tiesuru	J&K	Relay Centre with 1 KW MW Tr.	March, 02	210.00
4.	Padum	J&K	Relay Centre with 1 KW MW Tr.	Sep. 02	210.00
5.	Drass	J&K	Relay Centre with 1 KW MW Tr.	March, 02	210.00

*[Translation]*

**Investment in Foreign Countries by Indian Companies**

2556. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:  
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Public Sector companies would execute the projects of Railways in Iran;

(b) if so, whether the said construction works would be undertaken with the investment of our public sector companies;

(c) if so, whether public sector companies of Iran would also invest in the said projects; and

(d) if so, the details of percentage share of both countries separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Two Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Railways namely RITES Ltd. and IRCON International Ltd. are in discussion with Iranian Authorities for execution of Railway projects in Iran.

(b) The investment of our Public Sector companies in these projects is yet to be crystallised.

(c) and (d) Participation of public sector companies of Iran to invest in the projects will depend on their financial interest or directives of Government of Iran to

them. No percentage share of both the countries in any project has yet been crystallised.

*[English]*

**Concession to Students**

2557. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines provide concession to students undertaking air travel;

(b) if so, whether an old and cumbersome system is in vogue for providing concession to students;

(c) if so, the reasons for not simplifying this system;

(d) whether a simpler system based on two identifications is being considered by the Union Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) No, Sir. For availing Student Concession on the domestic services of Indian Airlines a student is required to only fill the prescribed Student Concession Form and submit alongwith his/her photograph. The Form is to be attested by the Head of the Education Establishment concerned.

**Electrification of Lines from Bhubaneswar to Vishakhapatnam**

2558. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is electrification of lines from Bhubaneswar to Vishakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Electrification of Rail lines from Bhubaneswar to Visakhapatnam has already been completed.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Welfare Schemes for Old People**

2559. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:  
YOGI ADITYA NATH:  
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:  
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:  
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:  
SHRI AJIT JOGI:  
SHRI SITA RAM SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to curtail the financial assistance being provided under welfare schemes for old age people;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of proposals received from various State Governments/Union Territory administrations and NGOs/VOs under various schemes implemented by the Ministry for old people and the funds allocated/released and utilized by them during 2003-04 and 2004-05, scheme-wise, State/Union Territory-wise and NGO/VO-wise;

(d) the present number of old age people and Old Age Homes functioning in the country and the number of senior citizens benefiting therefrom;

(e) the number of new old age homes to be opened during 2004-05, State/UT-wise;

(f) the details of external/foreign financial aids received to run these old age homes; and

(g) the measures being taken/to be taken by the Union Government for further expansion of schemes for old people and proper monitoring of utilization of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details of number of proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and amount sanctioned are indicated below:

Name of the Scheme	2003-04		2004-05	
	No. of Proposals received	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crore)	No. of Proposals received	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crore) -upto 14th Dec. 04
An Integrated Programme for Older Persons	491	15.83	407	7.60
Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/ Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for construction of old age homes/multi service centers for older persons	8	0.70	2	0.05

Scheme-wise, State/Union Territory-wise and NGO-wise detailed information about release of funds during

2003-04 and 2004-05 may be seen on the Ministry's website [www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in).

(d) As per Census 2001, India has 7.66 crores persons aged 60 years and above, excluding the population of Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul Sub-divisions of Senapati District of Manipur.

During 2003-04, under the scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons, financial assistance was provided to Non Governmental Organisations for running 322 old age homes benefiting about 10,000 senior citizens.

(e) The actual numbers sanctioned would depend on the completeness of the proposals received through the State Governments.

(f) No External/foreign funds are received for running these old age homes.

(g) Expansion of the schemes will depend on increase of budgetary allocations and complete cases being received through the State Governments.

*[Translation]*

#### **Khanna Committee Report on Dangerous Bridges**

2560. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khanna Committee had prepared a report on the dangerous railway bridges which have outlived their load bearing capacity;

(b) if so, the details of the report presented by the said committee;

(c) the details of the action taken thereon, bridge-wise; and

(d) if not, the categorical reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Khanna Committee (1999) in their report had recommended that distressed bridges, bridges over 100 years in age and Early Steel bridges should be further inspected by Task Force (Senior Administrative grade level). No specific list of bridges was mentioned by Committee in their report. However, Committee had noted about 262 distressed bridges existed on Indian Railway as on 1.4.99. In pursuance of their recommendation, all above distressed bridges were got inspected by Territorial Chief Engineers of the Railways and their rehabilitation/rebuilding taken up. The activity of

rehabilitation/rebuilding of these distressed bridges and fresh accruals has got a fillip since the sanction of Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) in 2001-02 and a total of 927 distressed bridges have been rebuilt/rehabilitated in last five years.

*[English]*

#### **Gauge Conversion Project in Tamil Nadu**

2561. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total distance of Railway track which is still pending for gauge conversion from meter gauge to broad gauge in Tamil Nadu of Southern Railway;

(b) the details of the allocation of funds for this project;

(c) whether the project is running behind the schedule;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government for speedy implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As on 31.03.2004, 1886 kms of Meter Gauge line was existing in Tamil Nadu.

(b) The total outlay for various ongoing gauge conversion projects falling partly/fully in the State of Tamil Nadu for the current year is Rs. 135.96 crore.

(c) and (d) Works are in various stages of progress on about 1100 kms. Gauge conversion of Madurai-Manamadurai (48 kms) and Thanjavur-Tiruvarur (55 kms) sections are targeted for completion during 2004-05. Projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.

(e) A number of initiatives have been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence, additional resources for National Projects and funds for National Rail Vikas Yojana. Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana has been announced for which funds are being tied up. With these efforts, it may be feasible to expedite the progress of projects.

**Monitoring of SCP and TSP**

2562. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Union Government is monitoring the fund inflow from States/UTs and Central Ministries under the Special Component Plan and Tribal sub Plan intended to achieve overall development of SCs and STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the current fund inflow under SCP and TSP is in proportion of the Population of SCs and STs in the contributing States;

(d) if not, the steps taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Union Government has received any suggestion or request from Hon'ble Members of Parliament or Social Organizations regarding preparing and monitoring of 'SCP' and 'TSP' by different Ministries/Depts. and State Governments;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(h) the details of Central Ministries/Departments who have formulated the SCP and TSP so far and the steps taken to prevail upon the rest to fall in line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Under the strategy evolved by Planning Commission, State Governments/UT Administrations and the Central Ministries are required to formulate and implement Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for ensuring rapid socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by earmarking Plan funds in proportion to the percentage of SC & ST population in the respective States/UTs. At present 23 States/UTs are implementing Tribal Sub Plan and 27 States/UTs are implementing Special Component Plan. The formulation & implementation of the Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan for development of SCs & STs is monitored regularly by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (SCP) and Ministry of Tribal Affairs (TSP).

(c) and (d) *Special Component Plan:-*

In 5 States namely Haryana, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal allocate funds under Special Component Plan in proportion to their Scheduled Castes population in the last two years. Other States/UTs are reminded from time to time to allocate funds in proportion to their Scheduled Castes population.

*Tribal Sub Plan:-*

Some of the Central Ministries are not allocating funds for the TSP component and although some Ministries have allocated funds for the TSP component the quantum is less than the stipulated components of the Tribal population in the country. Likewise many States/UTs are allocating lower percentage of TSP flow as compared to the percentage to the ST population in the concerned States/UTs. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs had taken up the matter of mandatory earmarking of 8% of the Budget of the Ministry for Tribals under the TSP. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is also identifying the schemes of Tribal Development to impress upon the concerned Ministries, the need to spend their funds for development of the Tribal Areas.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. However, the Central Standing Tripartite Committee set up by the Planning Commission in 1999 had grouped all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India into three categories based upon the feasibility of earmarking funds under SCP and TSP. In category-III, 30 Ministries/Departments have been grouped which are service oriented and also have activities of divisible nature.

During the discussions on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour & Welfare and the Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs, which examined the working of the Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs) in Rajasthan, had commented on this aspect and desired implementation of the TSP strategy in letter and spirit. The recommendations of these Committees, were brought to the notice of the Central Ministries/Departments and the State/UT Governments for taking appropriate action.

(h) At present 16 Central Ministries/Departments are formulating and implementing Special Component Plan & 17 Central Ministries/Departments are formulating and implementing Tribal Sub Plan. Other Ministries/Departments are persuaded regularly.

**DTH Service of AIR**

2563. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Direct to Home (DTH) service of All India Radio is likely to be launched;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of channels on which the programme would be broadcast;

(d) whether some of the services of AIR are likely to be closed down; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Doordarshan's Ku Band project, which includes 30 TV channels and 12 AIR channels, is scheduled to be inaugurated on 16.12.2004. Ku Band signals are available throughout the country except Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The signals can be received with the help of Ku Band receive system.

(c) 12 Channels of All India Radio are included in the Ku Band bouquet of Prasar Bharati.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Construction of Buildings for SCs Boys/Girls**

2564. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has approached the Union Government for release of funds for construction of buildings for boys and girls belonging to SCs representing 50% of the cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government on approval and release of funds for said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has approved projects of the Government of Karnataka for construction of Hostels for SC Boys and Girls during 2004-05 at an estimated cost of Rs. 11,95,66,500/- under the Centrally Sponsored scheme. Out of the above estimated cost sanction for release of Rs. 5,97,83,250/- representing 50% Central assistance has been issued on 29.9.2004.

*[Translation]*

**Failure of Jammers**

2565. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that due to the sudden failure of the security jammers meant for deactivating the explosives, a number of accidents have occurred causing loss of lives of several jawans of the army; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure of jammers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government is not aware of any accident due to sudden failure of the security jammers resulting in Improvised Explosive Device blast causing loss of lives of Army Jawans.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Present Status of Railway Traffic of J and K**

2566. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:  
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of work completed in regard to lay of railway lines and other infrastructure between Jammu to Udhampur, Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla and along with the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the details of present status and trial, if any;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to complete the projects of Jammu and Kashmir and along with the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the compensation given to land oustees for these lines;

(e) whether the affected land oustees of Jammu and Kashmir State have given employment by the Railway;

(f) if so, the number of persons recruited during each of the last three years; and

(g) if not, steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The details of Jammu-Srinagar railway project are as under:-

S.No.	Name of Project	Estimated cost	Anticipated expenditure upto March 2004	Outlay during 2004-05	Present Status
1.	Jammu-Udhampur (53.6 kms)	Rs. 515 crore	Rs. 482.80 crore	Rs. 10.44 crore	The work has been completed and commercial goods traffic is running on this section.
2.	Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla (287 kms)	Rs. 5000 crore	Rs. 1286.43 crore	Rs. 300.00 crore	The overall progress of this section is about 38.5%. The work has been taken up in phases and the progress is given as under:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Udhampur-Katra (km. 0-25): Earthwork, tunnelling and major/minor bridge works are in progress. The progress is about 89%.</li> <li>(ii) Katra-Qazigund (km. 25-167): For km. 25-30, land acquisition has been completed and tennelling work is in progress. For Km. 30-167, land acquisition, detailed construction survey is in progress. Tunnelling work is in progress between km. 30-50, where land is made available. The progress is about 10%.</li> <li>(iii) Qazigund-Baramulla (km. 167-287): Earthwork, bridge works, etc. are in progress. Out of 15122 kanals of land, 14,853 kanals of land has been acquired. The progress is about 75%.</li> </ul>

Due to delay in land acquisition and security constraints, the progress of work is adversely affected. The matter is regularly being pursued with the State Government to resolve land disputes and hand over the land to Railway free of all encumbrances. Efforts have also been taken to step up security arrangements on the project alignment.

(d) The compensation to land oustees is disbursed by the State Government. State Government has been paid Rs. 10.92 crore for Jammu-Udhampur project and Rs. 441.50 crore for Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla project.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The State Government has been requested to give the names of the persons who are eligible for employment based on the extant policy.

**Upgradation of Doordarshan Kendra, Jaipalguri**

2567. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Doordarshan Kendra, Jalpaiguri is operating and narrowcasting only a chunk of 30 minutes 'Kishan' programme for five days in a week;

(b) whether the concerned Ministry is aware that the said kendra has opened for the basic need of the people of North Bengal which has multi lingual, multi cultural, multi ethnic people; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not upgrading this Doordarshan Kendra to a full fledged station with the object to broadcast 'daily news' alongwith other programmes keep in view of border district?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Jalpaiguri is a programme generating Kendra, which relays programmes of DDK, Kolkata and telecasts 'Kisan' programme which is for development of local farmers funded by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) The expansion of the existing infrastructure of Doordarshan is dependent upon the schemes approved by the competent authority and funds being made available for their execution. No immediate expansion of the facilities at DDK Jalpaiguri is on the anvil.

### Regulating Cable Prices

2568. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:  
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) the details of the orders issued by TRAI for regulating cable prices as per December 2003 schedule;

(b) whether the order still in force;

(c) if not, the changes made therein and the present norms therefor;

(d) whether the Government is aware that the cable operators had raised the cable prices to the extent of forty/fifty per cent;

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(f) the effective measures taken to streamline the working of cable operators and curb their monopoly and pressurising tendencies?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued the following tariff orders during 2004:

S.No.	Details of orders	Date of issue
1.	The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Tariff Order, 2004	15.1.2004
2.	The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Tariff (First Amendment) Order, 2004	10.3.2004
3.	The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Second) Tariff Order, 2004	1.10.2004
4.	The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Second) Tariff (Second Amendment) Order, 2004	26.10.2004
5.	The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Second) Tariff (Second Amendment) Order, 2004	1.12.2004

(b) and (c) The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Second) Tariff Order, 2004 dated 1st Oct. 2004 and its amendments are in force. The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Tariff Order 2004 dated 15th Jan. 2004 and its

amendment was repealed by the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Second) Tariff Order 2004 dated 1st Oct. 2004 and ceiling of the charges payable by cable subscribers to cable operators, etc. are allowed to increase by 7% to offset the effect of inflation

w.e.f. 1.1.2005. Specific fee can be charged for new channels. Free to Air Channels can switch over to pay channel.

(d) to (f) Complaints regarding hike in the cable charges from the consumers have been received on which appropriate action under the law is taken. However, the consumers are at liberty to move Consumers' Courts or the Telecom (Disputes and Settlement) Appellate Tribunal for redressal of their grievances/dispute resolution.

#### **Reciprocal Traffic Rights to Foreign Airlines**

2569. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of foreign airlines which enjoy traffic rights in India;

(b) the names of foreign airlines which transit through India without any passenger right;

(c) whether Air India or Indian Airlines have been granted reciprocal rights in countries of origin of those foreign airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) India has so far entered into Air Services Agreements with 100 countries. Airlines designated by these countries are enjoying traffic rights for operations to/from India. Presently 60 foreign airlines are operating to/through India.

(b) Finnair is the only foreign airline transiting through India without exercising any traffic rights.

(c) to (e) All Traffic rights granted to foreign countries also are with reciprocal traffic rights to our designated carriers.

#### **New Railway Line between Bidar and Gulbarga**

2570. SHRI NARSINGRAO H. SURYAWANSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to form New Railway Line between Bidar and Gulbarga in Karnataka State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the same;

(c) the estimated cost of this project and the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(d) the details of the funds have been utilized out of this so far; and

(e) the details of funds allocated to the project during the current financial year?

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

(b) and (e) New line from Bidar to Gulbarga (140 kms) was included in the Budget (Supplementary) 1997-98 subject to the proviso that work would be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances, which were obtained in 1998-99. An outlay of Rs. 10 crore has been provided for the Budget during 2004-05.

(c) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 369.70 crore. No time frame for completion of the new line has yet been fixed. The work would be completed in the coming years depending upon availability of resources.

(d) An expenditure of Rs. 20.01 crore has been incurred on the project up to 31.03.2004.

#### **Terrorist Attacks on EME Camp**

2571. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an enquiry has been conducted into the terrorist attack at corps of Electronics & Mechanical Engineers (EME) camp at Tanda near Jammu in July, 2003;

(b) if so, the result thereof;

(c) whether Brig. V.K. Govil initially survived the attack but lost his life, bleeding to death because of inadequate management of the situation;

(d) whether the mother of the deceased Brigadier was also not granted the facility to visit Jammu for seeing the dead body of her son; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof?



THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The enquiry has been completed and has recommended appropriate disciplinary/administrative action against the delinquent army personnel

(c) No, there was no mismanagement.

(d) At no stage was the mother of Brigadier V.K. Govil denied permission to visit Jammu to see the dead body of her son.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Setting up of MADC

2572. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL;  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to set up special purpose company viz. Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) through Airport Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has also requested the Union Government to transfer AAI assets of the existing airports in Maharashtra to MADC;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon and the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government of Maharashtra (GOM) has already formed a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in the name of Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) to develop a multi-modal International Passenger and Cargo Hub airport at Nagpur (MIHAN).

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. On the advice of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, GOM conducted a due diligence study of Airport infrastructure at Nagpur and submitted a report on October 26, 2004. The report is under examination.

*[Translation]*

#### Setting up of New Military Station at Averi

2573. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH;  
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 386 dated

December 4, 2003 regarding setting up to an Army Contonment at Averi and state:

(a) the date on which the decision for setting up of a new military station at Averi, In Kullu, Himachal Pradesh was taken;

(b) since when the process of acquiring land is going on;

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

(d) the date on which the case of transfer of 261 bighas, 16 biswas land of the State Government scattered in several pieces in the acquired land was raised with the State Government and the latest position of this case; and

(e) the progress made regarding setting up of military station in those areas where the land has been acquired?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government sanction for acquisition of land for setting up of military station at Averi was issued on 2.7.1991.

(b) The process of acquisition started in 1991.

(c) The acquisition of private land has been completed in 1998.

(d) The State Government was approached in the middle of 2002 to obtain No Objection Certificate for transfer of 261 bighas, 16 biswas of State Government land. An amount of Rs. 1,47,54,150/- is required to be paid to the State Government towards the transfer of land.

(e) Zonal Plan for Military Station, Averi is under preparation by the Local Military Authorities. The following infrastructure related works are under process for sanction and execution:-

(i) Realignment of HT (High Tension) line for Rs. 165 lakhs, and

(ii) Provision of filtration Plant and augmentation of water supply for Rs. 222 lakhs.

*[English]*

#### Extension of Sabari Rail to Trivandrum

2574. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded necessary sanctions for the work of proposed Sabari rail from Angamali;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present stage of the work undertaken;

(d) whether the Government received any request from the State Government for extension of Sabari rail to Trivandrum via Punalur and Nedumangad;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Construction of new rail line from Angamali to Sabarimala is a sanctioned project. Keeping in view the recommendation of the State Government and Estimates Committee (2001-04) of Kerala Legislative Assembly, it has been decided to terminate the line at Azutha, short of Reserve Forest Area.

Anticipated cost of this project is Rs. 550 crore and an outlay of Rs. 2 crore has been provided during 2004-05.

(c) Final location survey has been completed. The matter is being pursued with the State Government for land acquisition. So far, no land has been made available to the Railways.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

#### **Bookstall Contract**

2575. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Ministry's letter No. 68TGIII/461/10/Caiii dated January 27, 1969 as well as para 741 of Traffic Commercial Code, the bookstall contract would be awarded to unemployed graduates including weaker section of societies by inviting applications and not by calling tenders; and

(b) if so, the details of bookstalls held by unemployed graduates in each Zonal Railway, division-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Para 738 (not 741) of Indian Railway Code for Traffic (Commercial) Department reads as "Licences for bookstalls and for sale of books, periodicals etc. at railway stations should be awarded by inviting applications and not by calling tenders. Firms who are already in the book selling business should be given preference when giving out book-stall contracts, as they would be in a position to give better service than those who are new to it."

Above para did not contain the term 'unemployed graduates' including weaker sections of the society. However, bookstall licences were awarded to unemployed graduates, their co-operatives, partnership enterprises, associations etc. on railways and provision still exists in Revised Bookstall Policy 2004 for awarding bookstall licences at 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E' and 'F' category stations to unemployed graduates, their co-operatives, their organisations, partnership enterprises etc.

(b) Details of bookstalls held by unemployed graduates in each zonal railway, division-wise is enclosed as Statement.

#### **Statement**

#### *No. of Bookstalls held by Unemployed Graduate in each Zonal Railway (Division-wise)*

Sl.No.	Railway	Division	No. of Bookstalls
1	2	3	4
1.	Central	Bhusawal	04
		Nagpur	03
		Mumbai CST	21
		Solapur	—
		Pune	—
		Total	28
2.	Eastern	Malda	04
		Howrah	16
		Sealdah	26
		Asansol	06
		Total	52

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
3.	East Central	Danapur	12			Jaipur	04
		Dhanbad	14			Ajmer	02
		Sonepur	01			Total	10
		Mughalsarai	01	10.	Southern	Chennai	14
		Samastipur	22			Madurai	03
		Total	50			Paighat	03
4.	East Coast	Khurda Road	02			Tiruchirappalli	02
		Waltair	—			Trivandrum	10
		Sambalpur	01			Total	32
		Total	03	11.	South Central	Secunderabad	06
5.	Northern	Ambala	15			Hyderabad	01
		Ferozpur	11			Guntakal	07
		Lucknow	05			Vijayawada	05
		Moradabad	04			Guntur	03
		Delhi	26			Nanded	03
		Total	61			Total	25
6.	Northeast Frontier	Katihar	01	12.	South Eastern	Kharagpur	03
		Lumding	—			Chakradharpur	—
		Tinsukia	01			Adra	03
		Alipurduar	01			Ranchi	—
		Rangiya	01			Total	06
		Total	04	13.	South East Central	Nagpur	05
7.	North Eastern	Lucknow	20			Bilaspur	10
		Varanasi	19			Raipur	02
		Izatnagar	10			Total	17
		Total	49	14.	South West	Bangalore	—
8.	North Central	Aliahabad	06			Mysore	07
		Jhansi	07			Hubli	10
		Agra	01			Total	17
		Total	14	15.	Western	Bhavnagar	01
9.	North Western	Bikaner	01			Mumbai Central	02
		Jodhpur	03				

1	2	3	4
		Ratlam	03
		Rajkot	02
		Ahmedabad	—
		Vadodara	—
		Total	08
16.	West Central	Jabalpur	03
		Bhopal	06
		Kota	04
		Total	13

#### **Meagre Allocation of Funds to Panchayats**

2576. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:  
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is satisfied with the allocation of Rs. 20 crore to the Ministry keeping in view the large jurisdiction of the Ministry;

(b) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to acquire more funds from the Planning Commission;

(c) the allocation made by the Ministry in the current Budget for the State of West Bengal;

(d) the manner in which the Government will ensure implementation of Part IX of the Constitution in the country particularly in West Bengal with such a meagre allocation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been allocated Rs. 30.60 crores for the financial year 2004-05. This amount was allocated keeping in view the fact that the Ministry has been recently created and it will take some time before it becomes fully functional. The process of creation of posts etc. is in hand and higher allocation has been requested for the next year.

(b) The Planning Commission has been approached for enhancement of funds for the next financial year.

(c) No State-wise allocation is made by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj as funds are released based on specific proposals received from States for Training for Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions. A proposal received from West Bengal is under consideration.

(d) and (e) Panchayati Raj is a State subject. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is responsible for the work of advocacy for and monitoring of the implementation of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 to ensure that the State Panchayati Raj Acts adhere to the provision of the Act and are implemented in letter and spirit. A Conference of Chief Ministers and State Minister in charge of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on "Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj was organized on 29-30 June, 2004 jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj". Issues relating to effective implementation of Part IX and IXA of the Constitution on Panchayati Raj were tabled for discussion by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Conference decided to hold seven round table conferences. Six round table conferences have already been held in which 16 of the 18 identified dimensions of Panchayati Raj have been discussed. The remaining two dimensions will be discussed in the seventh round table conference which is scheduled to be held at Jaipur on 17-19 December, 2004.

#### **Rail Lines Dhubri and Fakiragram**

2577. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway service between Dhubri and Fakiragram has been closed;

(b) if so, from which date alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government construct the line and convert it from MG to BG line; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be completed to run the train again?

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

(b) The running of meter gauge trains on Fakiragram-Dhubri section was suspended from 09.08.2000 due to

adverse law and order condition. The train services on Fakiragram-Sapathgram were reintroduced from 23.11.2002. However, the section has been finally closed from 27.10.2003 due to gauge conversion of New Jalpaiguri-Samuktala Road.

(c) and (d) The gauge conversion work on the Fakiragram-Dhubri section has been taken up and would be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

#### **Presence of Animal Carcass**

2578. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several planes of Indian Air Force have met and likely to meet with accidents due to the regular presence of animal carcass around the Defence Airports;

(b) the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance had allocated some funds to Ministry of Defence to overcome the problem;

(d) if so, the details of the funds allocated during the last three years; and

(e) the reasons for not utilising these funds, if any?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The presence of animal carcass around Defence airfields attract birds, which pose a hazard to aircraft. Some aircraft accidents occur due to bird hits. However, during the last three years no Indian Air Force aircraft has crashed due to bird hit.

(b) The Indian Air Force have initiated certain preventive measures to contain bird activity around the airfield. These measures include deployment of bird hazard combat teams, clearance of vegetation in the airfield safety zone, installation of bird scaring devices and establishment of solid waste management plants around ten prime Air Force bases.

(c) to (e) Funds were allocated for anti bird measures, which *inter-alia* include carcass management. The details of funds allocated during the last three financial years are as under:-

Financial Year	Funds Allocated
2001-02	Rs. 385.00 lakhs
2002-03	Rs. 395.00 lakhs
2003-04	Rs. 417.91 lakhs

The funds allocated were fully utilised.

#### **Opening of Sainik Schools**

2579. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:  
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sainik Schools under the Ministry of Defence running in the country, State-wise, alongwith their locations;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to open more Sainik Schools in various States;

(c) if so, the locations identified therefor, State-wise;

(d) the time by which these schools will be opened;

(e) whether a number of students studying in the Sainik Schools had to discontinue their study due to steep rise in education fee charged by these schools;

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(g) whether Sainik Schools have been given due attention so that they acquire excellence in academic and extra curricular activities; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Twenty Sainik Schools are being run under the Ministry of Defence in the country. Their location, State-wise in enclosed as Statement.

(b) A proposal to open a Sainik School in Mizoram is under consideration in Ministry of Defence.

(c) Chhingchhip in Mizoram.

(d) The time frame for opening of a Sainik School depends on the State Government making available the necessary infrastructure and facilities alongwith confirmation to make required funds available as per Sainik Schools Society's Rules and Regulations, after the issue of clearance from the Ministry of Defence.

(e) There was initially a trend of discontinuation of study by few students due to fee hike effected in 1999-2000.

(f) An annual grant of Rs. 10.54 crores has been given for Sainik Schools to subsidise fees and dietary charges. Under this scheme each cadet gets a subsidy in fees to the extent of about Rs. 9,500/- per annum and also full refund of fees paid in classes XI and XII to boys admitted to National Defence Academy and Technical Entries in the Armed Forces.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Adequate infrastructure and facilities have been provided to Sainik Schools for academic, physical as well as mental proficiency of the cadets. A qualified faculty, emphasis on sports, adventure activities and participation in National Cadet Corps training promote all round development of the cadets.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Location of Sainik School
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Korukonda
2.	Assam	Goalpara
3.	Bihar	Gopalganj
4.	Bihar	Nalanda
5.	Gujarat	Balachadi
6.	Haryana	Kunjapura
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Sujanpur Tira
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nagrota
9.	Jharkhand	Tilaiya
10.	Karnataka	Bijapur
11.	Kerala	Kazhakoottam

1	2	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Rewa
13.	Maharashtra	Satara
14.	Manipur	Imphal
15.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar
16.	Punjab	Kapurthala
17.	Rajasthan	Chittorgarh
18.	Tamil Nadu	Amaravathinagar
19.	Uttaranchal	Ghorakhal
20.	West Bengal	Purulia

**Stock of Spare Parts**

2580. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spare parts worth crores of rupees are accumulated in defence warehouses;

(b) if so, the details of such spare parts, their value and origin;

(c) the amount derived out of the sale of these spare parts; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that the stock of spare parts is used first before ordering for fresh lots?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Spare parts worth crores of rupees are not accumulated in Defence Warehouses.

The spares for Main equipment is procured as per the manufacturers' recommended list of spares and the yardstick fixed by the specialist agencies of the Defence Services *i.e.* Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Director General Quality Assurance for each equipment. The quantity of spares stocked depends on the annual requirement for overhaul and normal maintenance. It also caters for contingencies such as war and special operations. The exact value of the spares in stock cannot be quantified as the position is continuously changing due to consumption. The origin of the spares is both indigenous and import.

These stocked spare parts are not for sale but for issue to the Defence Forces as per requirement.

To ensure that excess spares are not stocked, Annual Provision Reviews are carried out, where the wastes pattern is calculated and only such spares which are required during the year, are procured.

#### Money Spent for Unproductive Purposes

2581. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil companies have been spending money on unproductive purposes such as fairs, renovation of the Government officers, sports etc. having no commercial value;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred on these activities during the last three years and their impact on the prices of petroleum products; and

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to ensure economy and optimum level of performance by oil companies so that common men are not forced to pay for extravaganza of oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil Companies have not incurred any expenditure on unproductive purposes. However, Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have incurred meagre amount on fairs, sports, in pursuance of their corporate social responsibilities and in order to improve their corporate image. Oil sector PSUs generally spend upto 0.75% of their profits after tax on their corporate social responsibilities. Since pricing of petroleum products is not on a cost plus profit basis, the question of impact of these activities on the prices of petroleum products does not arise.

(c) Government have issued guidelines on economy, austerity measures required to be followed by all oil PSUs. These guidelines include, *inter alia*, restriction on foreign travel, conferences, seminars, workshops, ban on purchase of new vehicles, timely repayment of loans, 10% cut on POL and travel etc.

#### Persons Sent Abroad for Training

2582. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas nominates officers for training to the reputed Foreign Institutions for improving their academic, managerial, technical and administrative capabilities in various fields and disciplines at the cost of the public exchequer and by way of sponsorships; and

(b) if so, the year-wise number of persons including SC/ST category sent abroad for both the short term and long term training courses abroad from the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of officers sent abroad for training during the last three years is as below:

Year	No. of Officers	
	General	SC/ST
2001	2	Nil
2002	1	1
2003	1	Nil

#### Proposals from West Bengal

2583. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has sent a proposal to the Ministry for setting up a Unit of BHEL at Durgapur in the existing infrastructure of closed MAMC, a Central Public Sector Unit;

(b) whether the Government of West Bengal has also sent proposal for handing over/making availability of land of closed CPSU for setting up small and medium industrial unit; and

(c) if so, the facts in details and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal was examined but was not found feasible.

*[Translation]***Implementation of Rail Budget Announcement**

2584. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains declared to be introduced in the Railway Budget of the previous year;

(b) whether all the trains as declared in the Railway Budget have been introduced;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the same are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) All the trains announced for introduction in the Railway Budget 2003-2004 have been introduced and the details are given below:

Sl.No.	Train No.	From	To	Name/Nature
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1469/1470	Jabalpur	Kota	Express
2.	2159/2160	Jabalpur	Nagpur	Express
3.	8415/8416	Bhubaneswar	Yesvantpur	Express
4.	8103/8104	Tatanagar	Amritsar	Express
5.	7035/7036	Secunderabad	Sirpurkagaznagar	Express
6.	6607/6608	Chennai Egmore	Erode	Express
7.	6021/6022	Chennai	Bangalore	Express
8.	2131/2132	Pune	Nagpur	Express
9.	1037/1038	Pune	Patna	Express
10.	2427/2428	Rewa	New Delhi	Express
11.	2705/2706	Vijayawada	Secunderabad	Express
12.	7037/7038	Bikaner	Secunderabad	Express
13.	6033/6034	Chennai	Dehradun/Chandigarh	Express
14.	6311/6312	Trivandrum	Jodhpur	Express
15.	1049/1050	Bangalore	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Express
16.	2811/2812	Ranchi	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Express
17.	8613/8614	Hatia	Yesvantpur	Express
18.	9679/9680	Ajmer	Mumbai Central	Express
19.	8201/8202	Durg	Gorakhpur	Express
20.	3503/3504	Sealdah	Asansol	Express
21.	5635/5636	Okha	Guwahati	Express
22.	5933/5934	Dibrugarh	Amritsar	Express



1	2	3	4	5
23.	2107/2108	Lucknow	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Express
24.	4201/4202	Lucknow	Agra Cantt./Mathura	Express
25.	5639/5640	Puri	Guwahati	Express
26.	7311/7312	Vasco	Chennai	Express
27.	9035/9036	Surat	Bandra Express	Express
28.	5637/5638	Guwahati	Secunderabad	Express
29.	3105/3106	Ballia	Sealdah	Express
30.	9317/9318	Indore	Nagpur	Express
31.	5227/5228	Muzaffarpur	Yesvantpur	Express
32.	7203/7204	Vijayawada	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Express
33.	2985/2986	Sealdah	Jaipur	Express
34.	8305/8306	Sambalpur	Raipur	Express
35.	4115/4116	Allahabad	Haridwar	Express
36.	5741/5742	Alipurduar	Siliguri	Express
37.	4025/4026	Azamgarh	Delhi	Express
38.	9765/9766	Jaipur	Udaipur	Express
39.	2397/2398	Gaya	New Delhi	Express
40.	5531/5532	Jaynagar	Narkatiaganj	Express
41.	3349/3350	Ahmedabad	Dhanbad	Express
42.	913/914	Tinsukia	Mariani	Passenger
43.	409A/410A	Chirimiri	Rewa	Passenger
44.	625/626	Alipurduar	New Jalpaiguri	Passenger
45.	573/574	Salem	Yesvantpur	Passenger
46.	623/624	New Jalpaiguri	Siliguri	Passenger
47.	2649/2650	Yesvantpur	Nizamuddin	Express
48.	3027/3028	Varanasi	Howrah	Express
49.	9909/9910	Bhavnagar	Ahmedabad	Express
50.	9271/9272	Bhavnagar	Bandra	Express
51.	447/448	Bhojudih	Chandrapura	MEMU
52.	451/452	Bhojudih	Bhaga	MEMU
53.	761/762	Virar	Dahanu Road	MEMU

1	2	3	4	5
54.	453/454	Adra	Bhaga	MEMU
55.	479/480	Adra	Midnapur	MEMU
56.	477/478	Adra	Purulia	MEMU
57.	473/474	Bishnupur	Adra	MEMU
58.	475/476	Adra	Bhojudih	MEMU
59.	555/556	Mokama	Patna	MEMU
60.	411/412	Pendra Road	Bilaspur	MEMU
61.	561/562	Patna	Buxar	MEMU
62.	229/230	Jaunpur	Aunrihar	DMU
63.	231/232	Jaunpur	Aunrihar	DMU
64.	233/234	Jaunpur	Aunrihar	DMU

[*English*]

#### **Railway Crossings on National Highways**

2585. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway crossings in different parts of the country on National Highways Particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to build more under/over bridges on these highways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are 572 level crossings falling on National Highways in different parts of the country, out of which 68 level crossings are in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) As per extant rules, Construction of Road Over/Under Bridges is undertaken in lieu of busy level crossings having Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) more than 1 lakh on Cost Sharing basis by Railways with State Govt./Road Authorities, provided a proposal is sponsored by State Government agreeing to share the cost and also accept the other standard stipulations such as closure of Level Crossing on commissioning of Road Over/Under

Bridge (ROB/RUB), advance action for land acquisition, inclusion of work in respective State Govt./Road Authority's annual plan, taking up of work on approaches simultaneously etc. Level crossing where traffic density is less than 1 lakh TVUs can be considered for construction of ROB/RUB on deposit terms *i.e.* entire cost is borne by sponsoring authority.

Works for replacement of 104 level crossings on National Highways by Road over/under bridges on Cost Sharing/deposit/BOT (Built, Operate & Transfer) basis have been sanctioned.

[*Translation*]

#### **Fencing of LoC**

2586. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:  
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has registered their protest on fencing of LoC;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the adverse effect of Pakistani protest in the progress of fencing work;

(d) the mileage of LoC fenced so far;

(e) the time by which the remaining work of fencing is likely to be completed; and

(f) the extent to which it will help to put brake on infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Pakistan has, from time to time, claimed that the fencing activity undertaken by India along the International Boundary and the Line of Control is in violation of some bilateral agreements.

Government of India have, however, made it clear to Pakistan that fencing work was not in violation of the Simla Agreement or the December 1972 Agreement on the Delineation of the Line of Control. In fact, it was an operational requirement, and India had been compelled to start fencing work on the International Border and the Line of Control because of cross border infiltration and terrorism sponsored by Pakistan.

(c) to (e) A total of 734 Kms. of fence has been constructed along Line of Control in the Kashmir Valley and Jammu Region. The construction of fence was completed on 30 September, 2004.

(f) The fence has significantly enhanced the Army's capability to detect and intercept terrorists attempting to infiltrate/exfiltrate and is acting as an effective deterrence against terrorists.

*[English]*

#### **Wagons Availability for Loading**

2587. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge quantity of wheat collected as donations for recent flood victims of Bihar and Assam, continued to wait for loading and get contaminated at Delhi due to non availability of wagons for over a month;

(b) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in loading and transportation of wheat and relief material;

(c) the amount of wheat and cereals contaminated; and

(d) the extent of loss caused and the actual delay suffered in transportation of relief material?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Flights affected due to Strike**

2588. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India Employees Union and Air India Service Engineers Association went on a flash strike in the evening of November 19, 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons for this flash strike and how many Air India and other carried flights arrival and departure were affected because of above at Mumbai, Delhi and other metro;

(c) whether the issue now been resolved by the Management/Ministry of Civil Aviation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Transfer of Funds directly to Panchayats**

2589. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finally decided to transfer Central funds directly to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);

(b) if so, whether this decision was taken after the Prime Minister address to Chief Ministers that to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system direct funding will be provided to the Panchayats to remove the poverty elevation in the country;

(c) if so, whether any concrete programme of action in this regard has been worked out; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In terms of the provisions of National Common Minimum Programme, the transfer of funds to the Panchayats without delay or diversion, and under strict monitoring, is being considered in consultation with the State Governments and has been a focus of attention at the Round Tables being organized with Panchayati Raj Ministers to consider the different dimensions of Panchayati Raj.

#### **Films Banned by Censor Board**

2590. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD alias SADHU YADAV:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) the number and the names of films and documentaries were banned by the Censor Board during the last one year till-date, State-wise;

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

(c) whether producers, directors of the films and documentaries have opposed the move;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Central Board of Film Certification certifies films in accordance with the Cinematograph Act, 1952. The CBFC is not empowered to ban any films.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

#### **Allocation for more Funds for Welfare of SC and OBC**

2591. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra and other States/Union Territories has recently sought more fund for introducing more welfare schemes for SCs and other backward communities;

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

(c) whether the Union Government propose to allocate more funds during the current financial year for the welfare of SCs and other backward communities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan is released taking into account their requirements, as per the Guidelines.

#### **Private Sector Participation in Infrastructure and Social Sector**

2592. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD alias SADHU YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to promote private sector for investment in basic infrastructure, consumer and social sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any policy decision in this regard;

(d) if so, the sector in which investment is proposed to be made as per, the aforesaid policy decision; and

(e) if not, the time by which decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Survey of New Railway Lines in Rajasthan**

2593. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:  
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new/ongoing and pending rail projects of new rail line and Gauge conversion, doubling and electrification in Rajasthan;

(b) the time since when these projects have been under consideration and the time by which they are likely to be completed;

(c) the quantum of funds sanctioned by the Union Government during each of the last two years and current financial year for these projects and the initial cost involved in these projects;

(d) the target date set for the completion of the survey of those project; and

(e) the reasons for neglecting Rajasthan in respect of railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) (i) Details of new/ongoing rail projects in Rajasthan alongwith allocation of funds and target date wherever fixed are given as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Year of inclusion in the Budget	Initial cost	Budget outlay			Progress and target date wherever fixed
				2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>New Lines</b>							
1.	Dausa-Gangapur	1996-97	151.84	15.00	10.00	5.00	Acquisition of land is in progress.
2.	Ramaganjmandi-Bhopal	2000-01	425.00	20.00	20.00	27.00	Land acquisition is in progress in Ramaganjmandi-Jhalawar section. Work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
3.	Ajmer-Pushkar	2000-01	67.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	Land acquisition is in progress.
4.	Kolayat-Phalodi	2002-03	171.00	0.1	30.00	81.00	This project is being funded by Ministry of Defence and is targeted for completion by 2005-06. Earthwork, ballast supply, work in major bridges is in progress.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>							
5.	Rewari-Sadulpur including Sadulpur-Hissar	1997-98	198.00	10.66	7.32	5.00	Tenders for earthwork for Sadulpur-Hissar section (70 kms.) is under finalization.
6.	Bhildi-Samdri	1990-91	267.00	15.00	30.00	20.00	This work has been taken up by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and part of the work from Samdari to Bhinmal (122 kms.) has been entrusted to North Western Railway.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur including material modification for extension from Udaipur to Umra	1996-97	262.00	30.00	30.00	41.55	In the first phase, gauge conversion of Chittaurgarh-Udaipur has been taken up and is targeted for completion during 2004-05. The work of Ajmer-Chittaurgarh section has also been taken up where earthwork and minor/major bridges are in progress.
8.	Sriganganagar-Sarupsar	1997-98	69.00	0.01	4.83	3.21	Detailed estimate for formation work, preliminary expenses and bridge work sanctioned. Tenders for earthwork and bridges are being invited.
9.	Agra Fort-Bandikui	1995-96	88.73	26.00	40.00	40.00	Gauge conversion of Bandikui-Bharatpur has been completed and opened for traffic. The work of gauge conversion of Bandikui-Agra Fort is targeted for completion during 2004-05. Tenders for track linking are under finalization.
10.	Pipar Road-Bilara	1993-94	258.00	5.00	5.00	3.00	Bridge work, earthwork & ballast supply are in progress.
<b>Doubling</b>							
11.	Jaipur-Phulera	2004-05	82.80	—	—	3.00	Preliminary arrangement are being made to take up the work.

**(ii) Surveys In progress**

Name of Project	Target date, wherever fixed
1	2
<b>New Lines</b>	
1. Phalodi-Nagaur	31.12.2004
2. Jaisalmer-Barmer	31.12.2004
3. Pushkar-Merta Road	—
4. Jhunjhunu-Pilani	—
5. Anupgarh-Bikaner	31.03.2005
6. Bilara-Bar	31.12.2004
7. Ujjain-Jhalawar/Ramganjmandi	—
8. Jaisalmer-Kandla	31.03.2005
9. Bari Sadari-Nimach	30.04.2005

	1	2
10.	Ratlam-Banswara via Dungarpur	31.12.2004
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>		
11.	Dholpur-Simuttra	—
12.	Sadulpur-Ratangarh-Bikaner & Ratangarh-Degana	31.01.2005
13.	Loharu-Sikar-Churu-Ringus-Jaipur & Suratpura-Hanumangarh	—
14.	Udaipur City-Himmatnagar-Ahmedabad	31.03.2005
<b>Doubling</b>		
15.	Jaipur-Merta Road	31.12.2004
16.	Delhi-Ahmedabad	30.04.2005

(e) Rajasthan is not being neglected in respect of Railways in view of large number of on-going works in Rajasthan as enumerated above.

#### **Aviation Pact with EU Countries**

2594. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended aviation pact with the EU countries (ASD) for another two years as reported in the "Economic Times" dated November 30, 2004;

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

(c) whether a large number of experts from both sides will be involved in the training programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the funds involved from the Indian side including the proposed Aerospace Academy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The implementation phase of the EU-India civil aviation project has been extended by 2 years beyond 30.11.2004. Co-operation in areas like production management, exploring partnership between Indian and European enterprises in design, production and servicing of aviation products, training on advanced technologies, preparation of the ground for setting up an Aerospace Academy, mutual certification of products and improvement in Air Traffic Management Systems in India etc. are expected to be the focus of the extended phase. Indian experts are also likely to gain from European experience in civil aviation security particularly in the context of enhanced threat perceptions. Additional activities during the extended phase will be executed from the savings of the first phase and there is no additional financial commitment from either side beyond the original commitment.

#### **Improvement in Air Connectivity to North Eastern States**

2595. DR. H.T. SANGLIANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that inadequate air connectivity to the North Eastern States is one of the grievances of the North East people;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government is aware that in flight service and refreshment served to the air passengers in all the North East bound flights are highly sub-standard; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government is trying to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. There have been demands for more air connectivity to the North Eastern States.

(b) No, Sir. Operators have informed that they serve standard quality refreshment on North East bound flights.

(c) does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Proposal to bring Nanded Division under Central Railway**

2596. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring the Nanded (Maharashtra) railway division, presently under South Central Railway, under the Central Railway; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Issue of Monthly Season Ticket**

2597. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand for issue of monthly seasonal ticket for those travelling from Akola district of Maharashtra to Nagpur by trains is being made;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A demand for issue of season tickets between Akola and Nagpur was

received from All India Confederation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes organisation, Amravati.

(c) Under the rules, season tickets are issued upto a distance of 150 kilometres only. Season tickets between Akola and Nagpur are not issued as the distance between these stations is more than 150 kilometres.

[*English*]

**Pipe Line Plan Opposed by GAIL Chief**

2598. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned "GAIL Chief opposes Aiyer's pipeline plan" as reported in the *Statesman* dated October 9, 2004;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to break the monopoly of GAIL is setting up gas pipeline in the country; and

(c) if so, to what extent the consumers would be benefited by breaking the monopoly of GAIL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) GAIL has represented against the entry of other players into the gas transmission business as, in their view, this would hamper the smooth operation of pipelines and growth opportunities for GAIL in the sector. GAIL have, therefore, requested for grant of monopoly for laying all the natural gas interstate transmission pipelines in the country.

(b) and (c) Under the existing policy, any entity can set up gas transmission and distribution networks without any Authorization/license from the Government. Natural gas/LNG is under Open General Licence (OGL) and 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted for natural gas pipeline projects. However as natural gas pipelines are highly capital intensive projects, they are considered natural monopolies and, therefore, Government propose to regulate them. Based on the feedback received from various stakeholders, including major domestic and international oil and gas companies, different Chambers of Commerce and Industries, State Governments, etc., and after inter-ministerial consultations, Government have under consideration a draft pipeline policy which envisages the development of a natural gas pipeline infrastructure

in a competitive environment involving both the public sector and private sector. This will encourage competition, efficiency and greater investment in this sector, all of which will ultimately benefit the consumer and the economy in general.

**Operation of IA to Hong Kong and Jeddah**

2599. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has urged the Government not to start new international destinations in Hong Kong and Jeddah;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Airlines also proposes to increase its operation to the east, UK and the US;

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

(e) the manner by which the IA is going to manage their aircraft for such future plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian carriers are already having traffic rights for operations to Hong Kong and Jeddah under the respective Air Services Agreements with Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia.

(c) to (e) Presently Indian Airlines is designated to operate to South East Asia, Gulf/Middle East and SAARC destinations. Indian Airlines has plans to add new destinations/flights progressively with acquisition of new aircraft. As far as USA and UK are concerned, Air India is the only designated Indian carrier on these routes at present.

**Quality of Uniform**

2600. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the combat uniform, web equipment and coat parka provided to troops is of inferior quality as compared to neighbours like Sri Lanka;



(b) whether a jacket or jersey is not fabricated and rain coat is also of very poor quality;

(c) if so, the reasons for parts (a) and (b) above;

(d) whether despite accumulation of years of experience in defence production and quality control mechanism, the reasons for which DGQA could not improve the quality;

(e) whether the Government propose to tap civilian sources in the country; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) Government is not aware of the quality of uniforms provided to Sri Lankan troops. Jackets, Jerseys and Raincoats are fabricated by Ordnance Factories and the quality is checked by the Quality Control Wing of Ordnance Factories and Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA) to ensure that the same is according to the specifications. Improvement in quality of uniforms supplied to the Army is a continuing process. The Government do tap civilian sources for procurement of clothing items.

#### **Responsibility of Quality Assurance Organisations**

2601. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Quality Assurance Organisations for the Army and Air Force *i.e.* DGAQA are under the Department responsible for defence production;

(b) whether the various High Powered Committees in the past have recommended against such an arrangement as it leads to conflicts of interests and interferences with their independent working; and

(c) if so, the reasons for continuing the existing arrangement ignoring the recommendations of the High

Power Committees and not constituting an autonomous Defence Quality Assurance Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Committee set up under Chairmanship of Dr. V.G. Rajadhyaksha in its interim Report had recommended greater autonomy to Quality Assurance Agencies including setting up of Defence Quality Assurance Board.

(c) The Quality Assurance organizations under the Department of Defence Production assure the quality of equipment and stores supplied to the Armed Forces including the imported equipment and supplies from private sector. They work in close coordination with Armed Forces in order to meet their quality requirement and have adequate autonomy for discharging their duties.

#### **Realisation of the Outstanding Freights**

2602. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have not been able to realize its outstanding freights from various agencies; and

(b) if so, the details of those agencies together with amounts to be realized from them and the steps taken to expedite realization of the freights from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Accrual and realization of freight is a continuous process on Railways. Realization of outstanding freight of Railways has improved by Rs. 131.44 crores in September 2004 as compared to September 2003.

(b) Statement enclosed.

#### **Statement**

Details of agencies with amounts to be realized from them are:—

(Rs. in crores)

Agencies	Outstanding freight as on September 2003	Outstanding freight as on September 2004	Variation of (1) and (2)
State Electricity Boards	1835.75	1716.92	118.83
Other than State Electricity Boards	58.00	45.39	12.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>1893.75</b>	<b>1762.31</b>	<b>131.44</b>

Steps taken to expedite realization of outstanding freights are:—

- a. Power Houses are being encouraged to follow the scheme of pre-payment of freight at booking station for carriage of coal.
- b. Close monitoring of recovery of outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards (SEBs) by holding regular meetings with the representatives of State Electricity Boards/Power Houses.
- c. Meetings are also held with Secretaries of the concerned Ministries and Chief Secretaries of the States from time to time.
- d. Adjustment of outstanding dues against traction bills done in respect of some SEBs.
- e. Special drive for clearance of Station outstanding

dues by forming teams of Accounts and Commercial Officials are launched from time to time.

[*Translation*]

#### Activities of Social Justice Centres

2603. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the details of progress made under various activities undertaken in social justice centre in Ujjain and other such centres in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): There is only one Social Justice Centre in Madhya Pradesh. A statement indicating status of Centre at Ujjain is enclosed.

#### Statement

Sl.No.	Unit	Built up area (in Sq. ft.) covered	Likely cost of construction (Rs. in lakhs)	Administrative organization	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Model Production Unit, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation India (ALIMCO)	26,500	300.00	Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India.	Initial action regarding project consultancy and management contract was taken up. However, title of land has become subjudice.
2.	Study circle, library and auditorium	5,000	50.00	Ambedkar Foundation	Under process.
3.	Vocational Training Centre & Remedial Coaching Centre	7,500	75.20	Maulana Azad Education Foundation	Under process.
4.	District Disability Rehabilitation Centre	4,880	20.20	National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped	Under process.
5.	Auditorium	5000 sq. ft. for 500 seats	250.00	Ambedkar Foundation	Under process.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Media and Information Centre	2,000	18.00	Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India	Basic facilities have been provided incurring an expenditure of Rs. 22.90 lakhs. One staff member has been posted.
7.	Cafeteria	2,000	—	Could be considered within the auditorium	Is considered to be part of study centre, library and auditorium.
8.	Bank	4,000	40.00	—	Will be taken up later.
9.	Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy Centre and Training Centre for Orientation	5000	50.00	Rehabilitation Council of India	The proposal has been dropped.

*[English]*

#### **Flyover in Dankuni Railway Station**

2604. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to build flyover in Dankuni railway station; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Dankuni in lieu of level crossing No. 8 at Km. 11/30-32 has been sanctioned on cost sharing basis and included in Railway's Works Programme 2001-02. Geotechnical investigations at site have been completed. General Arrangement Drawing for the Road Over Bridge has been sent to State Government Road Authorities for approval.

*[Translation]*

#### **Mobile Recharging Facility in Trains**

2605. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide the facility of recharging mobile phones and laptops on board in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of trains identified so far and the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided?

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

(b) and (c) It has been planned to provide the facility of electric charging points for mobile phones & laptop computers in Air-conditioned coaches in a phased manner subject to availability of funds.

#### **Petrol Pumps without Economic Viability**

2606. SHRI A.F.G. OSMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of this fact that oil PSU's are installing excessive number of petrol pumps without observing the economic viability and potential of the sites to cover even 100 to 150 Kls of sales per month;

(b) if so, whether the HPCL is installing more than one pump on the distance of less than 1 km and attempting to develop the same as coco just to give benefits to their relatives and friends; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken against the HPCL's officer working in Haryana for their illegal acts?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The public sector oil marketing companies (MCs) set up retail outlets (petrol pumps) at identified locations having sufficient potential, based on location-wise survey and feasibility study. The viability of the location varies with the class of market in which the outlet is to be set up and also on the facilities to be provided an investments to be made.

(b) As per guidelines, there is no bar on setting up new retail outlets within 1 kilometre of existing outlets subject to availability of potential and conformity to statutory norms. As per records, there is one retail outlet of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited set up at Mansa Devi Complex, Panchkula, Haryana, within a distance of 1 kilometre from another existing retail outlet of the same company. This outlet was commissioned in July, 2004 on company-owned-company-operated basis on the land allotted by the Haryana Urban Development Authority, after obtaining necessary approvals and 'no objection certificate' from the district authorities, etc. Even after commissioning of this new outlet, the existing retail outlet is selling, on an average, 350 kilolitre of petrol and 250 kilolitre diesel per month. This shows that the new retail outlet was planned on the basis of the available potential.

(c) In view of the reply to part (b) above, no action is required to be taken against the personnel of the company.

#### **Fall In Prices of Crude Oils**

2607. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the domestic market from the effects of continuous rise and fall in the prices of crude oil in the world market;

(b) the oil pool deficit during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have made commercial agreements with the oil producing countries in this regard;

(d) if so, the contents of the agreements; and

(e) if not, the steps to be taken by the Government to check the oil prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) The Government/Oil PSUs have take the following measures to contain the impact of international prices on the domestic consumer prices of petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG:

- (i) The Government reduced excise duties on petrol, diesel and domestic LPG by 4%, 3% and 8% respectively effective 16.6.2004. Later, effective 19.8.2004, the excise duties on petrol, diesel and PDS Kerosene were reduced by 3%, 3% and 4% respectively. Also, effective 19.8.2004, customs duties on petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG were reduced by 5% each.
- (ii) PDS kerosene and domestic LPG are subsidized products. In addition to the Government subsidy, oil PSUs have been sharing the burden by not passing the full increase in international prices onto the domestic consumer prices of these products. The oil PSUs have also had under-recoveries on account of non-revision in the prices of petrol and diesel in line with the international prices during the current year.

The oil pool accounts have been wound up effective 1.4.2002 with the announcement of dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism in the Petroleum Sector.

Crude oil is purchased by the oil companies on term contract basis and spot basis from international markets. There are no Government-level commercial agreements in this regard.

#### **CBI Inquiry into Selection of Petrol Pump Dealers**

2608. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI is conducting inquiry for the selection of petrol pump dealers by BPCL in Jodhpur area (Rajasthan);

(b) if so, whether the complaints regarding the dealers selection by BPCL officers in Haryana and Punjab have also been referred; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) CBI is not conducting any such enquiry. CBI, Jodhpur, had, however, investigated a complaint alleging irregularity in the allotment of a Retail Outlet (RO) at Pipar State highway in Jodhpur District and pointed out discrepancies in field investigation/physical verification of land by BPCL officials and recommended action as deemed fit.

(b) and (c) CBI, Chandigarh has sent a complaint to BPCL, for action as deemed fit, alleging irregularities in the allotment of ROs in village Jalalaiwal and Halwara in Punjab.

A complaint has been received from the Haryana Petroleum Dealers Association alleging corruption in the matter of allotment of petrol pumps/benami allotments to a mafia in the name of SC/STs.

#### **Project for Production Unit in Gujarat**

2609. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger coaches are not sufficient in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up coach production unit in Gujarat; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is no shortage to run the scheduled train services.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present capacity available in the two coach factories of Indian Railways *i.e.* Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai and Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala, supplemented by two coach factories namely one in private sector *i.e.* M/s Jessops & Co., Kolkata and one in public sector *i.e.* M/s Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, is sufficient to meet the present requirement of Indian Railways.

#### **Discontinuation of IInd Class Reservation from Kalka to Shimla**

2610. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second class reservation from Kalka to Shimla has been discontinued from the last some years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the railways propose to restore such facility;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be restored; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) In the last few years, the facility of second class reserved accommodation from Kalka to Shimla did not exist. Therefore, no ticket can be reserved in second class in the trains running from Kalka to Shimla.

#### **Performance of PSUs**

2611. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of Government policy towards Public Sector industries;

(b) the progress and impact of this policy on the performance of PSUs in the last three years;

(c) the number of PSUs which have not yet signed the Memorandum of Understanding and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating further reforms of Public Sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), the policy of the Government is to make the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) strong and effective, to grant full managerial and commercial autonomy to successful profit-making companies, retention of 'Navratna' CPSEs, no privatisation of profit-making companies in general, revival/restructuring of sick CPSEs and sell-off or close down of chronically loss making CPSEs only after the legitimate dues and compensation of the workers are cleared.

(b) The impact of the Government policy on public sector enterprises is reflected on their performance over a period of time. The impact of the measures to be taken under the new policy shall be known after a couple of years. The performance of the CPSEs for last ten years is given in Table 1.19, page 24 of Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey 2002-03, the latest period for which information is available. Public Enterprises Survey is a published document in the public domain and is placed annually in both the Houses of Parliament.

(c) Out of the 240 CPSEs as on 31.3.2003, 158 (including 51 subsidiaries) were sought to be covered under the MoU system during 2004-05. The remaining 82 CPSEs were excluded as 45 were referred to BIFR and 37 were either small, sick or 'under construction' companies. Out of 158 CPSEs, 107 were short listed to sign MoU for the year 2004-05. However, 4 CPSEs have not signed MoU so far as three *viz* National Scheduled Tribe Finance & Development Corporation, Tehri Hydro Development Corporation and Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. have been exempted from signing MoU with the approval of Chairman, High Power Committee on MoU and one *i.e.* NTC (Holding) Co. Ltd. is yet to submit the draft MoU.

(d) and (e) The Government is working towards making a strong and effective public sector whose social objectives are met by its commercial functioning as per the policy mentioned at (a) above. Towards this end, several initiatives are on the anvil.

#### Supply of Gas to Gas Plants

2612. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments have requested the Central Government to allocate more gas for their gas based power plants;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Requests have been received from the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry for the supply of gas for their power plants. At present,

the availability of natural gas is much less than demand, necessitating its pro-rated supply. Steps have been taken, wherever feasible, to meet special contingencies, such as in Gujarat where, to overcome the drought-like situation, some LNG was diverted to Power Plants from other consumers. Similarly, in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, GAIL and ONGC have been instructed to make the utmost effort to increase the availability of gas to power sector consumers.

#### Hostels for SC Students

2613. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to chalk out any effective plan to provide sufficient hostels in the educational institutions to the students of SC categories;

(b) whether the Union Government has received any requests or suggestions from honourable Members of Parliament from other social organizations in this regard till today;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of assisting construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste students under which hostel facilities are provided by the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, Universities etc. to SC boys and girls studying in middle school, higher secondary school, colleges and universities. While the State Governments, UT Administrations, Universities are given assistance for construction of new hostels as well as expansion of the existing facilities, the Central assistance under the scheme to the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is admissible only for expansion of the existing hostels buildings. The financial assistance to the State Government is provided on 50:50 basis while the Union Territory Administration are given 100% assistance. The Universities and NGOs are given 45% central assistance under the scheme. However, the plans for providing hostel facilities are prepared by the respective State Governments, UT Administrations Universities etc.

(b) No, Sir. This Ministry has not received any such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Drug Addiction among School Children**

2614. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:  
SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that more and more school children are experimenting with drug abuse in the city at an early age and that the ages group at which the children were using drugs is fast dipping;

(b) if so, whether any recent study has been conducted by the Government to assess the magnitude of the drug abuse problem among the school going children in the city;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the sources of procurement of the drugs by the school children identified by the Government; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to effectively tackle the growing drug abuse among the school children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations office of Drugs and Crime have conducted a National Survey on Extent, Pattern and Trends of Drug Abuse in India. The age group of the sample in this survey was between 12-60 years. As per the survey the prevalence of drug use in sample size of 8,587 within the age group 12-18 years was as follows:

Cannabis	3.0%
Opiates	0.1%

(d) School children often procure drugs from pushers and peddlers who frequent the locality where the educational institutions are situated. Some of them also

get their drugs from their peers who are already into drug abuse.

(e) Students at the Secondary/Higher Secondary level are vulnerable to slipping into drug abusing behaviour due to stress factors, peer influence, hormonal changes etc. It is felt that educating them on the ill effects of drug abuse, through appropriate inputs in the school curricula, can help reduce the numbers succumbing to this vice. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment as the nodal Ministry for prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse is in dialogue with the Ministry of Human Resource Development for including these inputs in the school curriculum. The Ministry also funds voluntary organizations that are running awareness programmes in the area of drug abuse prevention. These organizations cover schools and colleges under their outreach programmes. Besides, as a measure of checking the peddling of the drugs to students the sale of such substance in the vicinity of any school/educational institution attracts higher than the minimum punishment for such offences.

#### **Discontinuing Oil Supply to Nepal**

2615. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil supplies to Nepal were suspended during the visit of Nepal's Prime Minister to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The supplies of petroleum products from M/s Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) to M/s Nepal Oil Corporation Limited (NOC) were affected during 6.9.2004 to 9.9.2004 on account of withdrawal effective 6.9.2004 of warehousing facilities by the Government of India which allowed removal of petroleum products from the oil companies' depots/terminals without payment of excise duty. However, later, through a circular dated 8.9.2004, the Government of India permitted the facility of "export warehousing" for the export of petroleum products and regular supplies from IOC to NOC were restored soon thereafter.

**Connectivity Infrastructure to Panchayats**

2616. SHRI SURESH KURUP:  
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to extend internet connectivity in every panchayat as it has become an essential infrastructural requirement;

(b) if so, whether the Government has allocated funds to all the States to provide computers in all the Panchayats;

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

(d) whether the Government received any communication from the Government of Kerala for extending the connectivity infrastructure to the block/panchayat level at a cost of Rs. 88 crores; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) A Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers in charge of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj on Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj was organized in New Delhi on 29-30 June, 2004, jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Issues relating to effective implementation of Part-IX and IX-A of the Constitution on Panchayati Raj were tabled as agenda for discussion by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Conference decided to hold seven Round Table Conferences to formulate a draft action plan towards achieving the objective of strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions to enable them to become true institutions of self-government for the planning and implementation of programmes of economic development and social justice as envisioned in the Constitution.

Six Round Table Conferences have already been held in which 16 of the 18 identified dimensions of Panchayati Raj have been discussed. The remaining two dimensions *viz.* capacity building and IT-enabled e-governance will be discussed in the seventh Round Table Conference scheduled to be held at Jaipur on 17-

19 December, 2004. During the seventh Round Table Conference, the question of extending inter connectivity to every panchayat will also be discussed. Ministers in charge of Panchayats and their representatives have agreed to recommend to their respective Governments the conclusions reached during the six Round Table Conferences on the subjects under consideration for further necessary action. Similarly, the conclusions reached during the seventh Round Table Conference are also proposed to be recommended by the Ministers in charge of Panchayats to their respective Governments for adoption.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj has not allocated any funds to the States to provide computers in all the Panchayats. This will, however, be taken up in the light of the conclusions on IT-enabled e-governance at forthcoming seventh Round Table in Jaipur.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Panchayati Raj has not received any communication from the Government of Kerala for extending the connectivity infrastructure to the Block/Panchayat level.

**Orders to KEL Company in Kerala**

2617. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the state owned Kerala Electrical and Allied Engineering Company Ltd. Kundara, Kerala being the only PSU manufacturing Brushless Alternators and regulators being used by the Railways, for lighting and air-conditioning of coaches, is being denied supply orders, giving preferential treatment to few private firms;

(b) if so, whether sufficient orders are not placed on the K.E.L. the PSU may have to declare lay-off leading to loss of job of over 500 employees;

(c) if so, whether the Government has set any plan to place maximum orders at least in the tender now being evaluated by the Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) As per extant policy of Government of India, the tenders are finalized on merit duly considering the rate quoted, capacity/capability, past performance of various bidders participating in the tender. As such, any firm



including Kerala Electrical and Allied Engineering Company Ltd. (KEL) have to compete in the tender to obtain order.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Subsidised LPG for Running Cars**

2618. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the misuse of subsidised LPG for running cars;

(b) whether it is dangerous; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the misuse of subsidised LPG for running cars?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Some incidents of misuse of domestic LPG cylinders for auto-fuel in vehicles in various markets have come to the notice of the Government, which is unsafe as well as illegal in terms of LPG (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicles) Order, 2001.

(c) Government have taken following measures to prevent the use of domestic LPG cylinders in vehicles for auto-fuel purpose:—

- (i) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 has been promulgated making use of domestic LPG cylinders for unauthorised purposes as illegal.
- (ii) LPG (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicles) Order, 2001 permits only fixed LPG fuel tanks to be used in vehicles.
- (iii) Under the provisions of these Orders, State Governments are empowered to take action against the erring users of domestic LPG cylinders for unauthorised usage.
- (iv) The officials of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) carry out random checks, at distributors' godown, delivery points as well as enroute to check diversion.
- (v) Action against erring distributors is taken in terms of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/ Distributorship Agreements.

(vi) State Level Coordinators of OMCs have written to the respective State Governments to conduct checks and organize raids so as to detect and prevent unauthorized use of domestic LPG for auto fuel purposes.

(vii) Refill supplies to distributors are being regulated based on historical consumption patterns.

(viii) A joint press advertisement has been released in October, 2004 in cities having Auto LPG Dispensing Station informing the public about the safety hazards associated with the use of domestic LPG cylinders as auto fuel and urging the customers to use auto LPG available at select petrol pumps.

#### **Merger of HCL with BSNL**

2619. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 2244 dated July 22, 2004 regarding Restructure of Hindustan Cable Factory and state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has considered the possibility of a merger of Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL) with BSNL and informed the Ministry about their decision; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The matter regarding merger of HCL with BSNL was taken up with Department of Telecommunication. The Department of Telecommunication has expressed its inability to agree to the proposal in view of shrinking demand for the primary product (Polythene Insulated Jelly Filled cable) and emerging new technologies.

*[Translation]*

#### **Gas Pipeline in Myanmar and Bangladesh**

2620. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to approve the gas pipeline project with Myanmar and Bangladesh as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated November 19, 2004;

(b) if so, whether the pipeline is likely to originate from Myanmar;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the States of the country likely to be connected by this joint gas pipeline alongwith the details; and

(e) the estimated annual income to be earned by the Government after commencement of the said pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) are partners with Daewoo International and Kogas of South Korea in A-1 Block in Myanmar. They have struck gas in this block. the gas can be transported from Myanmar to India through an on-land or offshore pipeline, subject to availability of gas in commercial quantities justifying a pipeline. The most economical option appears to be an on-land pipeline transiting through Bangladesh. However, the Government of Bangladesh has to take a final view in the matter. A meeting of the Ministers in charge of the Petroleum/ Natural Gas sectors of the three countries is being arranged.

(d) States in the Eastern and North-Eastern part of the country are expected to be the main beneficiaries of the proposed pipeline.

(e) The proposal is at a preliminary stage and these details have not been worked out.

[English]

#### **CNG Filling Stations in the Country**

2621. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CNG filling stations in the country as on June 30, 2004, State-wise;

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

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

(d) if so, to what extent; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) As on 30.6.2004 there were 212 CNG Stations in operations in the country. State-wise details are as under:—

Maharashtra	84
Gujarat	6
Delhi	122

(b) During the current financial year, 10 and 36 additional CNG Stations are proposed to be set up in Delhi and Maharashtra respectively. There is no proposal for setting up any CNG Station in Karnataka during the current financial year.

(c) to (e) The present CNG Stations are adequate to meet the current fuel requirements of the vehicles operating on CNG in the respective cities.

The conversion of vehicles on CNG and development of matching CNG distribution infrastructure is a continuing process.

CNG as auto fuel will be introduced in a phased manner in different cities of the country subject to availability of natural gas and gas transmission infrastructure.

#### **Welfare Scheme by NGOs**

2622. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

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

(a) the details of funds allocated/released to the NGOs under various welfare schemes of Ministry of each State and Union Territory, particularly in Assam and Bihar, during the current year;

(b) the details of funds actually utilized by these NGOs during each of the last three years and the current year, particularly in Assam and Bihar, State/UT-wise;

(c) the details of Non-Governmental Organisations that have been blacklisted during last three years till date, particularly in Assam and Bihar, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the details about on-going programmes being implemented and the actual progress achieved by these Non-Governmental Organisations in the country, particularly in Assam and Bihar, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (d) State/UT-wise allocation of funds is not done under the welfare schemes being implanted by the Ministry for welfare of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities, Persons with Disabilities, Children in Need of Care and Protection, Older persons, and Victims of Substance Abuse. The details of grant in aid released to the NGOs are available on the website of the Ministry ([www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in)). The second instalment of grant in aid is released to the NGOs during the year only after utilization certificate and audited statement of expenditure for releases made in previous years have been received.

The Ministry has so far blacklisted 76 voluntary organisations, that were receiving grants under various schemes of this Ministry: Andhra Pradesh (12), Bihar (2), Goa (1), Gujarat (2), Karnataka (5), Madhya Pradesh (5), Maharashtra (12), Orissa (2), Rajasthan (3), Sikkim (1), Tamil Nadu (3), Uttar Pradesh (26), West Bengal (1) and Delhi (1). Details of Non-Governmental Organisations that have been blacklisted during the last three years and till date, State/UT-wise, are also available on the website of the Ministry ([www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in)).

#### **Functioning of Aircraft**

2623. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the daily average flying time of aeroplanes used by Indian Airlines;

(b) whether this average flying time is below the standards set according to international norms;

(c) if so, whether Indian Airlines aircrafts are not properly maintained and serviced as per the standards and norms;

(d) if so, the details and reasons therefor:

(e) the number of complaints made by pilots regarding un-satisfactory functioning of aircrafts; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The daily average flying time of aeroplanes used by Indian Airlines during 2003-04 is:—

1. A-300 aircraft-7.8 hrs.
2. A-320 aircraft-9.4 hrs.
3. B-737 aircraft-7.0 hrs.
4. DO-228 aircraft-1.9 hrs.
5. ATR aircraft-5.6 hrs.

(b) No international standards have been set for average flying time. However, as per the manufacturer, the world average flying time for Airbus A320 & A300 aircraft are 9.09 hours and 5.51 hours respectively.

(c) and (d) The maintenance of the aircraft are carried out as per the manufacturer's instructions, Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) instructions and the directives of the authority of the country of the aircraft manufacture, issued from time to time. The compliance of these maintenance procedures and directives on the aircraft by Indian Airlines is monitored by various regional offices of DGCA, periodically, through spotchecks and planned audits.

(e) There are no complaints by pilots regarding unsatisfactory functioning of aircraft.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Training Programme for Pilots**

2624. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force propose to review the training programme to its pilots in view of several crashes of fighter aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to remove the technical snags, if any, in the fighter aircraft including the Mirages?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Review of training programme of fighter aircraft, to cater to changing operational and safety requirements, is an ongoing process. Training pattern is constantly being modified to include recommendations emerging out of findings of Courts of enquiries. Keeping in mind the last Mirage-2000 accident, night flying syllabus is being re-worked.

(c) Rectification of routine defects is carried out at the unit level on a day to day basis. For rectification of major defects, the defective parts are sent to the repair agency. In case a manufacturing defect is suspected, the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) is also consulted.

#### OPEC Meet in Vienna

2625. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India took up the issue of Asian premium at the OPEC meet in Vienna;

(b) if so, the main issues raised by the Indian delegation at the premium OPEC meet;

(c) the main decision taken thereon;

(d) the extent to which India's point of view were taken into consideration;

(e) whether India has sought parity in oil prices for Asia with West;

(f) whether India got support from Japan and China to pressurize OPEC members; and

(g) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (g) The National Oil Companies (NOCs) of some countries in West Asia have different pricing formulae for their sale of crude oil for different regions in the world such as North America, Europe and Asia Pacific. As per market practice, the pricing formulae

are linked to marker/benchmark crude oil relevant for each region, *viz.*, West Texas Intermediate Crude Oil for North America, Brent Crude Oil for Europe and Oman & Dubai Crude Oils for Asian customers. Based on the pricing formula, the price paid by the Asian customers is sometimes higher and sometimes lower, although more often than not higher than that charged to American and European customers. This is sometimes referred to as the "Asian premium".

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj, Government of India was invited to deliver a keynote address to one of the sessions in the OPEC International Seminar titled "Petroleum in an Interdependent World" held in Vienna on 16th and 17th September, 2004. In his address, he *inter alia* touched upon the aforesaid practice of NOCs of some countries in West Asia of having different pricing formulae for their sale of crude oil for different regions in the world.

The principal Asian suppliers and purchasers of oil have been invited to a meeting being convened in New Delhi on the 6th January, 2005 jointly by India, Kuwait and the International Energy Forum to discuss stability, security and sustainability in the Asian oil economy. Japan and China are among the participants.

[*Translation*]

#### Ban on Auction of Scrap in Railway

2626. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision in the new rail Budget to do away with the auction of all types of scrap;

(b) if so, whether ban has been imposed on the auction of only 27 types of scrap while the remaining items like wheels, wagons and the entire bogies have not been included thereunder;

(c) the rationale behind not banning the auctions of wheels, wagons and entire bogies and the time by which the Government is likely to put a ban on the auction of these items; and

(d) the losses suffered by the Railways due to ban on the auction of scrap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) In the Rail Budget 2004-05, it was decided to explore the possibility of in-house utilization of the scrap by re-cycling it, subject to a detail examination of the logistics, cost benefit analysis etc. A high level committee was constituted to explore the possibility of in-house utilization of Railway scrap. Pending the recommendations of the committee's report, Railways were allowed to sell those scrap items, which *prima-facie* can not be re-cycled/are not economical to re-cycle. The committee has since given its recommendations and same are under examination. Wheels, wheel sets, wheel discs, cast iron bogie frames, under frames of wagons, Axle guard ec. are re-cycled in-house for manufacturing wheel & Axle and Steel casting items.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Setting up of New Radio Stations

2627. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:  
SHRI NARSINGRAO H. SURYAWANSHI:

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

(a) the number and the names of the AIR stations running in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh as on date;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more Radio Stations in the country; and

(c) if so, the places identified for setting up of new Radio Stations in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) At present, 215 All India Radio stations including 14 in Uttar Pradesh, are functioning in the country. Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. During the 10th Five Year Plan, 72 new radio stations, including 3 in Uttar Pradesh, are proposed to be set-up in the country, subject to approval and availability of resources. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

#### Statement I

##### Existing Stations of AIR

State	Sl.No.	Place
1	2	3
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>		
	1.	Adilabad
	2.	Anantpur
	3.	Cuddapah
	4.	Hyderabad
	5.	Kothagudam
	6.	Kumool
	7.	Markapuram
	8.	Nizamabad
	9.	Tirupati
	10.	Vijayawada
	11.	Vishakhapatnam
	12.	Warangal
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>		
	13.	Itanagar
	14.	Passighat
	15.	Tawang
	16.	Tezu
	17.	Ziro
<b>Assam</b>		
	18.	Dhubri
	19.	Dibrugarh
	20.	Diphu
	21.	Guwahati
	22.	Haflong
	23.	Jorhat
	24.	Kokrajhar
	25.	Nowgong

1	2	3	1	2	3
	26.	Silchar	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>		
	27.	Tezpur	50.		Dharamshala Simla
<b>Bihar</b>			51.		Hamirpur
	28.	Bhagalpur	52.		Kasauli
	29.	Darbhanga	53.		Kinnaur (Kalpa)
	30.	Patna	54.		Kullu
	31.	Purnea	55.		Shimla
	32.	Sasaram	<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>		
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>			56.		Jammu
	33.	Ambikapur	57.		Kargil
	34.	Bilaspur	58.		Kathua
	35.	Jagdalpur	59.		Leh
	36.	Raigarh	60.		Poonch
	37.	Raipur	61.		Srinagar
<b>Delhi</b>			62.		Bhadarwah
	38.	Delhi	63.		Kupwara
<b>Goa</b>			64.		Khalsi
	39.	Panaji	65.		Naushera
<b>Gujarat</b>			66.		Rajouri
	40.	Ahmedabad	<b>Jharkhand</b>		
	41.	Ahwa Vadodra	67.		Chaibasa
	42.	Bhuj	68.		Daltonganj
	43.	Godhra	69.		Hazaribagh
	44.	Rajkot	70.		Jamshedpur
	45.	Surat	71.		Ranchi
	46.	Vadodara	<b>Karnataka</b>		
<b>Haryana</b>			72.		Bangalore
	47.	Hissar	73.		Bhadravati
	48.	Kurukshehra	74.		Bellary
	49.	Rohtak	75.		Bijapur
			76.		Chitradurg

1	2	3
	77.	Dharward
	78.	Guilbarga
	79.	Hassan
	80.	Hospet
	81.	Karwar
	82.	Mangalore/Udipi
	83.	Mercara
	84.	Mysore
	85.	Raichur
<b>Kerala</b>		
	86.	Alleppey
	87.	Calicut
	88.	Cannanore
	89.	Cochin
	90.	Idukki (Devikulam)
	91.	Trichur
	92.	Trivandrum
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>		
	93.	Balaghat
	94.	Betul
	95.	Bhopal
	96.	Chhatarpur
	97.	Chhindwara
	98.	Guna
	99.	Gwalior
	100.	Indore
	101.	Jabalpur
	102.	Khandwa
	103.	Rewa
	104.	Sagar
	105.	Shahdol

1	2	3
	106.	Shivpuri
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
	107.	Ahmednagar
	108.	Akola
	109.	Aurangabad
	110.	Beed
	111.	Chandrapur Mumbai
	112.	Dhule
	113.	Jaigaon
	114.	Kolhapur
	115.	Mumbai
	116.	Nagpur
	117.	Nanded
	118.	Nasik
	119.	Osmanabad
	120.	Parbhani
	121.	Pune
	122.	Ratnagiri
	123.	Sangli
	124.	Satara
	125.	Sholapur
	126.	Yeotmal
<b>Manipur</b>		
	127.	Imphal
<b>Meghalaya</b>		
	128.	Jowai
	129.	Nongstoin
	130.	Shillong
	131.	Tura
	132.	Williamnagar
<b>Mizoram</b>		
	133.	Aizawl

1	2	3	1	2	3
	134.	Lungleh		161.	Jaipur
	135.	Saiha		162.	Jaisalmer
<b>Nagaland</b>				163.	Jhalawar
	136.	Kohima		164.	Jodhpur
	137.	Mokakchung		165.	Kota
	138.	Mon		166.	Mount Abu
	139.	Tuensang		167.	Nagaur
<b>Orissa</b>				168.	Sawai Madhopur
	140.	Baripada		169.	Suratgarh
	141.	Berhampur		170.	Udaipur
	142.	Bhawanipatna	<b>Sikkim</b>		
	143.	Bolangir		171.	Gangtok
	144.	Cuttack	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>		
	145.	Jeypore		172.	Chennai
	146.	Joranda		173.	Coimbatore
	147.	Keonjhar		174.	Kodaikanal
	148.	Puri		175.	Madurai
	149.	Rourkela		176.	Nagarcoil
	150.	Sambalpur		177.	Oottacamund
<b>Punjab</b>				178.	Tiruchirapalli
	151.	Bhatinda		179.	Tirunelveli
	152.	Jalandhar		180.	Tuticorin
	153.	Patiala	<b>Tripura</b>		
<b>Rajaasthan</b>				181.	Agartala
	154.	Ajmer		182.	Belonia
	155.	Alwar		183.	Kailashahar
	156.	Banswara	<b>Union Territory</b>		
	157.	Barmer		184.	Chandigarh
	158.	Bikaner		185.	Daman
	159.	Chittorgarh		186.	Pondicherry
	160.	Churu		187.	Karaikal



1	2	3	1	2	3
	188.	Kavaratti		202.	Rampur
	189.	Port Blair		203.	Varanasi
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>			<b>Uttaranchal</b>		
	190.	Agra		204.	Almora
	191.	Aligarh		205.	Gopeshwar (Chamoli)
	192.	Allahabad		206.	Mussorie
	193.	Bareilly		207.	Pauri
	194.	Faizabad		208.	Pithoragarh
	195.	Gorakhpur		209.	Uttarkashi
	196.	Jhansi	<b>West Bengal</b>		
	197.	Kanpur		210.	Asansole
	198.	Lucknow		211.	Kolkata
	199.	Mathura		212.	Kurseong
	200.	Najibabad		213.	Murshidabad
	201.	Obra		214.	Shantiniketan
				215.	Siliguri

**Statement II***List of FM/MW Stations Proposed in 10th Plan***I. New FM Stations — 70 Nos.**

State	Sl.No.	Place	Power
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Kakinada	10 kW
	2.	Karimnagar	5 kW
	3.	Srikakulam	1 kW
Arunachal Pradesh	4.	Anini	1 kW
	5.	Bomdila	1kW
	6.	Daporijo	1kW
	7.	Changlang	1 kW
	8.	Khonsa	1 kW

1	2	3	4
Assam	9.	Karimganj	1/5 kW
	10.	Lumding	1/5 kW
	11.	Golpara	1/5 kW
Bihar	12.	Gaya	10 kW
	13.	Motihari	10 kW
	14.	Banka	10 kW
	15.	Madhubani	10 kW
Chhattisgarh	16.	Dantewara	5 kW
	17.	Rajnandgaon	5 kW
	18.	Jashpumagar	5 kW
	19.	Baikunthpur	5 kW
Gujarat	20.	Jamnagar	10 kW
	21.	Junagarh	10 kW
Haryana	22.	Ambala	5 kW
Jharkhand	23.	Dhanbad	10 kW
	24.	Dumka	5 kW
	25.	Gumla	5 kW
Karnataka	26.	Sringeri	10 kW
	27.	Bellary	10 kW
Kerala	28.	Konni	5 kW
Madhya Pradesh	29.	Ujjain	5 kW
Maharashtra	30.	Shirdi	5 kW
	31.	Oras	5 kW
	32.	Amravati	10 kW
	33.	Tamenglang	1/5 kW
Manipur	34.	Ukhrul	1/5 kW
	35.	Dawki	1/5 kW
Meghalaya	36.	Champhai	1/5 kW
Mizorm	37.	Tuipang	1/5 kW
	38.	Kolasib/Sarchip	1/5 kW

1	2	3	4
Nagaland	39.	Phek	1 kW
	40.	Zunheboto	1 kW
	41.	Wokha	1 kW
Orissa	42.	Deogarh	5 kW
	43.	Raygada	5 kW
	44.	Rairangpur	1/5 kW
	45.	Parlakimidi	5 kW
Punjab	46.	Fazilka	10 kW
	47.	Amritsar	20 kW
Rajasthan	48.	Ramgarh	20 kW
	49.	Chautan Hill	20 kW
Tamil Nadu	50.	Kanchipuram	5 kW
Tripura	51.	Udaipur	1/5 kW
	52.	Nutan Bazar	1/5 kW
	53.	Longtherai	6 kW
Uttar Pradesh	54.	Gazipur	10 kW
	55.	Banda	10 kW
	56.	Lakhimpur Khiri	10 kW
Uttaranchal	57.	Dehradun	10 kW
	58.	Haldwani	10 kW
	59.	Bhageshwar	5 kW
	60.	Champwat	1 kW
	61.	Gairsen	1 kW
	62.	Rudraprayag	1 kW
	63.	New Tehri	1 kW
West Bengal	64.	Darjeeling	10 kW
	65.	Purulia	10 kW
	66.	Maldah	10 kW
	67.	Kochbihar	10 kW
	68.	Bardhaman	10 kW

1	2	3	4
	69.	Tamluk	5 kW
	70.	Balurghat	10 kW
<b>II. New Medium Wave Stations</b>	—	2 Nos.	
Rajasthan	1.	Dungarpur	1 kW
Uttaranchal	2.	Dharchula	1 kW

**Hiring of Ships for Exploration of Oil and Hydrocarbon**

2628. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has hired or propose to hire some more new ships for exploration of oil and hydrocarbon;

(b) if so, the number of such ships hired; and

(c) the total amount likely to be incurred on hiring these ships?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) have hired two deep water drill ships and two shallow water ships/floaters/barges for a period of three years for exploration of oil and gas.

(c) The total amount likely to be incurred on hiring these four ships for three years is Rs. 3,969.64 crore.

[English]

**Procurement of Barak Missiles**

2629. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the purchase of Barak Missiles from Israel has come under the scanner of intelligence agencies as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 22, 2004;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the details of further action the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The procurement of Barak Anti Missile Defence System from M/s IAI, Israel was one of the cases under investigation by Justice Venkataswami/ Justice S.N. Phukan Commission constituted by the previous Government to inquire into the transactions mentioned in the Tehelka video tapes. The Commission has since been wound up and the investigation has been entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

[Translation]

**Scam of Uniform In Samastipur Railway Division**

2630. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a uniform scam involving Rs. 10 lakh has been reported in the Samastipur Railway Division;

(b) whether the uniforms have not been supplied to the employees of Samastipur Railway Division for the last four years and 6575 uniforms have been found missing from the stores;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Stocks verification of Uniform Cell in Samastipur Division has revealed shortage valuing Rs. 7.62 lakhs for 30 items and excess valuing Rs. 0.51 lakhs in 21 items.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Uniforms are being regularly supplied to the employees of Samastipur Division except 6479 numbers of Uniforms pertaining to Summer 2004 which have been found short in the stock verification.

(d) A committee of three officers has been constituted for inquiring into the matter and in the meantime the employee suspected to be responsible for irregularity has been suspended.

*[English]*

#### Partnership in Crude Pipeline

2631. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Egypt has offered India, partnership in its multi-billion dollar crude pipeline linking the Mediterranean and Red Sea;

(b) if so, whether the pipeline, has given excess to India to the oil reserves of the Caspian and Dead Sea regions;

(c) whether this new pipeline will also open a western maritime door oil from Algeria and Libya;

(d) if so, whether Iran has also offered India 20% in Oil field on nomination basis and in turn Iran wants India to buy the proposed 5 millions tonnes p.a. of LNG for \$2.57 million BTU;

(e) if so, whether both Egypt proposal and Iran offer has been accepted; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) During a meeting between the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India and his Egyptian counterpart in Vienna on 16th September, 2004, on the side-lines of the OPEC international seminar, the Egyptian Minister had indicated that they intended to build a long-distance pipeline which would run from the Mediterranean coast to the Red Sea Coast. He invited India to consider participating in this project after the proposal is finalised by the Egyptian side. Depending upon the alignment, capacities and uses

to which the pipeline(s) is put, it could improve India's access to regions abutting the Mediterranean. GAIL is following up the invitation to participate.

(d) to (f) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 27th January, 2003 between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India and Ministry of Petroleum of Islamic Republic of Iran for furthering cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. Under the provisions of this MoU, a joint working group (JWG) has been constituted to follow up and monitor the progress of cooperation. The minutes of the first meeting of JWG held in May 2003 provide for a package of cooperation. The package consists of export of 5 MMTPA of LNG from Iran to India and Iran agreeing to negotiate awarding a significant-sized discovered Iranian oil field and a semi-discovered Iranian oil field to an Indian PSU like ONGC Videsh Limited subject to technical and commercial competitiveness.

Finalisation of an agreement on this is subject to commercial terms, including price, being agreed upon mutually. Negotiations are continuing.

#### Beautification of Safdarjung Airport

2632. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to use Safdarjung Airport for commercial activities;

(b) if so, whether it would tamper with the heritage status of the area;

(c) whether, in the past too, various such plans of commercialisation have been shelved in view of the opposition from various agencies;

(d) if so, whether the Government has explored to develop this piece of land into a horticulture park or used for ballooning carnivals, micro light tourist flights or as National Air Museum; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Safdarjung Airport is being used for VVIP, VIP flights and other aviation activities. At present, Government has no plan to use land at this airport for commercial activities.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the past various agencies had suggested proposals such as International level Convention-cum-Exhibition Centre, Heritage Centre, National Aviation Museum etc. There were no tangible outcome.

(d) Due to the imperatives for security aspects, possibility of using Safdarjung airport for micro lights, tourist flights, ballooning carnivals or Horticulture Park has limitations.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Special Bonds to Mop up Revenue**

2633. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attractive special bonds have been planned to mop up revenues;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Bonds are raised by Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC) for Ministry of Railways for supplementing the Plan resources and are used for procurement of Rolling Stock. No bonds are issued to mop up revenue.

#### **Petro Secy. Delegation to Tehran**

2634. SHRI K.S. RAO:  
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether Indian delegation visited Tehran to finalise a gas for oil field deal with Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantity of petroleum products likely to be purchased by India from Iran; and

(d) the time by which the supply is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 27th January, 2003 between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India and Ministry of petroleum, Islamic Republic of Iran for furthering cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. Under the provisions of this MoU, a joint working group (JWG) has been constituted to follow up and monitor the progress of cooperation. The minutes of the first meeting of JWG held in May 2003 provide for a package of cooperation. The main focus of the package consists of export of 5 MTPA of LNG from Iran to India and Iran agreeing to negotiate awarding a significant sized discovered Iranian oil field and a semi-discovered Iranian oil field to an Indian PSU like ONGC Videsh Limited subject to technical and commercial competitiveness.

During the visit of the Indian delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India to Tehran on November 23-24, 2004, the progress of finalization of details in respect of the aforesaid package was reviewed. The subject was also discussed at Ministerial level when the Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Tehran on 5-6 December, 2004. Negotiations are continuing. finalisation of the agreement for our purchase of gas and investment in oilfields will be subject to mutually acceptable commercial terms.

*[Translation]*

#### **Loan from World Bank**

2635. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is making efforts to get a large fund from the World Bank to establish a railway structure parallel to roads to compete with road transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The Government

has already posed the following two projects to the World Bank for funding:

- (i) Capacity-cum-Safety Enhancement Project for Kanpur-Mughalsarai section (total cost US\$ 23 million)
- (ii) Munger bridge (total cost US\$ 180 million)

In addition to above, works to be taken up for modernisation, throughout enhancement, safety enhancement and Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana, have been identified for World Bank funding.

#### Re-employment to Retired Personnel

2636. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the schemes of the Government to tackle the problems arising out of early retirement of Armed Personnel;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to re-employ retired Armed Forces Personnel in paramilitary forces;
- (c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government is having a number of resettlement schemes for ex-servicemen to tackle the problems arising out of early retirement of Armed Forces personnel. These include schemes of reservation in Government jobs, training programmes to improve their employability after retirement or release from service, grant of loan facilities for setting up of self-employment ventures, employment opportunities through ex-servicemen security agencies and ex-servicemen coal transport companies.

(b) to (d) The Central Government has already provided for reservation of 10% and 20% in the vacancies in Group C posts and Group D posts respectively for ex-servicemen. This reservation is also applicable to the vacancies in Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs). Besides, 10% posts of Assistant Commandants in CPMFs are also reserved for ex-servicemen.

*[English]*

#### Ex-Army Chiefs' Conference

2637. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:  
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD alias SADHU  
YADAV:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has organized a conference of ex-Army Chiefs in New Delhi, recently;
- (b) if so, the details of discussions held; and
- (c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government did not organize a conference of ex-Army Chiefs. However, the Army Headquarters did organize this conference at which non-classified subjects related to organizational, administrative and welfare aspects were discussed.

#### Target Fixed to Complete Schemes

2638. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether AIR had fixed targets for completing 36 schemes during 2003-04;
- (b) if so, whether 11 schemes have been brought forward and six schemes could not be completed due to delay in tender process;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Ministry has chalked out any strategy to complete all the new schemes and brought forward some schemes during 2004-05; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that against the target of 36 All India Radio projects, 28 projects (including 4 projects not targeted in 2003-04) were completed during 2003-04. Shortfall has occurred as order for transmitters could not be placed due to objections from bidders during the processing of tenders.

(d) and (e) Efforts are being made to complete the targeted projects during this year. The progress of projects is being monitored closely by frequent visits to project sites so that various field problems can be redressed quickly.

**Construction of New Railway Line  
Guruvayoor to Edappally**

2639. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to take up the construction of a new railway line, connecting Guruvayoor to Edappally (Ernakulam) *via* Kodungalloor and North Parur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A composite survey report for construction of new line from Guruvayoor to Edappally and providing rail connection to Vallarpadam from Idappalli was completed in September, 2003. M/s. Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. have also conducted the bankability study of the proposal and have not found the project bankable.

*[Translation]*

**Licenses to Companies under N.E.L.P.**

2640. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a scheme to issue licences to the companies for exploration of oil and gas under new oil exploration licencing policy as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated November 27, 2004;

(b) if so, the percentage increase in crude oil production during the year 2004-05 as a result of steps taken to increase domestic availability;

(c) the total production of crude oil in metric tonnes during the period from April to September this year;

(d) the places and areas where the oil will be explored by the oil companies to whom the licences have been issued; and

(e) the expenditure incurred by the Government on exploration of oil fields during the year 2003-04 till date?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Government approved the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in 1997 which has been in operation since 1999. Four rounds of bidding have been completed. Bids for the exploration of blocks under the fifth round are expected to be invited in the first week of January, 2005 after completing various preparatory activities leading to the invitation of bids. It is proposed to offer around 20 blocks in onland, shallow water offshore and deep-water areas of the country.

(b) and (c) Since there is a time lag between discovery and development/production, crude oil production in 2004-05 will not increase as a result of hydrocarbon discoveries made by Private/Joint Venture companies in NELP Exploration blocks. However, total crude oil production from April, 2004 to September, 2004 was 16.987 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT), which is 4.2% higher than the corresponding period of last year.

(d) Out of 90 blocks for which contracts have been signed with various Public Sector Undertakings/Private Companies/Joint Ventures under the four rounds of NELP for exploration of oil and gas, 26 blocks are onland, 30 blocks are in shallow water and 34 blocks are in deep water area.

(e) Under the NELP, no investment from Government is required in the exploration of blocks. However, as on 31st March, 2004, the investment made by the awarded companies in exploration blocks under NELP was to the tune of Rs. 3047 crores (provisional).

**Gauge Conversion of Jabalpur-Gondiya**

2641. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of gauge conversion of Jabalpur-Gondiya rail line;

(b) the total cost involved in the said project alongwith the amount spent thereon so far; and

(c) the total amount sanctioned and allocated for this project during the current financial year?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) On Jabalpur-Gondiya (including Balaghat-Katangi branch line) gauge conversion project, work on Gondiya-Balaghat section is in progress and section is targeted for completion during 2004-05. Besides, the work on 12 kms detoured alignment from Jabalpur end is in progress. The work of bridges on Balaghat-Katangi and Balaghat-Nainpur sections has also been taken up.

(b) The total sanctioned cost of the project so far is Rs. 511.86 crore and total expenditure incurred on the project up to 31.03.2004 is Rs. 109.81 crore.

(c) Budget outlay provided for the project during 2004-05 is Rs. 38.06 crore and approximately, expenditure of Rs. 26.19 crore has been incurred on the project till the end of November 2004 in the current financial year.

*(English)*

**Financial Assistance to NGOs for Juvenile Homes**

2642. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide direct financial assistance to NGOs for establishing and maintenance of homes for juveniles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of financial assistance allocated/released for establishing, promoting and maintaining of homes for juveniles to NGOs during each of the last three years and the current year, State/Union territory-wise and NGO-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Government of India does not provide financial assistance directly to NGOs for establishing and maintenance of homes for juveniles but channelises funds to them through the State/ Union territory Governments. A statement showing the amount released to States/Union Territories for further releasing the same to NGOs in this regard, during the last three years and the current year, is enclosed.

**Statement**

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States where NGOs have been assisted	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 Till November, 2004
1.	Karnataka	6.07	6.38	10.02	6.63
2.	West Bengal	31.02	28.53	19.63	—
3.	Haryana	7.23	8.39	8.32	8.54
4.	Maharashtra	354.21	354.21	539.51	547.53
5.	Orissa	—	0.34	0.70	0.78
6.	Gujarat	—	—	13.39	52.66
7.	Delhi	—	—	6.68	—

**Amendment in Disability Act**

2643. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amendment to the 1996 Disability Act (right to equality) is pending with Union Government for the last several years;

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

(c) the time by which the amendment is expected to be passed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The suggestions received for the amendment of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 are being processed on priority.

*[Translation]*

**Facilities for Amousi Airport**

2644. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request is pending for consideration of the Government of Uttar Pradesh to provide the landing, parking and R.N.F.C. facilities free of charges for the planes of State Government at the Amousi Airport, Lucknow;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No request is pending with Airports Authority of India to provide free landing and parking facilities for the aircraft belonging to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh at Amousi Airport, Lucknow.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Bilateral Rights to Foreign Airlines**

2645. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is committed to allow private airlines to fly to more overseas destinations;

(b) whether Indian Airlines and Air India have been unable to utilise the rights bilaterally negotiated with the Governments of flight destinations;

(c) whether instead of giving the unused bilateral rights to foreign airlines for a consideration, the Government would consider allowing the private airlines to fly on the same routes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government has presently permitted private airlines to operate to SAARC countries against unutilised entitlements of the Indian side subject to the provision for designation of multiple airlines in the respective Air Services Agreement.

(b) Operation of international air services by Air India and Indian Airlines is a matter of commercial judgement of the concerned airlines depending upon the fleet availability and traffic demands. Designated Airlines of India are utilising most of the commercially viable rights that are available to them to the extent permitted by the availability of aircraft and other resources.

(c) and (d) At present, private airlines have been permitted to operate to SAARC countries against the unutilised traffic rights of Indian side. No final decision has been taken regarding permitting private airlines to operate to other destinations.

**Connection of Noida with Other States**

2646. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to build a State of the art Railway station at Anand Vihar, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal to connect NOIDA with other cities of NCR through Railway;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work of development at Anand Vihar has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 85.00 crore. The scope of works envisages construction of 3 platforms, 2 washing lines and 3 stabling lines alongwith other necessary service buildings and infrastructure.

(c) and (d) A Survey has been conducted connecting Delhi and NOIDA on the request of NOIDA Development Authority. Report was submitted in February, 1999. The cost of this 29.18 kms. line was assessed as Rs. 110.32 crore.

A survey was also conducted for a new broad gauge line from Tuglakabad to Dadri *via* NOIDA in the year 2000. The length of alignment was 35.80 kms. and the cost was Rs. 287.58 crore.

(e) Does not arise.

**Renewal of Bookstall Contract of A.H. Wheeler and Co.**

2647. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract of bookstall of M/s. A.H. Wheeler and Company which expired on December, 2002 has since been renewed;

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

(c) if not, the detailed reasons for not renewing the above-said contract?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Revised Bookstall Policy-2004 has been formulated on 12.10.2004, which does not provide for renewal of any licence on expiry of contracts and instructs that fresh tender/application should be called on expiry of contracts for awarding new contracts.

**Central Advisory Board on Culture**

2648. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Central Advisory Board on Culture;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the terms and reference of the board; and

(d) the extent to which it would help the Government in policy making?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Board has been constituted to take an integrated view of the various shades of opinion from different domains of culture.

The Board has the following terms of reference:

- (i) To advise the Ministry of Culture at the policy level to evolve programmes which would focus attention on the creativity at different levels of Indian society, and in different regions, which hitherto has been either neglected or not sustained through the existing institutional mechanisms.
- (ii) To identify the human repositories in the diverse sub-fields and advise on the strategies to ensure a continuity of transmission and to recommend to the Government programmes that will integrate the creativity of these long traditions with the processes of development.
- (iii) To coordinate the functions of each of the bodies under the Ministry so as to bring about a greater measure of cohesive policy.
- (iv) To examine the extent and manner in which various facets of Indian Culture are being addressed by concerned agencies.
- (v) To help provide inputs for the formulation of new, need-based programmes in the field of culture.
- (vi) To advise on the work of the National Missions set up by the Ministry of Culture.

**Children Film Complex**

2649. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has been hosting the International Children's Film Festival since 1995;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to construct a Children's Film Festival Complex at Hyderabad;

(c) if so, the details in this regard.

(d) the reasons for the deletion of said proposal from the Tenth Plan;

(e) whether there is any request from Andhra Pradesh to reconsider the said decision and sanction the project; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (f) Since 1995, the International Children's Film Festival is being organized at Hyderabad by the Children's Film Society, India (CFSI), in collaboration with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. This event is held once every two years.

In the year 1997, Hyderabad was declared as the permanent venue for the International Children's Film Festival. While the proposal of construction of Children's Film Complex at Hyderabad was under consideration, the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) recommended the winding up of CFSI itself. It was felt that setting up of a complete festival complex with offices and theatres for a festival held for a duration of seven days every two years would not justify the huge capital investment required. Based on this, the scheme was taken out from the 10th Five Year Plan. Subsequently, a request from Government of Andhra Pradesh for sanction of the project for construction of the complex at Hyderabad had been received which was responded to. Another request from Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was received for reviving the earlier proposal. The matter is under consideration of the Ministry.

#### Construction of Bridges

2650. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has cleared the construction of a large number of important RUBs and ROBs in Gujarat during the current financial year (2004-05);

(b) if so, the details of the same, location-wise;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the total amount released so far; and

(e) the target fixed for completion of these projects, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Railways construct Road over/under bridge in lieu of busy level crossings on cost sharing basis if the traffic density is one lakh or more TVUs (TVU—A unit obtained by multiplying the number of trains with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) otherwise on deposit terms. Proposals in both cases have to be sponsored by State Government duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules. Only one such firm proposal was received from the State Govt. of Gujarat during the year which has been included in the Works Programme of 2004-05.

(b) Road over bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 9B at Km. 13/4-13/8 on Vadodara-Savil Road on Vadodara-Godra Section.

(c) to (e) Railway shall construct bridge proper *i.e.* bridge over the tracks and approaches by State Government. An outlay of Rs. 10 lakh has been provided for execution of Railway portion of work during the year. All out efforts shall be made by the Railway to complete its portion of work along with the approaches to be done by State Government.

#### Inclusion of Castes in OBC List

2651. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the castes Kacchi-Kushwah, Kachhi-Shokiya and Kachhi-Maurya have been included in the list of OBCs by the Union Government as also the State of Punjab; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not according the OBC status to people belonging to "Maurya" caste in UT of Chandigarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Kachhi Kushwaha, Kachhi Shakya and Kachhi Maurya castes have been included in the Central List of OBCs for State of Punjab as well as in the list of Backward Classes in the State of Punjab.

(b) No request for inclusion of "Maurya" caste in the Central List of OBCs for the UT of Chandigarh has been received.

#### **Objective of Sainik Schools**

2652. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main objective of Sainik Schools;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has taken a decision to start Sainik Schools through competent voluntary organizations with aim to establish one Sainik School in each district of the State;

(c) if so, whether the above proposal has been pending with the Ministry of Defence for clearance;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in granting clearance;

(e) whether there is any proposal to open at least one Sainik School for girls in each revenue district;

(f) if so, the number of Sainik Schools opened for girls in Maharashtra;

(g) whether the girls are not permitted to appear in NDA examination;

(h) if so, the reason therefor;

(i) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested to permit the admission of girls to the competitive examination of NDA; and

(j) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The primary aim of Sainik Schools is to prepare boys academically, physically and mentally for entry into the Armed Forces through the National Defence Academy. The other objectives are to bring public school

education within the reach of the common man, to remove regional imbalance in the officer's cadre of the Armed Forces and to develop qualities of body, mind and character which will enable the young boys of today to become good and useful citizens of tomorrow.

(b) to (f) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

(g) Girls are not permitted to appear in National Defence Academy examination.

(h) The NDA is for boys who are considered for grant of permanent commission in the Armed Forces. Ladies are not considered for grant of permanent commission, except as medical officers, in the Armed Forces and hence are not eligible to appear in the NDA examination.

(i) Yes, Sir.

(j) The matter has been deliberated and no change in the existing rules is contemplated at present.

#### **Pumping of Crude Oil**

2653. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether land occupied for the pumping of crude oil from the well in the farm by ONGC is on rental basis;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has directed ONGC to purchase the particular small area of land;

(c) if so, whether ONGC will negotiate with farmers to fix the price;

(d) whether the authority will try to find out, whether farmers are really interested to sell the land or to continue on rental basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) ONGC is acquiring land in various states for exploration and production of oil and gas from the wells either from farmers on a rental basis, initially for three years, or from the respective State Governments in the case of government land. When a

particular well becomes dry, the land is surrendered back to the farmer with restoration cost so that it becomes suitable for cultivation.

For laying pipelines, ONGC obtains the Right of Use (ROU) and after laying the pipeline, land is returned to the farmers with compensation.

However, in setting up any installation, a bigger area is acquired permanently, in terms of the Land Acquisition Act, through the State Government concerned.

The land is acquired permanently through negotiation with farmers, with the consent of the competent authority, in terms of the Land Acquisition Act, whenever the well starts producing.

(c) Yes Sir. ONGC negotiates the price with farmers in association with the Revenue Authorities.

(d) Normally farmers are interested in rental scheme but, ONGC prefers to acquire the land permanently if the wells have started producing or an installation is to be set up.

(e) The details of compensation paid to farmers during the last three years towards rentals/acquisition of land are as follows:

Year	Compensation paid to Farmers (Rs. crore)
1	2
2001-2002	15.07
2002-2003	15.42

1	2
2003-2004	19.29
2004-2005 (upto 30.09.04)	07.89

**Investment in Inspection of Reserve  
of Natural Gas**

2654. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made investments in inspection of reserve of natural gas at various places including coastal areas in the country during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Investments made on the exploration of hydrocarbons by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) in the last three years amounts to Rs. 6358.78 crore and Rs. 829.70 crore respectively. The State-wise investment by ONGC/OIL on exploration is set out in the enclosed statement. In addition, Rs. 1843 crore has been invested by Foreign/Private/Joint Venture Companies on exploration blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) as on 1.4.2004. Thus total investment amounts to Rs. 9031.48 crore.

**Statement**

*Investment on Exploration by ONGC & OIL*

(Figures in Rs. Crore)

State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	141.58	164.51	150
Assam	439.41	552.66	585.03
Gujarat	190.16	158.22	222.49
Himachal Pradesh	17.48	18.83	9.12

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	2.51	0	0
Orissa	3.07	3.5	4.77
Rajasthan	13.97	14.96	17.3
Tamil Nadu	164.86	194.15	191.85
Tripura	56.22	58.35	60.66
UP/Uttaranchal	28.67	31.16	38.36
West Bengal	43.17	144.72	102.81
Coastal areas (Offshore)	814.47	944.75	1604.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>1915.57</b>	<b>2285.81</b>	<b>2987.1</b>

Investment on Exploration by ONGC and OIL in three years: Rs. 7188.48 crore.

Investment by Foreign/Private/Joint Venture Companies on Exploration blocks under NELP : Rs. 1843 crore.

Total Investment on Exploration : Rs. 9031.48 crore.

#### **Projects Costing 100 Crore**

2655. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has adopted two tier system of monitoring of project costing Rs. 100 crore or more;

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

(c) the guidelines issued by the Government to the said monitoring committee;

(d) whether the monitoring committee submitted its report quarterly;

(e) if so, the recommendations made by the said committee has implemented without any hindrances;

(f) if so, the reasons for inordinary delay in construction of railway project costing Rs. 100 crore or more;

(g) whether there is any proposal to fix accountability on the executing authorities; and

(h) if not, the steps taken by the Government to complete all projects costing Rs. 100 crore or more within the time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A well established and effective system of monitoring of projects of various levels exists in the Railways. The progress is being monitored continuously at the field and zonal railway level by appropriate officers. At the Board's level also, progress is being monitored through monthly progress reports and through regular review meetings with Railways. Recently, an empowered Committee has been constituted to review the progress of projects costing more than Rs. 1000 crore on monthly basis and more than Rs. 100 crore on quarterly basis. The Empowered Committee will monitor and review the progress of the projects including the delays in contractual matters and other issues related with the projects.

The progress of projects is also being reviewed by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

(d) No, Sir. The Empowered Committee is yet to meet.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

(g) The project executing authority is accountable for timely execution of the projects except where the delay is beyond one's control.

(h) Execution of projects depends on the availability of funds. It is not feasible to fix time schedule for all the projects as resources are very limited. A number of initiatives have been taken to augment additional resources to expedite completion of ongoing projects.

**Expansion and Modernisation of  
Thiruvananthapuram Doordarshan Centre**

2656. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan Centre in the country are planned for expansion and modernization;

(b) the details of the plans in this regard;

(c) the status of the expansion of Doordarshan Centre, Thiruvananthapuram and future plans in this regard;

(d) whether this Centre has adequate staff in the programme and news sections;

(e) whether the staff of Thiruvananthapuram Doordarshan Centre have made representations regarding various grievances; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that additional studios are under construction at Raipur and Ranchi. Studio centres have also been approved for being set up at Dehradun and Gorakhpur. Besides, full digitalization of 17 major Doordarshan Kendras and digitalization to the tune of 50% in respect of 30 smaller studio centres is also envisaged during the 10th Plan.

(c) Digitalization of one studio at DD Centre, Thiruvananthapuram has been completed. Digitalization of the second studio is likely to be completed by 2006-07. The Kendra has been provided a News clip delivery system. Script News automation and one DSNG unit are also planned to be provided during 2004-06.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Prasar Bharati has informed that the representations have been disposed as per rules/instructions on the subject.

**Corruption in Recruitment, Tendering and  
Disposal of Scrap**

2657. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to rampant corruption in recruitment, tendering, disposal of scrap etc. there has been heavy loss of revenue;

(b) if so, the loss suffered as a result thereof during each of the last three years;

(c) the steps taken to check the same by the Government henceforth;

(d) whether the railways while floating tenders for the disposal of scrap have asked the tenders for earnest money deposit;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether there is any written document on tendering to be followed by railways; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is no rampant corruption in recruitment. However, leakage of revenue has been detected in tendering and disposal of scrap.

(b) The loss suffered as a result thereof during each of the last three years is given below.

Item	2002	2003	2004 (upto Oct.)
Recruitment	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tendering	32.11 lakh	Nil	Nil
Scrap Disposal	23* crores	34.7* crores	35.7* crores

\*These figures are for short/excess accountal of scrap which did not result in loss of revenue due to timely detection.



(c) The Ministry of Railways have taken a number of steps to tackle the problem of losses due to loss of revenue in scrap disposal such as to carry out intensive checks, provision of electronic weigh-bridges at various depots and sheds and computerization of account of rail and Permanent-way material. Complaints pertaining to irregularities in recruitment and tendering are investigated by the Vigilance Department and officials found responsible are taken up.

(d) Yes, sir.

(e) Tenders are required to deposit earnest money equivalent to 5% of the tendered value subject to a maximum of Rs. 50,000/-per tender. Successful tenders are required to deposit 10% of the value of the lot as security deposit before issue of sale advice. Earnest money amount is returnable to the unsuccessful bidders after the tender has been finalized.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Yes, sir.

(h) Following are the written documents on tendering which are to be followed by the Railways:

- (i) General Conditions of Contract
- (ii) Standard Special Conditions of Contract
- (iii) Standard Specifications
- (iv) Indian Railways Code for the Engineering Department (3rd re-print) 1999
- (v) Engineering Standing Order No. 10 containing circulars of Railway Board on Contract
- (vi) Other written circulars issued from time to time from the Railway Board on the subject
- (vii) Various Bureau of Indian Standards/Indian Railway Standards and other Codes
- (viii) Indian Railway Code for Stores Department, Vol. I and the rules for entering into supply contracts.

In addition to the above, Zonal Railways are also issuing detailed circulars within the ambit of general policy guidelines issued by the Railway Board to elaborate the same for use of contractors. The above documents either form part of the agreement or a mention is made in the contract document that the same would be followed while executing the contract.

#### **Flights from Ahmedabad to Moscow**

2658. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any plan to start direct flights from Ahmedabad to Moscow;

(b) if so, by when it is going to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Neither Air India nor Indian Airlines presently have any plans to start direct flights from Ahmedabad to Moscow. However, Ahmedabad is connected to Moscow thrice weekly through code share flights from Mumbai operated in association with Aeroflot.

#### **Setting up of Department to Redress the Grievances of Ex-Servicemen**

2659. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Government is considering to set up a department of Ex-servicemen to redress their grievances better;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that the proposed department will also look into various post service requirements of ex-servicemen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government have already set up a separate Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare under the Ministry of Defence.

(b) The Department is headed by an Additional Secretary. For coordination purposes, Defence Secretary will provide the overall supervision within the Ministry of Defence.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare will deal with the following post service requirements of ex-servicemen:

- (i) All aspects of resettlement and welfare of ex-servicemen and their dependents.
- (ii) Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme; and
- (iii) All pension matters of the Armed Forces.

*[Translation]*

#### **Purchasing of Carpets by AI**

2660. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any irregularities in purchase of carpets by Air India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of such cases brought to the notice of the Ministry so far, and
- (d) the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During 1993-94 certain irregularities in purchase of carpet by Air India Ltd. for aircraft from M/s Pennsylvania Woven Carpet Mills (PWCM), USA were noticed.

- (b) Air India suffered a loss of Rs. 197.70 lakh due to non-supply of carpets by M/s PWCM.
- (c) Except this, no other case has come to the notice of Government.
- (d) Air India has taken following steps to curb such irregularities:

- (i) subsequent to issue of Purchase Order (PO) constant monitoring is done till the party accepts and acknowledges and final material is received;
- (ii) authority for approval of payment of advance is assigned only to senior officers of the level of Dy. General Manager and above;
- (iii) Maxi-Merlin system (on-line materials management) has been introduced for effective control.

#### **Pratibha Unnayan Yojana for SC Students**

2661. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pratibha Unnayan Yojana (Talent Development Scheme) for the students of Scheduled Caste is pending with the Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) No scheme with the said nomenclature is pending.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Gas Pipeline Throughout Country**

2662. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering promoting the development of gas pipeline networks throughout the country to avoid regional imbalance;

(b) whether the Government of West Bengal has sent a proposal for developing natural gas transmission infrastructure in the State;

(c) whether the Government of West Bengal has also sent proposal for forming natural gas grid by the Public Sector Undertakings to effect the supply also to starved-gas areas through its nominated agency;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Regarding the proposed Natural Gas Pipeline Policy, the Government of West Bengal have represented that GAIL be nominated as the nodal agency to lay all inter-state gas transmission

pipelines to ensure that Government plays an important role in removing regional imbalance. In the view of the Government of West Bengal allowing the private sector to participate in laying inter-state pipeline might lead to the skewed development of gas markets resulting in further regional imbalance.

(e) Under the existing policy, any entity can set up gas transmission and distribution networks without any Authorization/license from the Government. Natural gas/LNG is under Open General Licence (OGL) and 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted for natural gas pipeline projects. However, as natural gas pipelines are highly capital intensive projects, they are considered natural monopolies and, therefore, Government propose to regulate them. Based on the feedback received from various stakeholders, including major domestic and international oil and gas companies, different Chambers of Commerce and Industries, State Governments, etc., and after inter-ministerial consultations, Government have under consideration a draft Pipeline Policy which envisages the development of a nation-wide gas grid in a competitive environment, involving both the public sector and private sector, under the overview of a Regulator. The Pipeline Policy aims to encourage competition, efficiency and greater investment in this sector, all of which will ultimately benefit the consumer and the economy in general. Specific attention is proposed to be paid to equitable regional distribution.

*[Translation]*

#### **Change in Signal System**

2663. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for changing the signal system alongwith gauge conversion;

(b) if so, the reasons for not changing the signal system between Phulera and Jodhpur; and

(c) the time by which the signal system would be changed?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Proposal to provide modern signalling system of centralized operation of points and signals would be

considered based on operational requirement and availability of funds. However safety work of track circuiting of the station yards is under-way and is targetted to be completed by 31.3.2007.

*[English]*

#### **Expansion of NCC**

2664. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to strengthen and expansion of NCC;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal mooted in that regard; and

(c) the funds earmarked therefor during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is no specific proposal at present under consideration with the Government for immediate expansion and strengthening of the National Cadet Corps (NCC). The sanctioned cadet strength of NCC, however, was increased from 12 lakh cadets to 12,76,560 cadets in November, 2001 and further enhanced to 13 lakh cadets in October, 2002.

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

#### **Production of Films**

2665. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) the number of films produced in a year in the country;

(b) the revenue earned by the Government throughout film industry;

(c) the number of persons directly and indirectly employed by film industry; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for promotion of film industry?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The film industry in India is in the private sector and the Government does not maintain any statistics in this regard.

However, according to the information received from Film Federation of India (FFI), the apex body representing the film industry in India, on an average 800 feature films are produced in the country every year. Further, according to information received from Central Board of Film Certification, a total of 877 Indian feature films on celluloid format were certified during the year 2003 and 751 Indian feature films on celluloid formats were certified during the year 2004 upto 31.10.2004.

Film Industry is subjected to Entertainment Tax by the State Governments. The Central Government does not earn any revenue from the Film Industry through any direct or specific levy, except under the Central Excise and Income Tax laws.

(c) According to information received from FFI, approximately 10 lakh persons are employed directly and approximately 40 lakhs persons are employed indirectly in the film sector.

(d) The Government has taken several initiatives to bring about changes in the entertainment sector in the interest of overall development of this sector.

- Institutional and bank financing are now accessible to the entertainment industry.
- 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permissible in the film sector.
- Government has led participation in global markets with a view to enhancing visibility of film industry.
- Film weeks and festivals are held on reciprocal basis with various countries.
- Audiovisual co production agreements with other countries are being explored to expand avenues of finances and markets for the Indian film industry.
- The Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, a sub-committee of the State Information Ministers' Conference (SIMCON), set up to suggest a policy framework for the film industry has recommended reduction

of entertainment tax; steps to counter piracy in the film sector, measures to facilitate foreign film shooting in India etc.

- A venture Capital Committee which was set up to suggest a strategy to facilitate the flow of venture capital into the sector has submitted its recommendations.
- The National Film Development Corporation, a public sector unit under this Ministry provides limited funding for films and oversees the integrated growth of the film industry in tune with objectives of the national economic policy.

#### **Electrification of Kota-Baran**

2666. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for the electrification of Kota-Baran-Guna-Bina and Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur Section have been pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in the electrification of these sections; and

(c) the steps taken to accord the early sanction of these electrification proposals?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Gauge Conversion**

2667. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion of Mudkher-Adilabad and Mudkher-Secunderabad rail line under Nanded (Maharashtra) Division are likely to be completed in the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether the trains of broad gauge line will run on this line in this current financial year;

(c) if so, whether the difficulties for gauge conversion are due to the shortage of funds;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry of Railways will provide funds for this line; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) On Mudkhed Adilabad gauge conversion of Adilabad-Kinwat has already been completed. Works on the balance section are in progress. On Mudkhed-Secunderabad section, gauge conversion has already been completed between Mudkhed-Nizamabad and Secunderabad-Manoharabad. The balance work of gauge conversion of Manoharabad-Nizamabad is targeted for completion during 2004-05.

(b) Broad gauge trains on the Mudkhed-Adilabad section can be introduced only after commissioning of the broad gauge line.

(c) and (d) The sections targeted for completion during current year are progressing and necessary funds for the same would be provided as per requirement.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Rail Coach Manufacturing Factories**

2668. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail coach manufacturing factories in the country alongwith their locations;

(b) the details of their manufacturing capacity AC and Non-AC coaches per year;

(c) whether the coaches so manufactured by these factories meet the demand/requirement of the rail coaches;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to improve the manufacturing capacity of these factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are two Rail coach manufacturing factories under the Ministry of Railways, Integral Coach Factory (ICF) at Perambur and Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala. These Production Units are further supplemented by one unit in the Public Sector

viz. M/s. Bharat Earthmovers Limited (BEML), at Bangalore and one unit in the Private Sector M/s. Jessops near Calcutta.

(b) The details of their manufacturing capacity AC and Non-AC coaches per year is as under:

Note: AC coaches normally comprise around 10% of the annual production and varies from year to year.

Unit	Installed Capacity
ICF	1000
RCF	1000

Licensed/Installed capacity as claimed by the units of the Public sector/Private Sector units (not under Ministry of Railways), manufacturing coaches is as under:

BEML	450 coaches (B.G.)
Jessops	72 EMUs, 180 MG coaches

(c) Yes, Sir. The total capacity available in these units is adequate to meet the existing level of requirement of coaches for Indian Railways.

(d) Does not arise. The number and details of rail coaches manufactured during each of the last three years are as under:

Coaches	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Total	2262	1938	2332

(e) Production capacity of both ICF & RCF is being augmented keeping in view future anticipated traffic demand as follows:

	Present	Future
ICF	1000	1150
RCF	1000	1400 in Phase I & 1500 in Phase II.

*[Translation]*

#### **Computerised Reservation Facility at Jhogoan**

2669. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide computerized reservation facility at Jhogoan and Murtijapur railway station in Akola district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the implementation of the aforesaid decision regarding providing computerized reservation can be expedited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to provide this facility.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Memorandum of Understanding with Iran**

2670. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has signed MoU with Iran to develop gas bowl in the South Pars in phases;

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

(c) the estimated reserve in the said field?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation have signed an MoU with Petropars Limited of Iran under which both companies propose to submit a composite offer to the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), the national oil company of Iran, for the joint development of an integrated project consisting of:

(i) "Upstream facilities" of one phase of the South Pars Gas Field for production of sufficient feed gas to be delivered to the related "downstream facilities" for liquefaction of the gas so as to produce 9.0 Million Tonnes of LNG per year; and

(ii) Development of the related downstream gas liquefaction facilities.

(c) South Pars gas field reportedly contains over 280 tcf of natural gas. Iran has developed a master plan for monetising the gas from this field by dividing it into 20

phases. The reserves in the field to be developed jointly by Indian Oil Corporation & Petropars would depend on the phase that would be awarded by NIOC. However, it is proposed to target a field that is adequate for production of about 9.0 MMTPA of LNG for 25 years.

*[Translation]*

#### **Filling up of Vacancies of NF Railway**

2671. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of large scale of vacancies in NF Railway being filled up by persons from outside the region;

(b) the details of vacant posts are there in NF Railway and in which categories;

(c) whether the Government is aware of 595 posts in NF Railway being filled up against the norms depriving SC/ST persons for which an agitation has been launched; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The position of recruits on the basis of domicile is not maintained on the Railways because the recruitment is open to all residents of the country as per Constitutional provisions governing such employment.

(b) 10,679 (Group 'C'—8119 & Group 'D'—2560) as on 1.12.2004.

(c) A selection for filling up 595 Group 'D' posts against the backlog for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) has been conducted complying with the norms prescribed for SC/ST. No agitation has been reported in connection with the said selection.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Birth Anniversary of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri**

2672. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated scheme programmes for celebration of Birth Anniversary of former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri;

(b) whether the Government propose to make any big memorial in Delhi in the memory of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri;

(c) whether the Government propose to publish any book on the personality character and history of Lal Bahadur Shastri; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Government of India has constituted a National Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister to recommend/suggest schemes and programmes to be taken up during the year of Birth Centenary Celebration of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. The year-long celebrations commenced on 2nd October, 2004. Schemes in memory of Lal Bahadur Shastri are under formulation.

#### **Increase In Production of Crude Oil**

2673. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC propose to make investment for increasing production of crude oil and to increase participation in oil sector abroad;

(b) if so, the total investments proposed to be made by the company for this purpose; and

(c) the total earnings likely to be made thereby by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) To increase production of crude oil, the management of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has approved an investment of about Rs. 13,750 crores for the implementation of various enhanced/improved oil recovery schemes, including redevelopment of Mumbai High South and Mumbai High North, as also development of Western Offshore, Vasai East, Bassein field, etc.

To enhance the country's energy security, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), a subsidiary of ONGC, has been pursuing acquisition of equity oil abroad as well as acquisition abroad of oil and gas exploration acreages

and producing properties. An outlay of Rs. 13,550 crore has been approved in the Tenth Five Year Plan for OVL's E&P activities abroad.

(c) The total earnings likely to be made by the Government from enhanced oil production and participation in the oil sector abroad, will be considerable but cannot be fully quantified at this stage.

#### **Monitoring of Panchayats by Central Agency**

2674. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to implement the Panchayati Raj system vigorously in all the States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the States where the Panchayati Raj system has been introduced have been monitored by the Central Agency;

(d) if so, the name of the States monitored so far by the Central Agency;

(e) whether Panchayats have been conferred the financial powers by the Panchayati Raj Act; and

(f) if not, the time by which Government intend to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. For this purpose, a Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers in-charge of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on "Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj" was organised at New Delhi on 29-30 June, 2004, jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Issues relating to effective implementation of Parts IX and IX A of the Constitution on Panchayati Raj were tabled as agenda for discussion by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. These issues included effective devolution of functions, finances, functionaries, planning, Gram Sabhas, women, reservation for SCs/STs, special problems of SCs/STs, elections, audit, parallel bodies, capacity building and training, and State of the Panchayats Report and jurisprudence. The Conference decided to hold

seven Round Table Conferences to formulate a draft action plan towards achieving the objective of strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions to enable them to become true institutions of self-government for the planning and implementation of programmes of economic development and social justice as envisioned in the Constitution.

Six Round Table Conferences have already been held in which 16 of the 18 identified dimensions of Panchayati Raj have been discussed. The remaining two dimensions will be discussed in the seventh Round Table Conference scheduled to be held at Jaipur on 17-19 December, 2004. Ministers in charge of Panchayats and their representatives have agreed to recommend to their respective Governments the conclusions reached during the six Round Table Conferences on the subjects under consideration for further necessary action. Similarly, the conclusions reached during the seventh Round Table Conference are also proposed to be recommended by the Ministers in charge of Panchayats to their respective Governments for adoption.

(c) and (d) No Sir.

(e) and (f) The administration of the Law is in the purview of State Governments. The Panchayats have been conferred financial powers by the State Panchayati Raj Acts in varying degrees.

#### **Task Force for Generation of Powers to Panchayats**

2675. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to constitute a task force to give rights to the Panchayats for generation of power from other sources of energy and its supply in rural areas;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of task forces the Government propose to constitute;

(c) the constitution of such task forces indicating the number of persons to be taken in these task forces from various States and Panchayats; and

(d) the number of such task forces proposed to be constituted in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No Sir. However, Panchayats are being encouraged to network with the Independent Power Producers Association of India to examine the feasibility of mini-electricity generation with the participation of, and facilitation by, Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Losses to Railway Due to Vacant Railway Quarters**

2676. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether C&AG in its report No. 8 of 2004 (Railways)—Para 5.3.1. has brought out that due to delay in allotment of vacant railway quarters, the Railways has suffered a loss of Rs. 1.87 crore;

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

(c) the details of railway quarters are lying vacant and since when railway employees are waiting for the allotment of accommodation, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[Translation]*

#### **Financial Partnership in Dealership**

2677. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial partners are inducted in the dealership/distributorship firm with the permission of respective oil company;

(b) if so, whether the financial partner after the signature on agreement becomes the part of dealership/distributorship;

(c) if so, whether such partners are permitted to reconstitute the firm in the event of death of original owner of the firm and denial of his legal heirs to become part of dealership;



(d) if not, the reasons for not allowing him to reconstitute the same;

(e) whether the Government would seek legal opinion on this issue; and

(f) if so, the policy being adopted by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. In the event of the death of the original allottee and unwillingness on the part of his/her legal heirs to carry on the business, reconstitution of the dealership/distributorship with the remaining partners is permissible with the approval of the oil company concerned and subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Government do not propose to seek any legal opinion in the matter. However, in order to provide commercial freedom to the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), the Government have authorized the OMCs to frame their guidelines on reconstitution of dealerships/distributorships on the basis of broad parameters advised by the Government.

#### **Storage Facilities for Wooden Sleepers**

2678. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have no proper storage facilities for storing wooden sleepers of different Railway Zones leading to damage to wooden sleepers which are lying in the open;

(b) if so, the details of Depots where wooden sleepers are stored, zone-wise;

(c) whether the Railways have suffered heavy losses due to damage to these wooden sleepers; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. For storage of sleepers covered godown is not necessarily required and wooden sleepers may be stored in open. However, while storing the same, certain precautions are required to be observed.

(b) Every P-Way Supervisor has necessary depot (both covered and open) for storing P-way materials including wooden sleepers.

(c) No, Sir. Loss suffered in recent past due to damage of wooden sleeper due to non-observing of precaution in storage of wooden sleeper in open is negligible.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Rail Line Mehsana-Viramgam Line**

2679. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conversion of meter gauge line into broad gauge from Mehsana-Viramgam is in progress as per its schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the work on broad-gauge line is likely to be completed and passenger train is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The gauge conversion of meter gauge line into broad gauge has been completed recently. The running of passenger train is being planned.

*[Translation]*

#### **Performance of Doordarshan and AIR**

2680. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the popularity and quality of Doordarshan and AIR is declining day by day as compared to private channels despite the fact that ninety per cent of population has access to the national channels;

(b) whether the decline in popularity of Doordarshan and AIR is attributed to the declining quality of programmes;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to make Doordarshan and AIR popular; and

(d) the extent to which the success has been achieved by the Government therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that in order to fulfil the mandate of the Public Service Broadcaster to inform, educate and entertain the public, Prasar Bharati has been constantly pursuing for excellence both in terms of content and quality. It is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to improve the quality of its programmes. Doordarshan constantly reviews the quality of serials/programmes telecast on its various channels and makes efforts to further improve the contents and technical quality/transmission. The studios and equipment are continuously being modernized to improve technical quality of programmes.

Among the recent initiatives undertaken by Doordarshan are a free to air DTH service consisting of a bouquet of 30 television channels (Doordarshan/Private) and 12 Radio channels, telecast of blockbuster films, production of serials based on Indian classics, e.g. 'Tehreer Munsii Prem Chand Ki', programmes on socially relevant themes e.g. 'Kalyani I and II', coverage of sporting events e.g. Athens Olympic 2004, Indo-Pak, Indo-Australia and Indo-South Africa Cricket series 2004 etc.

[English]

#### Outstanding Dues for Use of Aircraft

2681. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding dues pending with Ministry of Defence as on date against the Chief Ministers of various States for using aircraft;

(b) since when this amount is pending; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to realise the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The accounts of outstanding dues against individual Chief Ministers of various States for use of Indian Air Force aircraft are not maintained separately in the Ministry. However, statement indicating the details of outstanding dues against the various State Governments on account of use of aircraft is enclosed.

(c) The Government of India follows up with the State Governments constantly to recover the outstanding dues.

#### Statement

States	Amount (in crores)	Since when pending (Dates of initial Bill)
1	2	3
Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 78.01	17.6.1998
Orissa	Rs. 54.13	13.8.2001
Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 40.60	10.6.1998
Uttaranchal	Rs. 01.56	18.1.2001
Bihar	Rs. 06.26	14.5.1997
Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 00.53	29.8.2001
Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 01.57	19.12.1997
Rajasthan	Rs. 00.53	18.9.1996
Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 04.30	4.9.2000
Assam	Rs. 02.47	1.4.1998
Gujarat	Rs. 01.08	12.8.1997
Haryana	Rs. 00.02	8.4.1999
Jammu and Kashmir	Rs. 36.64	15.5.1998
Karnataka	Rs. 00.86	12.7.2000
Kerala	Rs. 00.12	20.9.2004
Maharashtra	Rs. 00.76	29.8.2001
Manipur	Rs. 01.44	3.4.1996

1	2	3
Meghalaya	Rs. 00.06	3.1.1997
Mizoram	Rs. 00.08	11.9.2001
Nagaland	Rs. 00.07	14.3.2000
Punjab	Rs. 00.32	1.1.1994
Sikkim	Rs. 00.27	1985-1986
Tamil Nadu	Rs. 00.75	14.7.2003
Tripura	Rs. 00.09	1986-1987
Chhattisgarh	Rs. 0.4.40	31.3.2004
Jharkhand	Rs. 00.38	28.4.2004
<b>Union Territories</b>		
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Rs. 00.24	10.1.2000
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Rs. 00.09	30.11.2004

#### **Retirement Age in PSUs**

2682. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to reduce the retirement age of the employees in Public Sector Undertakings from 60 years to 58 years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No such general policy proposal regarding reduction in the retirement age is being considered by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Review of DTH Operations and Guidelines**

2683. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:  
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU  
YADAV:

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

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh High Court has directed the Union Government and TRAI to review DTH operations and guidelines and bring fool proof technological solution to stop transmission facilitation in accessing anti-national messaging and porn channels to DTH subscribers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DTH subscriber can also buy a conditional access module card from the gray market and the system can be misused by terrorist organisations for secret/anti-national messaging also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Andhra Pradesh High Court has only passed interim orders on a Public Interest Litigation petition filed before it. The matter is currently sub judice.

(c) and (d) A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition was filed before the Delhi High Court, expressing concerns regarding the possible misuse of DTH service for viewing pornographic channels and its susceptibility to misuse for secret/anti national messaging. The matter was examined in the Ministry in the month of August 2004 and the concerns raised in the PIL were discussed in a meeting convened by Secretary (I&B) with the representatives of the concerned Ministries. It was further decided to constitute a Committee under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Broadcasting) in this Ministry to examine various possibilities of breach of security through messaging particularly in the context of situation in J&K and North East. This committee examined the security concerns and concluded that the Government could set up its own monitoring station for the purpose of monitoring not only the DTH services but also the satellite beams receivable in India. Accordingly, Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under this Ministry has been asked to prepare a detailed proposal.

[Translation]

#### **Rate of Petroleum Products in International Market**

2684. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of the oil and petroleum products in the International Market in the first week of November, 2004 and how much it is more than existing rate in India;

(b) the reasons for light increase in rate;

(c) the impact of continuous increase in prices of petroleum products in international market on Indian economy and on oil distributing companies of India; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) pay to the refineries the prices of petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG on import parity basis. OMCs in turn review the domestic consumer selling prices of these products in consultation with the Government. The Government is constantly monitoring and keeping under careful review the domestic consumer prices of these products with a view to insulating the domestic consumers to the extent possible from volatility in international prices.

A comparison of the actual retail selling prices (RSPs) of these products in New Delhi on 5.11.2004 with the RSPs that would obtain on import parity basis is at enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The increase in international oil prices has led to an increase in the oil import bill of the country. A comparison of crude oil imports, in quantity and value terms, for the period April-September 2004 with the corresponding period of the previous year is given below:

	April-September 2004		April-September 2003	
	Quantity (MMT)	Value (Rs. in Crore)	Quantity (MMT)	Value (Rs. in Crore)
Crude Oil Imports	50.01	61,177	43.98	38,665

The increase in domestic prices of petroleum products, as a result of increase in international prices, also leads to inflationary pressures in the economy.

The OMCs have had estimated under-recoveries of around Rs. 9800 crores during April-September 2004 on account of non-revision in the retail selling prices of PDS Kerosene, domestic LPG, diesel and petrol in line with the international prices.

#### **Statement**

Products	RSPs in New Delhi on 5.11.04	
	Actual RSPs	RSPs on Import Parity Basis*
PDS Kerosene (Rs./litre)	9.01	22.05
Domestic LPG (Rs./cylinder)	281.60	438.10
Diesel (Rs./litre)	26.28	28.40
Petrol (Rs./litre)	39.00	39.00

\*Based on average international prices for October 2004 for PDS Kerosene & Domestic LPG and average international prices for the second fortnight of October 2004 for Diesel and Petrol.

[English]

#### **Clearance of Serials on Doordarshan**

2685. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines followed for the clearance of serials in Doordarshan;

(b) whether these guidelines have been flouted;

(c) if so, the details of the violation of these guidelines during each of the last three years; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan's guidelines for the approval of proposals under the 'Sponsorship Category', *inter-alia*, provide for the evaluation of each proposal by an Evaluation Committee, examination of the proposal/pilot recommended by the said Committee by a Selection Committee comprising Doordarshan officials and outside experts. This evaluation/examination is guided, *inter-alia*, by the provisions of Doordarshan Programme Code.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Setting up of Rail Land Development Authority**

2686. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate hectares of land lying unutilised in the railway;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a Rail Land Development Authority to execute commercial exploitation of its surplus land in metro cities and other urban cities; and

(c) the other steps proposed to utilize the land and raise money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Railways have about 42,846 hectares of vacant land.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Apart from commercial development of railway land/air-space, the vacant railway land which is not required for immediate operational and maintenance purposes, is utilised for short-term licensing for purposes connected with railway working (e.g. bulk oil installations, sidings, commercial, plantation etc.)

**Attracting Huge Investment from International Firms in Iraq**

2687. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq is keen to attract huge investment from international firms in its oil and gas sector;

(b) if so, whether India is favoured to invest in the Iraq's Oil Industry;

(c) if so, the names of companies which have shown keen interest in investing in Iraq's Oil Industry; and

(d) the number of Indian firms have obtained the order for investing in Oil Industry in Iraq?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) While Iraq needs huge investments in the oil sector, a decision on specific projects and policy framework on investments in this sector is yet to be taken by the Government of Iraq. A decision in this regard will be taken only by an elected Government. Earlier ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) had signed an agreement with Government of Iraq for exploration of Block 8, a block in Iraq. Owing to prevailing conditions in Iraq, OVL have obtained a force majeure declaration.

*[Translation]*

**Gauge Conversion in U.P.**

2688. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway lines in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh whose gauge conversion is yet to be done;

(b) the length of railway lines converted into broad gauge during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise;

(c) the target fixed for gauge conversion during the Tenth Plan particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) the details of the sections where projects are likely to be completed by the end of the current financial year;

(e) whether there is any proposal for additional funds for early completion of this project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Railway lines have been categorized gauge-wise, group-wise and section-wise. They are not categorized as number of meter gauge/narrow gauge line. As on 1.4.2003, 17500 route kms of Meter Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines were existing in the country out of which 1771 kms were in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The State-wise breakup of gauge conversion completed during the 9th Plan is as under:

State	Gauge conversion Kms
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	214
Assam	186
Bihar	139
Gujarat	187
Karnataka	220
Madhya Pradesh	50
Maharashtra	264
Rajasthan	102

1	2
Tamil Nadu	526
Uttar Pradesh	155
Uttaranchal	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>2103</b>

(c) The targets for completion of projects are being fixed on yearly basis depending upon progress of project and availability of resources. Agra-Bandikui falling partly in Uttar Pradesh is targeted for completion during 2004-05.

(d) Information is given as under:

Section	Length in Kms
Mansi—Sahasra	44
Bharatpur—Agra Fort of Agra Fort-Bandikui	53
Udaipur—Chhitaurgarh of Ajmer-Udaipur	108
Samuktala—New Bongaigaon of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon	78
Manoharabad—Nizamabad of Secunderabad-Mudkhed	118
Adilabad—Kinwat of Mudkhed Adilabad	45
Gondia-Balaghat of Jabalpur—Gondia	48
Ranchi-Lohardaga	67
Rupsa-Baripada of Rupsa Bangriposi	52
Bankura-Sonamukhi of Bankura-Damodar River railway line	42
Madurai-Manamadurai of Madurai-Rameshwaram	48
Thanjavur-Thiruvarur of Trichy-Nagaur-Karaikal	55
Subramanya Road-Saktieshpur of Hassan-Mangalore	55
Bijapur-Bagalkot of Bijapur Gadag	94
Sihor-Palitana of Surendernagar-Pipavav	27
Barsoi-Radhikapur of Joghani-Katihar-Radhikapur	53
Virangam-Mehsana of Bhildi-Virangam (Build Own Transfer)	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>1052</b>

(e) and (f) The funds as required for completion of the project would be provided through re-appropriation during budgetary reviews.

#### **Embankments of Rivers by Railways**

2689. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eastern Central Railways has recently announced strengthening of embankments of various rivers in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has given consent to the proposal of Railways to strengthen the embankments of rivers in other States particularly in Jharkhand;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Hydro-Carbon Chess Boards**

2690. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Petroleum Ministry are considering various moves on the global hydro-carbon chess board to get India's energy map right in line with the UPA Government's agenda for energy security;

(b) whether India plans to spend over one billion dollar a year to acquire oilfields abroad but is facing stiff competition from China;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken any decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the extent to which India will be in a position to put India's name on energy map of the world?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI

SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) To enhance the country's energy security in keeping with the objectives of the Energy Security section of the National Common Minimum Programme, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), as well as other national oil companies such as IOC, OIL and GAIL, have been pursuing the acquisition of equity oil abroad, as well as the acquisition abroad of oil and gas exploration acreages and producing properties. These companies have Participating Interests in oil and gas projects located in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, Libya, Syria, Australia and Ivory Coast. So far these oil companies have made investments of around US\$ 2,500 million in oil and gas projects abroad.

OVL in association with other oil sector PSUs, is aggressively scouting for E&P opportunities in countries such as Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Yemen, Qatar, Angola, Cuba, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh and Ecuador in addition to efforts to acquire more E&P assets in the countries where it is operating currently. An outlay of Rs. 13,550 crore has been approved in the Tenth Five Year Plan for OVL's E&P activities abroad.

The international oil and gas acquisition arena is very competitive where oil companies from oil and gas deficit nations like China as also from developed countries pose a tough challenge to OVL.

For extending guidance and advice to Indian oil companies in their efforts to acquire equity oil abroad, Government have constituted an Advisory Committee on Oil Diplomacy for Energy Security comprising experts with specialized knowledge of the countries and regions with whom the oil companies are expected to interact.

#### **Entry of Unauthorised Persons at Platforms**

2691. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of unauthorized persons reach up platforms due to lax ticket checking system at the railway stations which causes loss of lakhs of rupees to the Railways and also poses grave threat to the security in the present scenario of terrorism; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) To curb the entry of unauthorised persons in railway platform proper checks are conducted from time to time.

#### **Derailment of Goods Train**

2692. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been a couple of derailments of goods trains from and to Old Faridabad railway station in October, 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons attributed for the derailments of the goods trains;

(c) whether any study has been conducted by the Government to identify the weaknesses in the tracks and their capacity to carry the load of the goods trains and whether the tracks increase the possibility of derailments and serious accidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There was one derailment of goods train at Faridabad Town Station on 13.10.2004 due to defect in a wagon. However, another derailment of goods train took place on 09.10.2004 between Palwal and Asoti stations near Faridabad due to track defect.

(c) and (d) The track structure is provided as per the expected type of traffic and speeds are permitted accordingly after due care and study, with a view to ensure safety of train running.

Towards this objective, 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.

(e) Safety is the prime concern on Indian Railways and all possible steps are taken to strengthen the track.

These measures include monitoring of track geometry and running characteristics of track, sophisticated track recording cars and oscillograph cars, upgradation of track structure, mechanized maintenance of track, upgradation of specification of rail steel, training to railway staff to upgrade their knowledge, use of Ultrasonic Flaw Detector, to detect hidden flaws in the rail regular inspection of track and patrolling of track by gangmen.

#### **Frequent Travellers Programmes in Railways**

2693. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce 'frequent traveller programme' for the benefit of frequent travellers in the railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Frequent rail travellers, who register for the scheme, will be awarded points depending on their frequency of travel. Accumulated points will be suitably rewarded.

*[Translation]*

#### **Discrimination in Releasing Advertisement by DAVP**

2694. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity (DAVP) makes discrimination in releasing Central Government advertisements to small, medium and large size newspapers and especially small and regional languages newspapers have to bear the brunt of it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government to prevent it;

(c) whether certain M.P.s. have complained about discrimination by the Directorate in releasing advertisements and they have suggested for transparency in it;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government on their suggestions; and



(e) the percentage of advertisements given to small, medium and large sized newspapers separately during last two years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) is the nodal agency for release of Government advertisements to the newspapers empanelled with it. The advertisements are issued to the newspapers in accordance with the Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and the

Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP. Advertisements are released keeping in view the client's preferences, publicity requirements, budget, target audience etc. Complaints/references from the Hon'ble MPs whenever received are examined and the factual position is communicated to them.

(e) The percentage of advertisements given to small, medium and big newspapers during 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto November, 2004) is given in the enclosed Statement.

#### *Statement*

##### *Advertisements Issued During 2003-04 (01.04.2003 to 31.03.2004) with Percentage*

Category	Number of Papers	Total Insertions	Insertions Percentage	Space (Col. CM.)	Space Percentage	Amount (In Rs.)	Amount Percentage
Small	1,762	51,672	23.00	52,00,114	29.55	15,03,68,217	9.45
Medium	639	92,111	40.99	71,71,870	40.76	38,40,85,988	24.13
Big	183	80,908	36.01	52,23,434	29.69	105,70,06,783	66.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,584</b>	<b>2,24,691</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1,75,95,418</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>159,14,60,988</b>	<b>100.00</b>

##### *Advertisements Issued During 2004-05 (01.04.2004 to 30.11.2004) with Percentage*

Category	Number of Papers	Total Insertions	Insertions Percentage	Space (Col. CM.)	Space Percentage	Amount (In Rs.)	Amount Percentage
Small	1,737	35,457	23.32	22,18,675	26.39	6,49,73,198	7.42
Medium	656	60,060	39.50	32,56,440	38.73	16,58,72,734	18.95
Big	187	56,536	37.18	29,32,584	34.88	64,45,84,762	73.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>1,52,053</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>84,07,699</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>87,54,30,694</b>	<b>100.00</b>

#### **Qualifying Service for Pension**

2695. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision of minimum 33 years service for servicemen for getting full pension;

(b) whether the Government is aware that there is great resentment among them due to this provision;

(c) if so, whether this provision is proposed to be scrapped;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been a demand from servicemen for removal of 33 years conditionality to earn full pension.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The 5th Central Pay Commission considered the issue but did not recommend dropping the requirement of 33 years service to qualify for a full pension. Since 33 years condition to earn full pension is a cardinal principle for computation of pension which is uniformly applicable to both the Defence and civilian pensioners, Government have taken a view that dispensing with the same would have wider financial and administrative repercussions on civil side as well.

*[English]*

**Nursing of Haldia Petro-Chemicals Limited**

2696. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:  
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU  
YADAV:

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

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) proposes to nurse Haldia Petro-Chemicals Limited back into health;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan prepared by IOC in this regard;

(c) whether Public Investment Bureau has given its clearance to IOC to take up the revival of HPL; and

(d) if so, the details of the expenditure likely to be involved in the said work?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), a Navratna company, has, with the approval of its Board of Directors, decided to undertake equity investment of Rs. 150 crore at par in Haldia Petrochemicals Limited (HPL). In lieu of its investment, IOC will be entitled to nominate one representative on the Board of HPL besides involvement in working executive committees.

**New Route Dispersal Formula for ASEAN Countries**

2697. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether private Indian carriers with more flights of uneconomic sectors like North East India are likely to get more lucrative flights rights for ASEAN countries under the new route dispersal formula;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new formula has since been worked out and finalized;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any request to ASEAN countries has been made to grant designated carrier status to multiple airlines from India;

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

(g) whether Indian Airlines has been prepared to meet the competition before allowing private airlines to start international operations; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Government has presently permitted private airlines to operate to SAARC countries against unutilized entitlements of the Indian side subject to the provision for designation of multiple airlines in the respective Air Services Agreement. No final decision has been taken regarding permitting private airlines to operate to other destinations.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A proposal for multiple designation of airlines under the respective Air Services Agreement has been made to all ASEAN countries. Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand have accepted our proposal.

(g) and (h) The fleet acquisition plan of Indian Airlines has already been approved at PIB level. Permission to private airlines to operate to SAARC countries has been given against the unutilized traffic rights available with us.

**Luxury Tourist Trains in Kerala and Other States**

2698. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent any proposal to start a luxury tourist train on the line of 'Place on Wheels' in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government on the proposal;

(c) whether any proposal to start such luxury tourist trains in different States has also been received from respective State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government on their proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a memorandum was received, on 18th June 2004, from the Government of Kerala for announcing a luxury tourist trains (linking Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala) in the Union Railway Budget 2004-05. The State Governments viz. Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have been advised on 2nd July 2004 to send a comprehensive proposal along with a feasibility study indicating the Rate of Return, Cost/Revenue sharing methodology etc. for consideration of the Railways. The replies from the concerned State Governments are awaited. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), however, has been signed, in December 2002, for running a luxury tourist train in Karnataka.

*[Translation]*

**Extension Work of Railway Platform at Jabalpur Railway Station**

2699. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the extension work of existing railway platform at Jabalpur railway station has been started;

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned by the Union Government for construction of the platform No. 4 and 5; and

(c) the total budget for the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Work of new platform No. 4 is only sanctioned.

(b) and (c) The total cost of the work is Rs. 6.44 crore. An outlay of Rs. 50 lakh has been provided for

the work during 2004-05 for construction of platform No. 4 and allied works.

*[English]*

**Extraction of Oil by MEOR Technique**

2700. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:  
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

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

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government about the possibility of exploring of oil on Indian sea, using microbial enhanced oil recovery technique;

(b) if so, the details of survey conducted in this regard;

(c) whether any trial of extraction of oil by Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery (MEOR) technique have been successfully undertaken;

(d) if so, whether the technique was applied in low producing wells at different places;

(e) the names of these plans;

(f) whether the Government is going to start commercial production by MEOR technique; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery (MEOR) technology is applied to enhance oil recovery from depleted oil wells, and is not an oil exploration technique.

(b) to (e) ONGC has tried MEOR technique on an experimental basis in 26 low producing oil wells of Kalol, Limbodra, Sobhasan, North Kadi, Padra and Kosamba oilfields in Gujarat and Badarpur oilfield of Assam.

(f) and (g) Based on the encouraging results obtained so far, ONGC proposes to use MEOR technology in a large number of depleted oil wells.

**Shortfall in Railway Pension Fund**

2701. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rakesh Mohan Committee had estimated a shortfall in appropriation to the Railway Pension Fund to the tune of more than Rs. 40,000 crores by 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have been appropriating funds as per actual of calculations to meet the pensionary charges; and

(c) if so, the details of the zonal railways having adverse debit balance in Pension Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Rakesh Mohan Committee has estimated the pension liabilities to past employees and future liabilities to current employees in respect of their pensions entitlements accrued for past service as on 30th April 2000, to be Rs. 40,000 crores. The Committee had commented that this does not mean the amount is needed immediately—rather this is the cash sum, which if invested at that time would be sufficient to meet those accrued liabilities as they fall due.

(b) When the Pension Fund was set up in 1964, it was preceded by calculations by the Government Actuary. Thereafter, actuarial calculations were done in 1974. However, the appropriations to the Pension Fund are being done out of operating surplus on 'Pay as you go' basis.

(c) The following zonal railways are having adverse balances as on 31.3.2004 in the Pension Fund:

1. Central
2. Eastern
3. Northern
4. North Eastern
5. Southern
6. South Central
7. South Western.

[*Translation*]

**Misleading Advertisements**

2702. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the large number of advertisements being telecast by television and other media which provide confusion, incomplete and wrong information to the customers;

(b) whether the Government has received any memorandum/complaints in this regard during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to ban such confusing/misleading advertisements;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (f) The Press in India is free from Government control. The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory body established for preserving the freedom of the Press and for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. PCI has set the Norms for Journalistic Ethics, which states that the Editors should insist on their right to have the final say in the acceptance or rejection of advertisements.

The Advertisement Code framed by the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) aims to ensure the truthfulness and honesty of representations of claims made by advertisements and so safeguard against misleading advertisements.

As regards the electronic media, Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous Corporation, follows its own code for commercial advertising, which contains stringent provisions for safeguarding the interest of society in general, and consumers in particular.

Advertisements transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable Television Network are required to adhere to the

provisions of the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, and Rules framed thereunder, which *inter-alia* prescribed that advertisements shall conform the laws of the country, the product advertised shall not suffer from any defect of deficiency as mentioned in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and shall not contain references which are likely to lead the public to infer that the product advertised has some miraculous property or quality which is difficult of being proved. Under Section 19 of the Cable Act on "Authorized Officer", i.e. District Magistrate/Sub Divisional Magistrate and Commissioner of Police and such other officers as may be notified by the Central/State Government in this regard under the Cable Act, 1995, can take action for violation of the Advertising Code.

The Central Government has constituted an inter-ministerial Committee to take cognizance suo moto or look into specific complaints regarding violation of advertising code by TV channels. No such instance has come to the notice of the Committee so far.

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certifies films, including that of advertisements for public exhibition under the provisions of Section 5(B) of the Cinematograph Act 1952 and the guidelines framed thereunder.

#### **Replacement of Steel Wagons with Aluminium Wagons**

2703. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have now decided to replace steel wagons with light aluminium wagons;

(b) if so, whether production of aluminium wagons has now been started in Chennai (Madras); and

(c) if so, the details of the difference between the cost of steel wagons and the aluminium wagons, wagon-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, it is proposed to conduct field trials with aluminium body wagons.

(b) No, sir.

(c) Actual difference in the cost of a steel wagon and aluminium wagon would only be known after the prototype aluminium wagon is produced. However, it is estimated that initial manufacturing cost of an aluminium wagon would be approximately Rs. 4 lacs more than that of a steel body wagon.

[English]

#### **Shifting of Firing Range**

2704. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a constant threat of life of civilians since the habitations came up around the firing range located on the outskirts of Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the number of casualties reported during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to shift the firing range to any safe location;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government so that the firing practice does not cause any harm to the civilian population?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per Standing Operation Procedure, the local population is informed through the Police authorities 72 hours in advance before the firing schedule. Besides, all range safety precautions are being followed meticulously.

#### **Internet Services in Trains**

2705. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has decided to provide internet broadband internet services in the moving trains;

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

(c) the trains and routes selected for providing such facility;

(d) whether the said service is to be provided in all coaches of the train;

(e) if so, the details of the same and the time by which this facility is likely to be started; and

(f) the benefits accrued to the railway travellers by such facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Railways have authorised Railtel to provide access to broadband Internet on one train in New Delhi-Mathura section, on a pilot project basis.

(b) to (e) An internet kiosk will be provided in the executive chair car coach of New Delhi-Bhopal Shatabdi Express. In addition, access points shall be provided in the same coach to provide hot spots through which passengers with Lap top and wi-fi card will be able to use Internet, and access their e-mails in the running train. The facility is likely to be started by end of 2004-05.

(f) By this facility, passengers while on train will be able to get connected with outside world through a high speed broadband Internet and check their e-mails and utilise the journey time effectively.

#### **MMDS for Doordarshan**

2706. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Microwave Multi-Point Distribution System (MMDS) for the Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the cost that the public will have to pay for the reception of the same; and

(c) the population that the MMDS targets to cover?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The issue of introduction

of Microwave Multi-Point Distribution System (MMDS) was referred to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in May, 2004. TRAI have decided to initiate a consultative process in order to finalise their recommendations.

#### **Revenue Earned by Railway Through Freight Traffic**

2707. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by the Railways through freight traffic during 2003-04 and 2004-05, till date;

(b) the revenue growth registered by the railways in percentage during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for under utilization of capacity, if any; and

(d) the steps taken by the railway to increase its share in freight traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The revenue earned by the railways through freight traffic during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 is as under:

Year	Amount
2003-04	Rs. 27617.96 Crore
2004-05 (upto Oct. 04)	Rs. 16853.65 Crore

(b) The growth in respect of freight revenue during the last three years is as under:

Year	Growth (in %age)
2001-02	6.61
2002-03	6.68
2003-04	4.20

(c) There has been no under utilization of capacity.

(d) In order to increase rail share, the process of rationalisation of freight structure was initiated in the Railway Budget 2002-03 and is being continued. In the Railway Budget 2003-04, freight rates for certain high-rated commodities were reduced to attract more traffic to rail.

Some of the other steps taken to get more traffic by the Railways are as under:

- (i) Number of Classes for freight rates has been reduced from 59 to 27.
- (ii) Highest Class has been reduced from Class-300 to Class-250.
- (iii) Classification of POL, Iron & Steel etc. have been suitably reduced.
- (iv) Train-load classification has been extended to all commodities.
- (v) Powers of GMs have been enhanced to grant freight concessions up to 24% to quote Station-to-Station rates.
- (vi) Incentive of 2% rebate on every Rs. 5 crore net additional freight earnings has been granted for Premier Customers, generating an originating earnings of at least Rs. 25 crores p.a. from their sidings for commodities in Class-135 and above.
- (vii) A rebate of 10% in freight charges for the transportation of heavy machinery consignments by special trains in a special type of wagons owned by the customers has been granted.
- (viii) MoU has been signed with CWC to develop a network of 22 freight terminals to provide single-window service, including loading/unloading, storage and road-bridging at the originating and destination points.
- (ix) The benefit of train load rate for booking of "two-point" block rakes has been granted for the entire distance of transportation on end to end basis.
- (x) Customers have been allowed clubbing up to 12 consignments in a Broad Gauge 8-wheeler wagons.

#### **Renewal of Bookstall Contract of Unemployed Graduates**

2708. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contract of bookstalls held by unemployed graduates categories and other small contractors who are wholly dependent on bookstall business are not to be renewed at all even they are

giving full satisfactory service to the travelling public; and

(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the Revised Bookstall Policy-2004, issued on 12.10.2004, there would not be any renewal of existing licences, which have already expired or are due to expire. Fresh tenders will be called for at 'A', 'B' and 'C' categories of stations and fresh applications will be invited at 'D', 'E' and 'F' categories of stations against bookstall licences on expiry of contracts.

The Revised Bookstall Policy-2004 has been formulated with a view to do away with monopoly and to give a fair chance to different sections of society. The new policy for allotment of book stalls has been framed to bring transparency and competitiveness. Individual unemployed graduates, their cooperatives, partnerships and organisations of unemployed graduates and individual unemployed graduates who are sons/wards of Railway men, both in service or retired are eligible for bookstall licences at 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E' & 'F' categories of stations. However, at 'A' category stations any firm/company, etc. can participate in the tender for bookstall licences subject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria.

#### **Modernisation of Central Ordnance Depots and Factories**

2709. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have suggested modernisation of all central ordnance depots and factories;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to undertake or have undertaken modernisation of all Central Ordnance Depots and factories in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of concrete measures taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government of India have decided to modernize all the seven Central Ordnance Depots located at Agra, Mumbai, Chheoki, Delhi Cantonment, Dehu Road, Jabalpur and Kanpur in a phased manner. However, to begin with modernization of

Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur, involving an expenditure of Rs. 187 crores approximately has been taken up. This project is at an advance stage of completion. The detailed project reports in respect of the Ordnance Depots at Agra and Jabalpur are also under finalization.

The modernization of Central Ordnance Depot Kanpur covers state-of-the-art warehousing facilities which include higher vertical space utilization, automated material handling, a computerized inventory management system and installation of state-of-the-art fire prevention, fire fighting and security systems.

Modernization of infrastructure in Ordnance Factories is a continuous process. A perspective plan has been drawn up in consultation with the major indentors to cater to the needs of existing and new products to be inducted into the Services up to the X Plan period. A capital investment of Rs. 1062 crores for procurement of plant and machinery with updated technology has been made during IXth Plan period. Further investment of Rs. 1804 crores up to the end of the X Plan period has been planned.

#### **Earning of Revenue by Indian Airlines**

2710. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passengers and the quantum of luggage brought through international flights by the Indian Airlines in the country during 2003-04 and 2004-05, till date;

(b) the total revenue earned as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines is competing satisfactorily with other International Airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The number of international passengers and the quantum of baggage (including free baggage) carried by Indian Airlines during the year 2003-04 and upto September, 2004 in the current year is given below:

Year	No. of International Passengers carried (in lakh)	Baggage Carried (in thousand tonnes)
2003-04	16.2	38.6
2004-05 (Upto Sept., 04)	8.9	20.7

(b) The revenue earned on this account is as follows:

Year	Revenue Earned (Rs. in crores)
2003-04	1530
2004-05 (upto Sept., 04)	835

(c) to (f) The seat factor achieved by Indian Airlines on its international flights during the year 2003-04 was 69.6% and during the current financial year (upto September, 2004), it has gone upto 72.6%. The seat factors are, therefore, indicative of the fact that Indian Airlines international operations are competing satisfactorily with other airlines.

[*Translation*]

#### **Creation of Railway Zones**

2711. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present locations of the newly created Railway Zones in the country;

(b) whether the new Railway Zones have been provided with adequate staff;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to set up more Railway Recruitment Boards for these new zones;

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

(f) whether there is a resentment in some States where the HQs of these Zones are situated regarding recruitment of outsiders; and



(g) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Government has created seven new Railway Zones, which are located as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Zone	Headquarters
1.	East Central Railway	Hajipur
2.	East Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar
3.	North Central Railway	Allahabad
4.	North Western Railway	Jaipur
5.	South East Central Railway	Bilaspur
6.	South Western Railway	Hubli
7.	West Central Railway	Jabalpur

(b) and (c) The new zonal Railways fixed their requirement of staff for headquarter offices as 9138. Based on the options exercised by staff, 6011 have joined the headquarter offices of new zones. Considering the level of activities, the staff strength is considered adequate for the present.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Existing Railway Recruitment Boards are adequately catering to the recruitment requirements of Indian Railways including the new Zones.

(f) and (g) Notwithstanding the demands for recruitment on regional basis, selections are conducted on all India basis in accordance with the Government's orders and ruling given by the Supreme Court of India.

#### Retirement age in PSEs

2712. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retirement age of Public Sector Enterprises will be sustained at the age of 60 years; and

(b) if so, the reasons for rolling back the retirement age of employees of Bridge and Roof Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The general retirement age of employees of public enterprises is 60 years. However, some PSEs, on account of various reasons, have rolled it back to 58 years.

(b) Bridge and Roof Company is one such PSE where the retirement age was rolled back on the recommendations of its Board of Directors. However, the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises is examining the issue of retirement age based on various suggestions received in this regard from the management, unions and other stakeholders.

*[English]*

#### Blacklisted NGO

2713. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the NGOs who have been blacklisted by Human Resource Development Ministry are still working under the M/o Social Justice and Empowerment;

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

(c) the manner in which the Ministry will coordinate with HRD Ministry and take appropriate action against those NGOs to check that such blacklisted NGOs will not take grants from M/o SJ&E?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Price Rise of Crude Oil in International Market

2714. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:  
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:  
SHRI AJIT JOGI:  
SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on prices has considered the issue of spiralling world crude oil price;

(b) whether high increase in crude oil prices in international market is the result of artificial scarcity;

(c) whether extra burden on import of Crude Oil, would affect our growth; and

(d) if so, the action taken to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir. It is Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs that is seized of the issue.

(b) The causes of high international crude oil prices during the past few months include speculation, geopolitical tension, growth in demand apprehensions of inadequate spare capacity, mismatch between supply and demand of sweet crude oil, Hurricane Ivan, etc.

(c) and (d) During the period April-September, 2004, our crude oil import bill has been Rs. 61,177 crore as compared to Rs. 38,665 crore during the corresponding period of the previous year. However, ample foreign exchange reserves and appropriate procurement arrangements have ensured that our crude requirements are being fully met.

#### **Manuscript Mission in Orissa**

2715. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Manuscript Mission in the State of Orissa; and

(b) the steps the Government has taken to strengthen its stance?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The National Mission for Manuscripts at present has one Manuscript Resource Centre in Orissa State Museum and two Manuscript Conservation Centres in Orissa. Approximately 90,000 manuscripts in Orissa have been catalogued. Between 22 and 26 Nov. 2004, a district level survey was organized in thirty districts of Orissa involving about 1500 persons. According to preliminary report, information on about five lakh manuscripts has been collected.

Conservation experts were also sent out with surveyors in each district to make an assessment of the state of the manuscripts. Orissa's illustrated palm-leaf manuscripts have also been chosen for the Mission's pilot digitization project. This project seeks to electronically reproduce Orissa's illustrated manuscripts using sophisticated methods of scanning to save them for posterity. In addition to its regular programmes of survey, cataloguing, conservation and digitization, the Mission also carried out awareness programmes to encourage the public to come forward with information on their manuscripts and to conserve them.

#### **Pay Scales of Fifth Pay Commission to Employees of Burn Standard Employees**

2716. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Wagon is considered every facilities like production, purchase preference, LD facilities, sell preference and also 5th Pay Commission to employees and officers whereas the Burn Standard is not considered for production, sell preference and also 5th Pay Commission for both employees and officers;

(b) if so, the reasons for this discrimination;

(c) whether the employees of Burn Standard has to pay 18% interest for payment of loan, those who opted for VRS, whereas the Bank interest is 7 to 8%;

(d) whether Burn Standard Company Limited, Bumpur, will merge with Bharat wagon or the unit itself will be survived; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) In coordination with the Ministry of Railways, special measures like waiver of liquidated damages (LD), freezing of pending unexpected orders and free supply of bogies and couplers were taken to restart production in Bharat Wagon & Engineering Company Ltd. 5th Pay Commission recommendations are not applicable to the employees and officers of these companies. Desirous of extending support to Burn Standard Co. too, the Ministry of Heavy Industries have requested the Ministry of Railways to provide facilities of free supply of bogies and couplers to Burn Standard Company also.

(c) The employees who have gone on VRS are not required to pay any interest on the payment made to them.

(d) and (e) No proposal of merger of Bumpur unit of BSCL with Bharat Wagon is under consideration for its survival.

#### **Railway Over Bridge at Kollam, Kerala**

2717. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for railway over bridge at Kollam, Kerala on level crossing no. 541;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any tender has been invited for this project;

(d) if so, the funds has been allotted for this project; and

(e) the present status of the project?

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

(b) The work of Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Kollam was originally sanctioned during the Works Programme of 2001-02 in lieu of existing Level Crossing No. 543 on cost sharing basis but later on at the request of the State Government it was changed to in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 541, Km. 156/8-9 at Quilon. Necessary material modification was issued at the same cost. Railway shall construct bridge proper i.e. bridge over the track and approaches by State Government.

(c) Not yet.

(d) An outlay of Rs. 50 lakh has been provided for taking up Railway's portion of work during current year.

(e) General Arrangement Drawing has been approved. Estimate of approach portion has not been received from the State Government.

*[Translation]*

#### **National Instruments Limited**

2718. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jadavpur University of Kolkata has offered to buy out the once prestigious National Instruments Limited (NIL) which is on the verge of closure;

(b) whether JU wants to take over not only the building and sophisticated optical instruments but retain the 60-odd staff of the PSU as well;

(c) if so, whether JU has offered to the Union Government to pay up to Rs. 10 crore for the factory;

(d) whether JU wants to incorporate the new resources in its plan to beef up university-industry interface; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e) Jadavpur University has recently expressed its interest to take over the responsibility of National Instruments Ltd. in respect of Land, Building and Manpower. No monetary offer has been made in the letter expressing the interest. The letter expressing the interest is under examination in the Government.

#### **Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Raniganj**

2719. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether refractory units of BSCL at Raniganj in West Bengal used to manufacture Silica Bricks to cater to the need of IISCO's Steel Plant at Bumpur mainly;

(b) whether on 1st November, 2000 those units were closed down on the plea of recurring losses;

(c) whether the amount spent on account of VRS to 3500 workmen of the Refractory & Ceramine Units could have been better utilised towards modernisation in the interest of the nation;

(d) if so, please state categorically how much amount was spent towards VRS;

(e) whether the Government propose to modernize some of the R&C Units;

(f) if so, the details thereof and amount required therefor;

(g) whether BSCL Management after closure engaged security agency to guard the property and machinery of those closed R&C Units at a paltry amount for 112 security guards which could afford for only 70 guards;

(h) whether those security guards have not been paid their salary for the last more than 11 months practically threatening them to starvation in absence of renewal of security agency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes Sir. IISCO was one of the main buyer of Silica Bricks produced by Raniganj works.

(b) BIFR, while sanctioning the revival scheme of M/s. Burn Standard Co. Limited (BSCL) on 16.04.1999, has, *inter alia*, recommended closure of 7 loss making refractory and ceramic units including Raniganj Units, since they were not found viable.

(c) to (f) On the date of closure-31.12.2000 there were 428 employees of Raniganj Group of refractory units (Raniganj No. 2, Lalkoti, Durgapur, Andal). All the employees were separated under VRS by payment of Rs. 625.60 lac as compensation. Since the units were not found viable by BIFR there is no proposal to modernize the same.

(g) to (i) A private agency was engaged for security of Raniganj Works. However, the ex-employees of Raniganj works did not allow the said agency to undertake the job. As a result, the question of payment of salary to security guards does not arise.

#### **Touch Screen Enquiry Terminals at Stations**

2720. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations where 'Touch Screen' enquiry terminals has been provided at present alongwith the funds spent thereon, State/zone-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to install such terminals at other railway stations also, particularly at the various stations in Delhi;

(c) if so, the names thereof and the funds earmarked for the purpose, State/zone-wise; and

(d) the time by which the said terminals are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Names of railway stations/locations, State-wise/zone-wise, provided with 'Touch Screen' terminals alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (d) Names of railway stations/locations including stations/locations in Delhi where 'Touch Screen' terminals are proposed to be provided alongwith funding details and time frame to install these terminals is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

#### **Statement I**

##### *Name of Stations/locations provided with "Touch Screen" Terminals*

S.No.	Station/Location	Zone/Railway	State	Appx. Expenditure (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bhusawal	Central	Maharashtra	1.41 lac
2.	Nasik Road	Central	Maharashtra	1.41 lac
3.	Akola	Central	Maharashtra	On Sponsorship basis
4.	Sholapur	Central	Maharashtra	1.78 lac

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Gulbarga	Central	Maharashtra	1.78 lac
6.	Nagpur	Central	Maharashtra	On Sponsorship basis
7.	Kolhapur	Central	Maharashtra	0.25 lac
8.	Howrah	Eastern	West Bengal	On Sponsorship basis
9.	Sealdah	Eastern	West Bengal	On Sponsorship basis
10.	Hazra Road	Eastern	West Bengal	On Sponsorship basis
11.	Burra Bazar	Eastern	West Bengal	On Sponsorship basis
12.	Shyam Bazar	Eastern	West Bengal	On Sponsorship basis
13.	Bhubaneshwar	East Coast	Orissa	On Sponsorship basis
14.	Reservation center IRCA Building near New Delhi Railway station	Northern	Delhi	On Sponsorship basis
15.	Gwalior	North Central	Madhya Pradesh	2.55 lac
16.	Agra Cantt.	North Central	Uttar Pradesh	On Sponsorship basis
17.	Jaipur	North Western	Rajasthan	3.5 lac
18.	Chennai Central	Southern	Tamil Nadu	On Sponsorships
19.	Madurai	Southern	Tamil Nadu	4.5 lac
20.	Salem	Southern	Tamil Nadu	1.3 lac
21.	Coimbatore	Southern	Tamil Nadu	1.3 lac
22.	Trivandrum Central	Southern	Kerala	On Sponsorship basis
23.	Trichur	Southern	Kerala	On Sponsorship basis
24.	Palghat	Southern	Kerala	1.3 lac
25.	Calicut	Southern	Kerala	1.3 lac
26.	Cannanore	Southern	Kerala	1.3 lac
27.	Howrah South	South Eastern	West Bengal	On Sponsorship basis
28.	Kharagpur	South Eastern	West Bengal	
29.	Old Koilaghat	South Eastern	West Bengal	
30.	Tata Nagar	South Eastern	Jharkhand	5.7 lac
31.	Bilaspur Jn.	South East Central	Chhattisgarh	
32.	Legislative Assembly (Raipur)	South East Central	Chhattisgarh	
33.	Gondia	South East Central	Chhattisgarh	

1	2	3	4	5
34.	Mumbai Central	Western	Maharashtra	2.4 lac
35.	Rajkot	Western	Gujarat	1 lac
36.	Dwarka	Western	Gujarat	1 lac
37.	Indore	Western	Madhya Pradesh	1 lac
38.	Ratlam	Western	Madhya Pradesh	1 lac
39.	Ujjain	Western	Madhya Pradesh	1 lac
40.	Mhow	Western	Madhya Pradesh	1 lac
41.	Chitaurgarh	Western	Rajasthan	1 lac
42.	Bhopal	West Central	Madhya Pradesh	5 lac
43.	Habibganj	West Central	Madhya Pradesh	
44.	Kota	West Central	Rajasthan	1 lac
45.	Jabalpur	West Central	Madhya Pradesh	13 lac
46.	Katni	West Central	Madhya Pradesh	
47.	Satna	West Central	Madhya Pradesh	
48.	Madan Mahal	West Central	Madhya Pradesh	
49.	Sagar	West Central	Madhya Pradesh	
50.	Damoh	West Central	Madhya Pradesh	

**Statement II***Name of Stations proposed to be provided with "Touch Screen" Terminals*

Sl.No.	Station	Zone/Railway	State	Appx. Expenditure (In Rs.)	Time Frame
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	New Koilaghat	Eastern	West Bengal	Proposed to be on sponsorship basis	By March 2005
2.	Fairlie Place	Eastern	West Bengal		
3.	Ballygunge	Eastern	West Bengal		
4.	Tollygunge	Eastern	West Bengal		
5.	Khidderpore	Eastern	West Bengal		
6.	Chowringhee	Eastern	West Bengal		
7.	Sonarpur	Eastern	West Bengal		

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	New Delhi	Northern	Delhi	Proposed to be on sponsorship basis	By March 2005
9.	Delhi Main	Northern	Delhi		
10.	Hazarat Nizamuddin	Northern	Delhi		
11.	Jhansi	North Central	Madhya Pradesh	2.75 lac	By March 2005
12.	Banda	North Central	Madhya Pradesh	2.75 lac	
13.	Morena	North Central	Madhya Pradesh	2.75 lac	
14.	Rewari	North Western	Rajasthan	3.5 lac	By March 2005
15.	Alwar	North Western	Rajasthan	3.5 lac	
16.	Nagircoil	Southern	Tamil Nadu	47 lac*	By March 2005
17.	Erode	Southern	Tamil Nadu		
18.	Tiruppur	Southern	Tamil Nadu		
19.	Tiruchirappalli	Southern	Tamil Nadu		
20.	Thanjavur	Southern	Tamil Nadu		
21.	Pondicherry	Southern	Tamil Nadu		
22.	Vilupuram	Southern	Tamil Nadu		
23.	Tirunelveli	Southern	Tamil Nadu		
24.	Tuticorin	Southern	Tamil Nadu		
25.	Dindigul	Southern	Tamil Nadu		
26.	Trivavalla	Southern	Kerala		
27.	Shoranur Jn.	Southern	Kerala		
28.	Tellicherry	Southern	Kerala		
29.	Mangalore	Southern	Karnataka		
30.	Rabindra Sadan (Kolkata)	South Eastern	West Bengal	Proposed to be on sponsorship basis	By March 2005
31.	Ranchi	South Eastern	Jharkhand		
32.	Bokaro Steel City	South Eastern	Jharkhand		
33.	Rourkela	South Eastern	Orissa		
34.	Churchgate	Western	Maharashtra	19 lac	By March 2005
35.	Bandra Terminus	Western	Maharashtra		
36.	Andheri	Western	Maharashtra		
37.	Malad	Western	Maharashtra		
38.	Borivali	Western	Maharashtra		
39.	Bhayandar	Western	Maharashtra		
40.	Vasai Road	Western	Maharashtra		
41.	Virar	Western	Maharashtra		

\*Includes funds for augmentation at existing locations namely Coimbatore, Salem, Calcut, Cannanore & Palghat.

*[English]***Permission for Import of Petroleum Products**

2721. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of private parties/firms have been permitted for importing LPG, Kerosene and other petroleum products by using oil companies facilities at different ports;

(b) if so, the number of such private parties/firms engaged for the said purpose during the last three years;

(c) the total number of persons belonging to SCs/ STs among them permitted to importing LPG, Kerosene and other Petroleum products; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) As per the extant Exim

policy, imports of petroleum products, except for some products including transportation fuels and kerosene, are freely allowed. In case of transportation fuels, imports are allowed through IOC as a State Trading Enterprise (STE), except for companies who have been granted rights for marketing of transportation fuels in terms of resolution dated 8.3.2002 of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, including HPCL, BPCL and IBP who have been marketing transportation fuels before this date. Imports of kerosene are allowed through STEs, i.e., IOC, HPC, BPC and IBP for all purposes with STC being nominated as a State Trading Enterprise for supplies to Advance Licence holders. Advance Licence holders have the option to import SKO from the above mentioned STEs including STC.

As regards usage of oil companies' facilities at different ports for imports of petroleum products by private parties, this is mutually decided upon by the parties concerned with the oil companies. According to information provided by IOC, there has been no import of petroleum products by individual using their port facilities, IOC is facilitating import, storage and dispatch of furnace oil and naphtha for the private customers is enclosed as statement as per their specific quality requirements.

***Statement***

Customer Name	Location	Product	Imported at
M/s Zuari Industries Ltd.	Vasco, Goa	FO	IOC, Vasco
M/s Zuari Industries Ltd.	Vasco, Goa	Naphtha	IOTL, Vasco
M/s MCFL	Mangalore	FO	IOC, Mangalore
M/s MCFL	Mangalore	Naphtha	IOC, Mangalore
M/s DCW Ltd.	Tuticorin	FO	IOC, Tuticorin
M/s Tata Power	Belgaum	FO	Party's leased tank

**Implementation of Recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission to Employees of Sick Industries**

2722. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimated losses of the 24 Public Sector Undertakings was now Rs. 1800 crores;

(b) whether the employees of the loss making companies which had not implemented the Pay Scales recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission were facing hardships not only in terms of lower salaries but also while opting for VRS; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES



(SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The estimated losses of 24 Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), where Government have recently pledged financial support for payment of pending wages/salaries and statutory dues upto 31.7.2004, were Rs. 1915 crore in 2003-2004.

(b) and (c) In case of Public Sector Enterprise under Central Dearness Allowance Scheme where Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations have not been implemented, the Government have allowed to increase the payment of ex-gratia amount admissible under Voluntary Retirement Scheme by 50% computed on their existing pay scales to reduce hardship to VRS optees.

#### Use of CNG in Chennai

2723. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make use of CNG compulsory in Chennai and other metropolitan cities and also ensue regular supply of the same in order to control increasing pollution caused by vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) For providing Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), availability of natural gas and development of natural gas infrastructure is essential.

In order to reduce vehicular pollution, CNG as auto fuel has been introduced in Delhi and Mumbai. CNG as auto fuel will be introduced in a phased manner in different cities of the country subject to availability of natural gas and gas transmission infrastructure.

*[Translation]*

#### Classification of Land

2724. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire land under army possession in Sagar (MP) is classified in category A-1;

(b) if not, the area of the land which has not been reclassified and the persons held responsible for the delay in this process;

(c) whether rent was being regularly paid by the farmers of Sagar after the expiry of lease since 1974;

(d) if so, the reasons for not collecting agriculture land rent by the Defence Estate Officer, Jabalpur (M.P.) for the last two years;

(e) whether cantonment councils have been dissolved; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the elections would be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of the reply given at (a) above.

(c) and (d) No rent was being paid by the farmers in respect of the expired leases since 1974. Since these leases have expired and not renewed, no rent has been recovered from them.

(e) There are no cantonment councils as such. However, out of the 62 cantonment boards, constitutions of 56 cantonment boards stand changed (varied) under Section 14 of the Cantonments Act, 1924 and these cantonment boards are functioning.

(f) No time-frame has been fixed for holding elections to cantonment boards.

*[English]*

#### Setting up of Military Academy in West Bengal

2725. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering for setting up Military Academy in West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government of West Bengal has sent a proposal for setting up the proposed Academy at Barrakpore, near Kolkata; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of West Bengal have identified and recommended Barrackpore for establishment of a Military Academy.

(c) The proposal is at preliminary stage and suitable sites are being reconnoitered.

#### **Revenue Earned by Various Railway Zones**

2726. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenues earned by various Railway Zones during the first six months of current financial year; and

(b) the amount spent on the development of various Railway Zones during the same period through various projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The revenues earned by the various railway zones during the first six months (upto September 2004) of the current financial year is Rs. 22178.60 crore.

(b) The amount spent on the development of various railway zones under Grant No. 16 during the first six months (upto September 2004) is Rs. 4273.96 crore.

In addition to the above, Rs. 2531.86 crore were spent on Production Units, Other units like Railway Electrification Organisation, Metro Transport Projects etc. and Bulk Order etc.

#### **Quantity of Gas at Thermal Power Plant**

2727. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gas is presently available in Ramgarh thermal power plant;

(b) whether additional quantity of gas has been agreed at additional prices by M/s Oil India and M/s Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL);

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to supply the required quantum of gas for these thermal power plants?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) From 1.11.2004, 0.75 Million Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD) of natural gas is available for Ramgarh Power.

(b) and (c) The original contracted quantity of gas with Rajasthan Raja Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) is 0.55 MMSCMD, 0.50 MMSCMD from OIL and 0.05 MMSCMD from ONGC. An additional quantity of 0.20 MMSCMD of gas from OIL fields has been agreed to be supplied to RRVUNL. With the availability of 0.20 MMSCMD additional quantity, the entire quantity of 0.70 MMSCMD supplied by OIL will be at the revised price agreed between RRVUNL and OIL.

(d) GAIL has signed an MOU with OIL for making available the additional quantity of 0.2 MMSCMD of gas with effect from 1.11.2004 for supply to the Ramgarh Power Plant of RRVUNL.

#### **Installation of Statue of Shivaji**

2728. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government's request for putting up a Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji at Meghdambri, Raigad Fort was disapproved by the Government on the basis of certain guidelines for presentation of Archaeological sites and monuments;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra had again approached the Union Government in June this year for permission to put up a Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the said Fort;

(c) if so, the specific points were made out and stressed by the State Government in their communication to the Central Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have since re-examined the same; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI

S. JAIPAL REDDY: (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal dated 26th June, 2004 from the Chief Minister of Maharashtra addressed to Prime Minister of India regarding permission to install a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Meghdambri, Raigad Fort, a centrally protected monument was examined in detail with reference to the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, and it was not approved as the intervention would affect the original ambience, ancient features and aesthetic view of the monument. The decision of the Central Government was communicated to the appropriate authority on 9th July, 2004.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Question does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Procurement of Khadi in Railways

2729. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made mandatory the use of Khadi in Railways;

(b) if so, the target set for the procurement of total quantum of khadi cloth for bed-sheets, curtains etc. in the Railways for the current financial year and the extent to which it has been achieved so far alongwith amount spent/to be spent in this regard;

(c) the procedure/criteria for procurement of khadi in the Railways; and

(d) the plan of the Government to ensure that the poor weavers get the direct benefit of the use of khadi in the railways circumscribing the intermediaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) As per the present policy, it is mandatory for the Railways to procure requirement of upholstery/lien i.e. Bed-roll items etc. (except for curtain cloth for use in AC coaches which is required in fire retardant quality) for their use in Trains, Railway Offices, Retiring Rooms, Rest Houses, Running rooms, etc. in khadi/handloom variety. No target has been set for procurement of khadi cloth in the Railways.

(c) and (d) Government of India's extant policy to exclusively procure the requirements of khadi from Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is being followed by Railways. KVIC being a Government body is to co-ordinate and supply Khadi. There being no other intermediaries, the question of weavers not getting direct benefit should not arise.

#### Remote Train Signal System at DRM Office

2730. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the remote train signal system set up at DRM office, Delhi is being dismantled;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred on the setting up of this signal system and the reasons and basis on which it is being dismantled; and

(c) the persons responsible for the wastage of funds on the setting up and dismantling of the signal system and the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The Remote Control Train Information System was installed in the year 1994 at DRM Office, New Delhi at a cost of Rs. 32.38 Cr. The system was meant for providing operational facilities in Delhi Area such as automatic setting of route, Remote Control Operation, Display of train position, preparation of train graph etc. However, due to major & fast changing traffic situation, change of yard layouts, frequent shunting operations requiring frequent swapping between local and remote mode during operation, the system was found to have outlived its operational utility by the divisional authority. In view of above Delhi division had dismantled the system to avoid incurrence of expenditure on Annual Maintenance, Central Air Conditioning, Blockage of space, Electricity consumption etc.

(c) Does not arise.

#### International Flights from Guwahati

2731. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of stopping of Air India Guwahati-Bangkok flight due to low passenger traffic, Government propose to re-evaluate the flight routes from Guwahati to international destinations;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to start Guwahati-Kathmandu and Guwahati-Dacca-Kolkata flights which is likely to yield higher passenger traffic; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Indian Airlines plans to commence operations on Guwahati-Bangkok route w.e.f. 1st January, 2005.

(b) and (c) Under our existing Air Services Agreements with Nepal and Bangladesh, we have unutilized traffic rights available on our side. However, actual operations would depend on the commercial judgement of the airlines.

[English]

#### **Funds Required for Projects**

2732. SHRI K.S. RAO:  
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises has urged the PSUs to tap the capital market for raising funds required for various industrial and infrastructural projects; and

(b) if so, the reasons and details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Financial Assistance to Authors**

2733. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of authors who have been received financial assistance since January, 2004, alongwith subject of books and amount; and

(b) the names of books which have published by the publication division since Jan. 2004?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Publications Division does not provide "financial assistance" to authors. They are paid Rs. 5000/-on lumpsum basis of 15% royalty on the basis of copies sold. In addition, in some deserving cases, the authors are given Rs. 2500/-as out of pocket allowance to cover incidental costs.

(b) The list of books published by Publications Division since January 2004 is given as Statement enclosed.

#### **Statement**

*List of the books which have been published by the Division since January, 2004 till date is as under:*

#### **English:**

1. India: A Reference Annual 2004
2. Forts of India (Rep.)
3. Kalpana Chawla
4. Timely Gift and Other Stories
5. Indian Costumes (Rep.)
6. Earthquakes
7. President K.R. Narayanan: Selected Speeches (Vol. II)
8. Mass Media in India 2003
9. Stories of Vikramaditya (Rep.)
10. Towards a New World
11. Towards a Developed Economy—Defining Moments
12. India's Foreign Policy (Rep.)
13. India: A Reference Annual 2004 (Rep.)
14. Mother Teresa
15. Press in India 2002-2003 (Vol. I & II)

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| 16. Report of the Radio Broadcast Policy Committee   | 25. Sanskritik Ekta Ka Guldaata (Rep.)             |
| 17. India's Struggle for Freedom (Rep.)              | 26. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (Rep.)              |
| 18. Mahatma Gandhi by Romain Rolland (Rep.)          | 27. Antriksh Mein Bharat (Rev.)                    |
| 19. The Blessing and other Stories                   | 28. Pauranik Bal Kathaein (Rep.)                   |
| 20. Culture & Religious Traditions in Temples of Goa | 29. Ekta Ki Bolti Tasvirein (Rep.)                 |
| 21. Hide and Seek (Rep.)                             | 30. Sukumalia Ka Tyag (Rep.)                       |
| 22. The Talking Drum and Other Stories               | 31. Videshi Yatriyon Ki Nazar Mein Bharat (Rep.)   |
| 23. Mother Teresa—Inspiring Incidents (Rep. Dx.)     | 32. Lakshadweep Ki Samudri Kathaein (Rep.)         |
| <b>Hindi:</b>  | 33. Lakshagrah (Rep.)                              |
| 1. Bharat 2004                                       | 34. Bal Bodh Kathaein (Rep.)                       |
| 2. Allah-Udal (Rep.)                                 | 35. Bagwani Kaise Karein (Rep.)                    |
| 3. CWMG (Rev.) Volume 91                             | 36. Apni Hindi Sudharein (Rep.)                    |
| 4. CWMG (Rev.) Volume 100                            | 37. Kheer Ki Gudiya (Rep.)                         |
| 5. Jankathakar Shailesh Matiyani                     | 38. Ek Desh Ek Hirday (Rep.)                       |
| 6. Bharat Ke Lok Gatha Geet (Rep.)                   | 39. Kabutar Ud Gaye (Rep.)                         |
| 7. Nupur Nakshatra                                   | 40. Rochak Aitihāsik Kahanian (Part II) (Rep.)     |
| 8. Nikolai Rorik                                     | 41. Nobel Puraskar Vijeta Mahilayein (Rep.)        |
| 9. Cloning   | 42. Chetak Aur Pratap (Rep.)                       |
| 10. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Vyakhyan Mala (Part 1)       | 43. Swami Sahajanand Saraswati (BMI)               |
| 11. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Vyakhyan Mala (Part 2)       | 44. Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay (BMI) (Rep.)            |
| 12. Adivasi Garh Chhattisgarh                        | 45. Hamare Aaj Ke Cricket Sitare (Rep.)            |
| 13. Naye Vishwa Ki Aur—Nimayak Daur                  | 46. Safar Ka Sathi (Rep.)                          |
| 14. Viksit Arthvyavastha Ki Aur                      | 47. Report of the Radio Broadcast Policy Committee |
| 15. CWMG Vol. 39 (Rev.)                              | 48. Chhupam Chhupai                                |
| 16. CWMG Vol. 42 (Rev.)                              | 49. Desh Bhakti Ke Natak                           |
| 17. CWMG Vol. 43 (Rev.)                              | 50. Lo Gubbare (Rep.)                              |
| 18. Dr. K.B. Hedgewar (BMI)                          | 51. Vikdangta, Karan, Bachav Va Nidan              |
| 19. Jan Kavi Nagarjun                                | 52. Kahani Aajkal—Vol. II (Dx.)                    |
| 20. Kavita Aajkal                                    | 53. Samay Ka Safar                                 |
| 21. Bharat 2004 (Rep.)                               | 54. Hamare Bahadur Bachche (Rep.)                  |
| 22. Yugpurush Ambedkar (Rep.) Rev.                   | 55. Jawaharlal Nehru (Rep.)—BMI                    |
| 23. Bhim Rao Ambedkar (Rep.) BMI                     | 56. Ved Gaatha (Dx.)                               |
| 24. Vishwa Ki Shrestha Lok Kathain (Part I) Rep.     | 57. Taron Bhara Aakash (Dx)                        |

**Regional Languages:**

1. Great Men Great Deeds (Tamil)
2. Faraz di Pechhan (Punjabi)
3. Two Friends (Tamil)
4. Dr. K.B. Hedgewar (Marathi)
5. Dr. K.B. Hedgewar (Malayalam)
6. An Outline History of Indian People (Oriya)
7. Dr. K.B. Hedgewar (Sanskrit)
8. Dr. K.B. Hedgewar (Telugu)
9. Seers and Thinkers (Gujarati)
10. Poets, Dramatists and Story Tellers (Gujarati)
11. An Outline History of Indian People (Kannada)
12. Scientists (Telugu)
13. Poets, Dramatists and Story Tellers (Telugu)
14. Tribal Dances of Gujarat (Gujarati)
15. Devotional Poets & Mystics (Part I) (Telugu)
16. Devotional Poets & Mystics (Part II) (Telugu)
17. Freedom Movement in Andhra Pradesh (Rep.) (Telugu)
18. Glory of Vijayanagar Prabhavam (Rep.) (Telugu)
19. Afsana Ajkal (Urdu)

12.00 hrs.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

*...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cantonment Boards, for the year 2030-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1190/04]

- (2) 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 Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1191/04]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1192/04]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 2030-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1193/04]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, 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 Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Smiti, 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 1194/04]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2002-2003.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1195/04]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Museum, Kolkata for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Museum, Kolkata for the year 2002-2003.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1196/04]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 705 (E) (Hindi and English

versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 2004 regarding mandatory blending of ethanol with petrol to the extent of 5 per cent in ten States and three Union Territories as mentioned in the Notification under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1197/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1198/04]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1199/04]

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, Kottayam, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, Kottayam, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1200/04]

- (d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1201/04]
- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1202/04]
- (f) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1203/04]
- (g) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1204/04]
- (h) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1205/04]
- (i) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1206/04]
- (j) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1207/04]
- (k) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1208/04]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Automatic Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.



- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Automatic Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1209/04]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palakkad, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palakkad, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1210/04]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1211/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934:

- (i) The Aircraft (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 636 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 2004, together with an explanatory note.
- (ii) The Aircraft (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 672 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2004, together with an explanatory note.
- (iii) The Aircraft (4th Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 732 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th November, 2004, together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1212/04]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1213/04]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith 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 1214/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) Annual Report of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1215/04]

12.02 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY****154th to 156th Reports***[Translation]*

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Industry:

- (1) 154th Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in the Committee's 129th report on Credit Flow to SSI Sector in the Regions of Delhi, Noida and Ghaziabad (Ministry of Small Scale Industries);
- (2) 155th Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in the Committee's 130th report on Credit Flow to SSI Sector in Himachal Pradesh (Ministry of Small Scale Industries); and
- (3) 156th Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in the Committee's 131st report on the Constraints in Industrial Development of North Eastern Region (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises).

12.02<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Sixth Report***[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, beg to present the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee. The Business Advisory Committee, at its sitting on Tuesday, 14th December, 2004 recommended that four hours may be allotted to the discussion on the Tenth Five-Year Plan, 2003-2007.

12.03 hrs.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

**Rail Accident of Jalandhar-Pathankot Passenger (DMU) and Jammu Tawi Express between Jalandhar-Pathankot Section of Ferozapur Division**

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret that the former Prime Minister, hon'ble Shri Atel Bihari Vajpayee ji was looking for me in the House yesterday. I am very sorry for that since you wanted to hear my statement about the rail accident.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am sorry for the inconvenience thus caused to you. The hon'ble members have told me this, I am not making any comment of my own ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): What does he want to state about the rail accident? Let him tell that ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please place your statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is placing the statement.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lalu ji, you please read the statement.

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

MR. SPEAKER: He has expressed his regret for not being present here. You are not allowing him to express regret.

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

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. Laluji, you please read the statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has expressed regret. You do not want even that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please read the statement.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had telephonically requested you from Patna that I was reaching 5 O'clock and had requested you to fix the time accordingly. I came in a hurry. I am the member of this House and I have never intended to show disrespect to any of the hon'ble members. I came to know that the House had been adjourned. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): He is not sad over the death of these killed in the accident. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: He should not speak from back. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Laluji, you please speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it. I could not follow it. So, I will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: When I came I found that the House had been adjourned. I wanted to give statement in the Rajya Sabha, but I was not heard ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be no talk about the Rajya Sabha here. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are right. I uphold your opinion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): At about 1200 hrs. of 14.12.2004, 1 JMP DMU (Diesel Multiple Unit) Passenger Train going from Jalandhar to Pathankot collided with Train No. 9112

Jammu Tawi-Ahmedabad Express. Two coaches of Jalandhar-Pathankot Passenger capsized and two coaches of Jammu Tawi Express derailed. Accident occurred between Bhangala and Mirthal Stations which are on Jalandhar-Pathankot Section of Ferozpur Division of Northern Railway. This site is in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab.

On receipt of the information about the train accident, Accident Relief Medical Vans were rushed from Pathankot and Ludhiana. Medical Van from Pathankot reached the site at 1300 hrs. and Medical Van from Ludhiana reached the site on 1450 hours.

After making the statement in Parliament. I alongwith Minister of State for Railways, Chairman, Railway Board and other Senior Officers rushed to the accident site for inspection and visited the Hospitals where injured had been admitted. The Hospital authorities were advised to provide necessary medical assistance on top priority.

The prima-facie cause of the accident appeared to be human failure. Block instruments of both the concerned Stations, namely, Bhangala and Mirthal had been out of order from the previous one day. I have directed the Board (Member Electrical) to find out the reasons for the Block failure and fix responsibility of Staff and Officers for this so that necessary action can be taken against them. In such an eventuality, there are laid down rules for Station Masters to work trains on Paper Line Clear (PLC) system. Under this system, Station Master of the Station from where the train is to be dispatched seeks line clear from the Station Master of the other station by exchanging private number between them. Apparently, these rules were not followed properly by both the Station Masters and the trains from both the sides were allowed to proceed in the block section which resulted in collision.

Commissioner of Railway Safety/Northern Circle is conducting the statutory inquiry into this accident, who will examine the detail reasons for this accident and will give necessary recommendations to avoid such accidents in future.

Details of casualties are:

No. of deaths	38
No. of injured	52
Already discharged	13
In Hospitals	39 (16 serious and 23 simple injuries)

(Mukerian, Dasua, Jalandhar and Ludhiana Hospitals).

I have announced ex-gratia payment as:

Death case	Rs. 1,00,000/-each
Grievous injuries	Rs. 15,000/-each
Simple injuries	Rs. 5,000/-each

Apart from the above mentioned ex-gratia payment, compensation of Rs. 4 lacs to the kith and kin of deceased and stipulated amount also to the injured will be paid as per the decision of Railway Claims Tribunal. Employment to the dependents of those killed and disabled due to this accident will also be provided. I have come to know that Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab has also announced Rs. 1 lac each to the dependents of killed persons.

I have instructed that the injured will be given free treatment by the Railway and after treatment they will be sent to their relatives at the cost of Railway.

Both the Station Masters of the Bhangala and Mirthal Railway Stations have been placed under suspension. FIR has been lodged against both the Station Masters who have been absconding and have not been arrested so far. Local police is in search of them. Concerned Section Engineer (Construction) and Section Engineer (Telecom) have also been placed under suspension.

The line has been restored at 2.30 hours on 15.12.2004 and the first Train passed at 4.10 hours.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the first time in the history of Indian Railways, I would like to say on the behalf of this House that a one minute silence should be observed over the sad demise of those who have been killed in the accident. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday we have done it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, just a minute. Please let me conduct the proceedings. You know that you are not entitled to it as per rules. But you made a special request. I will allow you one question. This is not to be taken as a precedent, but only as a special case.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, in this very House, many a time discussion took place after the statement. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to allow a discussion. Then you wait for a discussion. I will allow the discussion next week.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Let's start the discussion from today itself. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: There is other business today. I will allow it on Monday.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you put a question, then there will be problem.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I will ask only two or three questions.

MR. SPEAKER: No, if you want a discussion, then why do you put questions now?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the discussion is held on Monday, then no question should be asked today. If they ask questions today, then no discussions would be held on Monday. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: If you are insisting on a discussion then you give a notice. I shall see to that. But if you want a question here, then there will be trouble.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I want to know the serious accident occurred there when the Parliament session was on. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Forget it.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Kindly let me ask two or three specific questions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have decided what to do. I said either question or discussion.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why did the hon'ble Minister go to Bihar after the accident instead of coming to Delhi, and what for he went there? He has committed the contempt of the House, breached the dignity of the House, destroyed its importance and did not even feel sorry for the same. ...*(Interruptions)*

He had made an announcement there even before the investigation would have started. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. You have finished. The hon'ble Minister would give the reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Railway Minister has said that it is a cold-blooded murder.

[Translation]

Who would be prosecuted for murder? Be it a Minister or a higher person, there is provision of prosecution in the democracy. He neither gave any statement over these three points nor did he make any announcement. He got the investigation started there. He has told in his reply that 35 persons have been killed there. He did not even stay there for as many minutes rather immediately left for Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*. He is looking after nothing else except Railways' ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough. You have made your point.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are totally dissatisfied with this and therefore we lodge our protest against it. ...*(Interruptions)*. The manner in which he behaved. ...*(Interruptions)*. He did not even resign. We walk out of the House in protest.

12.13 hrs.

*Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other Hon. Members then left the House*

[English]

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. When I stand up, you must sit down. No. I will not allow. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): He has been derailed after hearing this answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunathji, when I stand up, you must sit down. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the right of the hon. Members to walk out. This is nothing new. Therefore, when they are walking out, you need not get agitated. We shall continue with the business.

Item No. 10, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj.

12.14 hrs.

## ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BILL, 2004\*\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of Legislative Council for the State of Andhra Pradesh and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let it be moved first.

...*(Interruptions)*

\* Not recorded.

\*\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 16.12.2004.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is taken on record.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody listens to the chair.

*[Translation]*

*...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, there's no need of discussion over this. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody listens to the Chair. The Chair has become a mere formality.

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked the question, so there would be no discussion over this. It has already been decided.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after this there's no need of discussion over this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will delete it. You have not given reasons. The Rules have been amended.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, kindly give me a minute to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is the reason for your opposing this Bill?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I have given notice why I am opposing the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given a notice on time. It is not allowed according to the Rules.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given reasons for opposing this Bill. You are also aware that the Rules have been amended. I will not allow this. No, I am sorry.

*...(Interruptions)*

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I have given a notice. Kindly give me one minute.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, kindly allow one minute to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow this. The Rules have been amended with regard to this issue. You have not given any reason.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow it.

*...(Interruptions)*

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow breach of the Rules. Every day the Rules are being broken.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

*...(Interruptions)*

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of Legislative Council for the State of Andhra Pradesh and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto."

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, kindly give me one minute to speak.

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER: You have yourself made amendments in the Rules.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I introduce the bill.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I will not make any speech. I will only take one minute. Sir, in terms of article 161. *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has walked out after hearing the answer. Whom have you given the order? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded. Matters of Urgent Public Importance.

*...(Interruptions)*

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\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yerrannaidu, you are such a respected and senior Member, and when I stand, you should sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are a very senior and respected Member. We have consciously changed the Rules, and you were a party to it. It has been stated that merely giving notice of opposition is not sufficient. The hon. Member has to indicate the grounds on which he is opposing. You have not chosen to do so, and you want me to violate the Rules. We have already amended it, and you were a party to it. You cannot expect me to violate it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I have not asked you to violate the Rules. As an exception, I am asking you to allow me to speak. I am not aware of the recent changes in the Rules, and that is the reason I am requesting you to allow me to oppose this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I am repeatedly reminding you that the Rule has been changed. It has been replaced and it has already been done.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, kindly allow him one minute to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: No, nothing will be recorded. You can go on shouting.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, people from various parts of the country such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bengal went to Assam as labourers, but they were not accorded the status of tribals. In the year 1996 and 1998 tribals suffered from the floods of Ganges. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, order in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: 43140 people of 7465 such families were kept in 16 relief camps. Those who are still

there are being rehabilitated with a relief amount of only 10000 rupees. I submit that Indra Awas Yojana is being implemented there by Central Government but they are not being allotted houses under this scheme. I request that they should be given houses under this scheme so that they can live there with their families.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request the hon. Minister of Human Resources that Rajasthan is the largest State of the country. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, order in the House, Hon. Minister, this is not the place of discussion, I would not allow these things.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Particularly Jodhpur in Western Rajasthan is the centre point of Marwar. One can meet the alumni of various ancient universities of Jodhpur both in India and abroad. Presently the Jai Narayan Vyas University of Jodhpur is the biggest university. A proposal to convert this university into Central University is under consideration with the Government of India. Through you, I would like to request Minister for Human Resource that western Rajasthan is a desert area and Jodhpur is the centre point of Marwar. Jai Narayan Vyas University should be accorded the status of central university.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, day before yesterday Ufa terrorists of Assam exploded bombs at five places with remote controls and also hurled grenades. Two people died and 30 were injured. It was a revenge day of the 'Operation Flush Out' carried out by Indian Army in Bhutan on 13th of December last year. Not only this, bombs exploded outside Digboi House and Congress Labour Minister Ramesh Dhanua's house. Bomb explosion took place near the Congress office in Tinsukia and two days back bomb exploded at police out post wherein two policemen died. Through you I would like to submit that we are trying to negotiate with Ufa terrorists and Assamese literateur Mrs. Indira Goswami has taken initiatives on behalf of Prime Minister to hold dialogues with the terrorists. They have refused to leave the path of violence. I wish to tell that unless the Ufa terrorists give up the path of violence there should not be any dialogue with them. Prior to this when the discussions were held with the Hijbul Muzahidin,

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\*Not recorded.

Peoples' War Group and NSCN, the Government put forth the first condition that they would have to denounce violence. But Pa.ash Barua, their Lieutenant and the topmost leader has told that they will not quit violent means. I would like to state that Ulfa terrorists camps are in operation in Myanmar and Bangladesh and they also have contacts with ISI. Hence it is not reasonable to hold talks with them and they want to create an independent state. I would like to submit through you that the way NDA Government had implemented Operation Flush Out in Myanmar, Bangladesh and Bhutan, similar action should be taken against Ulfa activists through army led Operation, then only Assam will be free from the terror of terrorists.

*[English]*

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a series of bomb blasts rocked Assam. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should associate with him because he has made an elaborate submission.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I have given a notice. Kindly permit me to speak because I am from Assam.

Sir, from the month of June, more than 50 bomb blasts rocked Assam taking a large number of lives, and the people are in panic. There is a severe deterioration in the law and order situation in Assam. Very recently, there were reports of bomb blasts in Nagaon, Morigaon, Guwahati, Tinsukia, Chabua and Domsoma. There were also reports last evening of grenades at Silapathar and Barama being hurled and the detection of unexploded bombs in Kakapathhar area and Sadiya.

When the Central Government has taken the initiative of holding a dialogue with the militant outfits, the people of Assam had some expectations. Fresh efforts should, once again, be made by the Government of India to persuade the militant outfits to come to the negotiating table.

The Assam media has reported that two of the Ministers in the Assam Cabinet were involved in bomb blast which is a very unfortunate thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Nobody should try to politicise the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: They are not present here. Mr. Kirip Chaliha, allow me to conduct the House. I am a little aware of the rules, and I have already made my observation. I thank you for your cooperation, but I must say that this is not the way to do it. Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, please do not mention the names of those persons who are not here. If you have mentioned it, it will be deleted.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I am only quoting the media reports.

MR. SPEAKER: Please try to be very brief because Shri Sushil Modi has made an elaborate submission.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: While we condemn these bomb blasts, I must say that the situation in the North-East has international ramifications. The situation could be brought under control by tackling various camps located in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and in other parts of the world through which a large number of arms and drugs are coming into the North-Eastern Region.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a debate. This time is not for a debate.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: The North-Eastern Region is becoming a dumping ground for discarded arms coming from various countries. Also, the law and order situation in Assam is deteriorating day by day.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you a lot of time. You are now repeating what you have stated earlier.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: The Government of Assam agreed that they have failed in their duty to maintain the law and order situation.

MR. SPEAKER: You are repeating now.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Owing the moral responsibility for this, the Government of Assam should resign. This is my demand.

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate. Many hon. Members have given notice of important issues. If you want to make it a debate on every issue, how can we conduct the proceedings? We will have to abolish this procedure then. Kindly cooperate.



*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Health and Family Welfare Minister to the deaths taking place every year in Uttar Pradesh and various other parts of the country due to meningitis. Meningitis has been continuously causing heavy death toll in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh for last 25 years. Every year thousands of lives are lost because of it. But Central Government has not taken any initiative to curb the disease.

Sir, more than 4 thousand deaths have been reported because of meningitis since 1978 to 2003 only in B.R.D. Medical College Gorakhpur. This year B.R.D. Medical college has registered 212 casualties because of meningitis. For the first time in the western U.P. also 1200 deaths have occurred within 56 days.

Meningitis disease often sets in after rainy season. Children between the age of 6 months to 18 years are often caught in its grip. Whosoever child suffers from it either becomes crippled for life or dies because of lack of treatment. Last time also I requested the Government to introduce a large scale eradication programme against this disease on the lines of pulse polio vaccine campaign. Choosing a specific area will not help in curbing it. All the affected areas in the country should be identified and marked and the Government should take it as a mission and arrange for a vaccine for it.

I would once again like to urge the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare that Government of India should not leave the matter to the respective State Governments and take serious measures to check the large number of deaths occurring annually. Test laboratories should be established at prone areas to conduct tests in this regard. Vaccines should be arranged for at such places to check the disease.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised a very important issue.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, world renowned Taj Mahal, for which votes are being cast through SMS to get it included in the list of seven wonders of the world, is in danger today. Taj is near

Yamuna River which is dry there. All the Engineers and Scientists have written and it is being published in newspapers world over that the Taj will start tilting down and its foundation would weaken if there is no water at the bank near Taj. This year we are celebrating 350th anniversary of Taj. I have been making appeal for water in this House for last two years. There were agitations in Agra in this regard and there were prosecutions too. Yesterday, I met honourable Prime Minister in this regard. I am thankful to him that he has assured me to solve the problem.

Today, there is a news in the papers that the people of Agra might suffer from deadly diseases like jaundice and cancer due to the contaminated water. Haryana and Delhi's industrial waste being way-laid into Yamuna has polluted it to a great extent.

Water coming from above is polluted. People of Agra are getting water which contains flourides and they are appealing to the Union as well as State Governments for water. I too have tried from pillar to post, sometimes I am directed to go to the State and sometimes to the Centre. I went to the honourable Prime Minister also, he has assured me. In the coming years the crisis of water will become more horrible. I request that Agra should not be tossed between the Centre and the State, sincere efforts should be made to solve this problem so that both Taj and the people of Agra are saved.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, in future, I will not allow any hon. Member to speak from any seat other than his own seat. Please be assured.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, thousands of Anganwadi women workers and helpers under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) are demonstrating in Jantar Mantar today to draw the attention of the Government of India to their genuine demands. Anganwadi women workers and helpers are created by the Government of India for the ICDS in the Department of Women and Child under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Anganwadi workers are presently burdened with more work than that of in the initial days. They play a crucial role in imparting pre-school education to ICDS. More than 12 million children between the age of three and five from the disadvantaged groups are participating in the ICDS. So far as the ICDS is concerned, officers, supervisors and drivers are all recognised and considered as Government employees but

not the ICDS workers and helpers. Hence, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister—hon. Minister himself is present here—if he desires, he can set up a committee to look into the issue and consider their genuine demands so that they can be regularised.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to submit to the Government that the Members of Parliament get Rs. 2 crores under the MPLADS Fund. Estimated amounts are also increasing with the hike in prices and we are unable to satisfy people's demands with this meagre amount. In Bihar, we have to pay 12% tax as sales tax and royalty tax. Departmental works are there, contractor hire people on contract, they also take a percentage of money. We request the Government that MPLADS should be abolished and some alternative way of the development of the region may be chosen so that the Members' image is saved.

SHRI FURKAN ANSARI (Godda): Sir, the condition in Jharkhand State is horrible and pitiable, terrorists are doing 'Tandav' there. Till now 300 police personnels and nearly 50 Police inspectors have been killed and their arms have been looted. Life comes to a stand still in sixteen districts after 6 pm as terrorists rule the State at night. The situation is very explosive now. There is nothing like Government in the State. Terrorism has spread its tentacles from 5 to 16 districts now. Fearstricken tribals and labourers are migrating from the State. Mafias and terrorists have overbearing influence and the Government is a silent spectator. Such Government is of no good. Hence, I forcefully demand the Union Government that after assessing the situation, in order to restore peace and order it should immediately dismiss the Jharkhand Government and impose the President rule.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You are making the demand at the very drop of hat.

*[Translation]*

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit to honourable Defence Minister that in my constituency Netrahat field firing range is creating problem for the people. My parliamentary constituency is a backward area. The tribals and downtrodden people are in whopping number. People

have stated migrating from the place due to field firing range. Previously whenever they practised. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, it is not permitted to walk between the line of the Member on his legs and the Chair. Please do not do it in future.

*[Translation]*

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: In the past whenever there were practice exercises, the leftover ammunition caused crippledness to many people. The downtrodden and tribals of that area demand that field firing range should be permanently shifted from there to some other place. That is hilly area and such exercises create pollution there.

The hon'ble Minister of Defence is sitting here. Rehearsal is about to start there from January 5 that has created fear and terror among the people. That rehearsal should be stopped and the field firing range removed forever from there.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hansraj Ahir—Absent.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am lucky that the Minister of Human Resource Development is sitting here. I have downloaded the details of incident from the Internet which occurred in Delhi one and a half months ago. The incident is a slur on the society. Two students of class eleventh of Delhi Public School were involved in sex scandal. Its sex clippings have been circulated not only in India but in Singapore, America and Europe also. The hon'ble Minister is sitting here. The involved girl was the daughter of an ex-serviceman of the Army whereas involved boy belonged to a very wealthy family. I would like to quote one thing here. Under the Delhi Education Act, 1973, the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development do not have provision to impose ban on carrying high technology equipments like Mobile or Video Camera which do not have any connection with education to schools. It is also against the rules to give extension to a Principal after retirement from the service. The Principal of the Delhi Public School who is of high stature, where the sex scandal took place has been on illegal extension for the last three years. There's a clause regarding giving extension which states that extension can be given only to that person who has received a National or State Award. Those who have had any kind of ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There should be no allegation against an individual.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not levelling allegations. The hon'ble Minister of HRD should form a Committee and get the investigation done in this matter so that the society may not face such a slur in the future. Such incidents should not happen again.

[English]

Accordingly, the policy should be changed to curtail, curb and stop this illegal practice from the education system.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have constituted the National Council of Teachers Education under the National Council of Teachers Education Act, 1993 for the purpose of giving recognition to the Teachers Education Institutes of various levels which is in force since 1995. After the implementation of this Act, only the B.Ed. degree awarded by institutions which are recognised and permitted by the N.C.T.E. are considered valid for the appointment of teachers of various categories. This Act of the National Council of Teachers Education is not in force in the State of Jammu-Kashmir. The B.Ed. degree holders, who have been awarded the degrees by Jammu-Kashmir, have been getting appointments in other States of the country. Recently, at the time of recruitment of teachers in Rajasthan, those who have had their B.Ed. degrees from Jammu-Kashmir were certainly allowed to appear in the examination, however, uncertainty has been prevailing in the State regarding the validity and recognition of their degrees, and for the time being, the State Government has withheld the results of such degree holders. When the N.C.T.E. Act itself is not in force in the State of Jammu-Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, I want to know whether the degrees being awarded by the Jammu and Kashmir University are recognised or not, whether the National Council of Technical Education recognises them or not. What is the exact position? So, it is my submission to the hon.

Minister of Human Resource Development to clear the position.

There are thousand of students of Rajasthan who have done their B.Ed. from Jammu and Kashmir. If steps are not taken, they would be deprived of the jobs which are guaranteed to them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: That is a good point.

Now, Prof. Shiwankar. You have given a notice for arising two issues. But you have to raise only one issue. It may be either on statue or on irrigation project.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Sir, I would raise the issue of statue.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is a jewel of the country and pride of the nation. The Government of Maharashtra as well as the Chief Minister of the State have requested the Union Government to give them permission to install his statue at the fort situated at his capital, Raigarh. During June-July, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra himself wrote a letter to the Prime Minister. It requires the permission of the Union Government since the fort of Raigarh is a preserved memorial. So, through you, I would request the Union Government to allow the Government of Maharashtra to erect the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Raigarh. The Union Government have neither to bear expenses, nor provide grant in this matter. They have only to grant permission for the same. Therefore, I request the Union Government to grant permission at the earliest for the installation of this statue. I am sure that the Union Government would take initiative in this regard at the earliest.

12.42 hrs.

RE: HARDSHIP CAUSED TO THE PEOPLE DUE TO SHORTAGE OF ANTI RABIES VACCINES

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Sir, here, I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance. Throughout the country, a large number of people are suffering from dearth of ARVs, *i.e.*, Anti-Rabies Vaccines. Supply of these vaccines through the public health care delivery system is in dearth. We do not know the facts.

But there are a large number of victims of rabies or dog bites in the country. Due to non-availability of these vaccines, they have to depend on the commercial institutions. From the market, these vaccines are being purchased at a high rate. So, the people are getting distressed.

Therefore, it is my humble submission to the Union Government to come out with a definite proposal, to mitigate the sufferings of the people, by supplying adequate ARVs throughout the country at a lower price or subsidized price. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santasri Chatterjee, you may also associate with Dr. Dome.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Sir, I do associate with the hon. Member. But I have also a submission to make. In this regard, the Indian Council of Medical Research has been experimenting an alternative medicine, but it will take time, at least, up to March, 2005. In the meantime, if the 31st December deadline is over, what would be the fate of thousand and thousand of people who are the victims of dog bites and other bites?

Therefore, I would request the hon. Health Minister to kindly look into this matter and talk to the State Governments for immediate relief to the people.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I think, this is a serious matter, and it should be brought to the notice of the hon. Health Minister. It is about the supply of anti-rabies vaccines.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, I would bring it to the notice of the hon. Health Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

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[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Santasri Chatterjee, I have interceded on your behalf.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, thousands of merchants from all over India and their Associations have come to Delhi and are staging a rally today regarding VAT, though it has been announced by the

Finance Minister as well as the Government that it will be useful to the merchants also at large by way of cutting other taxes and pointing out all the taxes to one so that only one window will be there for taxation. But the problem is, they are to pay all the taxes including the Central Sales Tax and also the State taxes. I would submit that before implementing the VAT—especially, some of the State Governments have been refusing to implement but some States have taken the decision to implement—the request of the merchants is that it should be discussed with them as they have very serious grievances. Even if it is to be implemented, it could be in a different way.

So, I urge upon the Minister of Finance and also, through you, the Government, that some urgent steps may be taken to call their representatives to talk to them and find a way in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, there are two junctions viz. Muajampur and Gajraula between the Jammu Tawi-Howrah main line and Moradabad-Delhi mainline in the Muradabad division. The track on the lines joining both the junctions are of British period. I have already requested the hon'ble Minister of Railways in writing for changing and doubling the track and through you I would like to request once again for the same. Secondly, this track passes through Bijnor Headquarters. An additional train from there upto Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh may be started, as not only the passengers of Bijnor but the passengers of Meerut and Mujaffarnagar districts also undertake journey from Bijnor to Lucknow. Through you, I would request for an additional train there. Besides, there is always traffic jam because of the manual crossings situated on both sides of the Bijnor and Chandpur railway stations. Therefore, I would urge that these may be converted into Hydraulic crossings.

[*English*]

SHRI ALKESH DAS (Nawadwip): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak here. My question is regarding conversion of railway track from narrow gauge to broad gauge in my parliamentary constituency Nawadwip of West Bengal. I have already requested the Railway Minister for conversion of narrow gauge to broad gauge of Shantipur-Nawadwip Dham line. A survey of the part has already been completed for this. Rs. 22 crore is required for conversion of 12 km. of

[Shri Alkesh Das]

line. I request the Minister of Railways to start the project soon.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ravi Prakash Verma, are you not interested?

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: I am very much interested, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You all are talking to each other.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the contract regarding loading and unloading of foodgrains in the warehouses of Uttar Pradesh under Central Warehousing Corporation, a Government of India Undertaking, has been approved 99.5 per cent below the scheduled rate, which is highly impractical. Due to this all the contracts have been acquired by the powerful people and approximately Rs. 3000 per truck carrying foodgrains are being taken forcibly due to the connivance of the local contractors and officers, this amount ultimately to be borne by the farmers. Especially, at the selling centres charging government support price, the farmers are being made to pay approximately Rs. 1500 per acres for selling their crops in the case of selling the wheat and paddy crops, which is deplorable. I request the Government of India to take action in this matter immediately and take effective steps.

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (Bapatla): Sir, over 20,000 Documentary Films have been made by the Films Division of India regarding the nation's history and the development activities.

Now these films are in danger because they have been subjected to continuous neglect and very damp conditions. These documentaries are not only of historical importance but also of archival importance. They are part of our nation's history. They definitely need to be protected for posterity. All these documentary films are presently being stored in the old building of Films Division on Pedar Road in Mumbai. The condition of the building is deplorable and it is dilapidated with almost cracked walls.

I would request the Government to take firm and concrete steps to shift these films to a better place and to also provide good infrastructure and facilities to protect them for posterity.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised a very good matter.

Shri Harishchandra Chavan—not present.

[Translation]

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (Jaigaon): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the kind attention of the Hon'ble Minister that the mineral water certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards is sold through bottles and pouch. Bureau of Indian Standards has given ISI mark to both types of packaging by water manufacturers, however, recently Bureau of Indian Standards has suddenly put restrictions on the sale of mineral water through pouch, due to which the mineral water manufacturers throughout the country are surprised.

Sir, what is the justice is allowing bottlepacked water to be sold and putting restrictions on the manufacturers of the pouched water? This has rendered thousands of pouch makers, mineral water sellers and pouch packers unemployed. Lakhs of workers in this profession have also become unemployed. Several manufacturers had started their business by taking loans from the banks. After the restriction imposed on the sale of mineral water in pouch, they are facing a lot of difficulty in repaying the bank loans.

Sir, through you, I request the hon'ble Minister of Health that he should issue directions at the earliest to lift the restrictions on the sale of mineral water in the pouch.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Goa, there are two constituencies, one is Panaji and the other Marmagoa. There is a Juarai bridge, for connecting both the areas, which is situated on the National Highway No. 17. It was being repaired spending crores of rupees in the last two years. When it was being repaired, the people had been assured that after the repair it would be opened for heavy vehicles, however, even after one year of the completion of the repair of the bridge it has not been opened for the people, due to which the people have to take a round of 50 kilometres. Through you, I request the Minister of Road Transport and Highways to open the bridge for the passage of heavy vehicles at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I beg to raise a matter concerning the security of our nation.

An editorial appearing in *The Indian Express*, New Delhi Edition dated 14.12.2004 has revealed a very serious fact about the incompetency of our highest security agency, namely, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). It says that Shri Rabinder Singh who was working as Joint Secretary in the RAW had managed to quietly flee the country, despite being under official surveillance for passing on sensitive information to the CIA. But more shocking is the fact that despite the serious implications of Rabinder Singh's disappearance, there appears no discernible movement on the part of the Government to trace him or declare him a proclaimed offender and bring him to justice or at the very least, assess the damage the man has done to the country's interest and that of the organisation he was supposedly working for. RAW's quiescence on this matter, indicates its own fear of exposure. It is also alleged that Rabinder Singh could have acquired or controlled not less than fifteen properties over some 27 years in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab which requires to be thoroughly investigated.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to make statement on this matter.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, I take this occasion to raise the issue of euthanasia, *i.e.*, the permission to donate human organs while the patient is still alive.

The Andhra Pradesh High Court judgement of yesterday rejected the appeal of Mr. Venkatesh, an unfortunate man of 25 years. This looks like similar to the mercy killing but this is something different. While the patient donates his organs, in the process he is allowed to die. Mr. Venkatesh is suffering from Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a neurological defect and which is a genetic disease, for the last 19 years, *i.e.*, from the age of six. He is bed-ridden for he last 14 years and now lying in a pathetic condition with multi-organ failure, except the brain.

If the ventilator is removed, then the patient will die. His organs might get infected which would be useless later on.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a matter before the court.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, the present law on Human Organ Transplant permits donation of organs only in the event of natural death or accidental death or brain death. In this case, only the brain is alive. It is a pathetic case. The mother of the patient has

appealed to both the Government authorities as well as the court to permit donation of the organs of his son as there is absolutely no chance of his recovery.

Sir, presently we do not have a law for mercy killing in hopeless cases. If we do not amend the present law to that extent, then the society at large would be cruel to such patients. The Government should take necessary measures in this regard at the earliest to avoid any misuse.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very controversial issue.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, there should be provision for mercy killing in the Act and the Act should be amended accordingly to facilitate such things.

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to raise an issue of public importance.

Sir, it pertains to the upgradation of television network across the Western and the Northern regions of our country. There are basically two reasons as to why we should have a good television network in that region. Firstly, it is a strategic region. Sometimes the reception from across the border, that is from Pakistan, is much clear in regions like Jammu, Poonch or in the Valley or sometimes even in Himachal Pradesh. We need to counter that.

Secondly, it is required for the education of our farming community. These areas are inhabited mostly by the farmers. The antennas that are already there, those are communication antennas and those can be connected with powerful transmitters which would help in getting better signals thereby improve the quality of reception.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government formulate various schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Tribes so as to encourage the people of this category. However, there is an ordinance factory in the Chandarpur area in Maharashtra where the workers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are working, who sought permission for a meeting on 17 February, 2004 from management through their organisation, Registered Trade Union. A written application for the same was also submitted on 5th February, 2004, however, the manager refused to give them permission

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

to hold the meeting within the complex and treated them as untouchables. In that situation, the employees had to hold the meeting outside of the complex and the management caused financial loss to the employees and withheld their increment.

Therefore, through you, I request the Union Government to get this incident investigated and provide the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees protection to support them in getting justice and their withheld increments may be got released and the guilty persons in this regard be brought to book.

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring it to the notice of the Government that the earthquake that had struck in Gujarat and had affected not only the Kutchh area Shasan, Malya in the Junagarh district of the Saurashtra region but the whole world. Prior to that mild tremors had been felt for almost three months in the Bhawnagar town and thereafter Kutchh had to face the worst quake.

Sir, in my constituency, mild tremors are being felt for almost three months in Malya, Talabagir and in Bhuj area and in Kutchh district from Anjar to Gandhidham and yesterday Bankaner and Morbi also felt mild tremors. Three years ago mild tremors were recorded for three months in Bhawnagar and bigger quake came at Kutchh. Thousands of people have been devastated in this quake. I urge upon the Government to make the people of that area aware about the type of tremors being felt at the earliest.

13.00 hrs.

If needed, a technical team from here may be sent over there to make people aware of the required safety measures to avert the recurrence of the incident that took place three years back.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not hope so.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hansraj G. Ahir, you were not present when you were called. In future, I will not do that. I am giving this warning to all the hon. Members that when they have given a notice and remain absent, they will lose their turn. Now, you may speak.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my constituency of Chandrapur, there are some mines of Coal India which are being operated under lease of the Forest Department. The officials of the Forest Department of Maharashtra have recently made an effort to cancel their lease by issuing notices to these mines to get them closed down. If these mines are closed down, about 9500 labourers of the Chandrapur area working in these mines will lose their employment. The coal mined from these mines are supplied to the thermal power station of Chandrapur. This thermal power station may face its closure if the supply of coal is stopped.

Through you, I would urge upon the Union Government to intervene and order for the renewal of their lease and extend help to keep these mines operational.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, with your kind co-operation, we have allowed 28 hon. Members to take part in the 'Zero Hour'.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three  
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item No. 11, Matters under Rule 377.

(1) **Need to transfer the Krishna Canal-Tada Railway Section in Vijayawada Division to Guntur Division of South Central Railways**

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway

Minister to the fact that the Guntur Railway Division, Andhra Pradesh has newly come into force. It was inaugurated in 1997. But it comprises only:

1. Guntur-Bibi Nagar
2. Guntur-Krishna Canal
3. Guntur-Nandyal Section of S.C. Railway.

But Guntur district is closely connected to the districts of Prakasam and Nellore districts, geographically, industrially and business-wise. To have an effective connectivity with these parts, the track between Krishna Canal Junction and Tada lying between Vijayawada and Chennai Section which is under the jurisdiction of Vijayawada Railway Division be transferred to Guntur Division.

Guntur, Tenali and Vijayawada (Krishna Canal) are big towns, densely populated and are popular for education and business also having common urban development authority.

To meet the heavy rush of passengers moving between these three towns, it is requested that circular trains between Guntur-Tenali-Vijayawada be introduced.

To introduce the circular trains:

1. Krishna Canal—Guntur-doubling and electrification to be completed.
2. Guntur—Tenali-doubling to be completed.

To complete this doubling and electrification between Guntur and Krishna Canal estimated cost is coming to around Rs. 70 crore and doubling between Guntur and Tenali is coming to around Rs. 30 crore. Already survey has been conducted.

I, therefore, urge the hon. Minister to kindly accept this proposal which will be beneficial to the public for easy and quick movement and to improve business.

- (ii) Need to release funds to Rajasthan Government for providing scholarships to post-matric students of Other Backward Classes category**

*[Translation]*

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a provision to grant post-matric scholarship to students belonging to the Other Backward

Caste category studying in the colleges, universities and technical education institutes. This scholarship is given to the students residing in hostels and to those who remain off campus but are regular. This scholarship has not been paid so far to the students of Rajasthan while the educational session is at its fag end. It has been submitted after the receipt of a report from the State Government that the Government of Rajasthan has made a demand for Rs. 5.26 crores for the year 2004-2005 for the campus students and for Rs. 12.35 crores for students residing off-campus.

It is my submission to the hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment to release at the earliest the entire amount to the Rajasthan Government keeping in view the interests of the students of Rajasthan belonging to the Other Backward Caste category. I would also like to submit that this post-matriculation scholarship scheme for the Other Backward Caste category being funded wholly by the Union Government be given wide publicity through the media so that maximum number of poor students belonging to the Other Backward Castes category may be benefited from this scheme.

- (iii) Need to consider the Panchayats as units under the Crop Insurance Scheme in Orissa**

*[English]*

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): In my parliamentary constituency, Berhampur, Orissa, some areas have been affected by heavy drought. In the last month, on 29th, people had a demonstration before the Dighpahandi Block which falls in my parliamentary constituency for immediate relief measures. Earlier, Panchayats were being considered as one unit under the Crop Insurance Scheme. Due to this, affected Panchayats could get full relief from the Insurance Company and from the Central or State Governments. But now blocks have been made as units for crop insurance due to which Panchayats affected by drought do not get the benefit of insurance.

So, I request, through you, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of Agriculture to reconsider and direct the insurance company to make Panchayats as units.

- (iv) Need to conduct a survey for laying of new railway lines and gauge conversion work in Saurashtra region of Gujarat**

*[Translation]*

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Saurashtra region of Gujarat



[Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad]

and its coastal area is adjacent to the border of Pakistan. Due to the proximity, the protection of the coastal area is very important.

Besides, huge industries of cement and soda ash involving crores of rupees are located along the entire coastal area which makes the transportation of crude and manufactured goods very significant.

The birth-place of the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi—Porbandar, temple of Lord Krishna at Dwarka and Somnath Mahadev Temple are located here. Tourists from the country and abroad visit here in large numbers to these important religious places. "Saasan gir Vistaar" linked with the 'Kesari' Lion of the Asian region also falls under this area.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to take action urgently on the following suggestions meant for the development of this area:

1. Survey may be got conducted for a new broad gauge railway line from the Dwarka region to Porbandar port and Varawal port.
2. Survey may be got conducted for a new broad-gauge railway line from Pipwau port to Una Dilwara.
3. Gauge conversion be carried out from Varawal port to Talala-Jamvala-Una and required fund be provided in the budget to make available the said facilities.

**(v) Need to give financial assistance to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for undertaking Relief Measures for the Drought-Affected people of the State**

SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN (Balaghat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several districts in Madhya Pradesh have been declared drought affected by the State Government. There is shortage of employment, drinking water and fodder for animals. The State Government has started unemployment eradication programme which is not sufficient. The Union Government has not conducted any survey of drought affected areas so far. It has not provided adequate funds and foodgrains to the State. If relief work is not started on war footing, the situation may be critical.

I request the Union Government to take necessary steps in this regard at the earliest.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan—not present.

**(vi) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for constructing a dam at Pachnada In Jalaun District, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): There is shortage of irrigation water in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh due to which the farmers are not able to grow their crops in time. The crops get damaged due to shortage of water. There is confluence of five rivers in my district and sufficient quantity of water is available there.

Therefore, we demand that a dam should be constructed at Pachnada, the confluence of five rivers so that the farmers of Etawah, Orey, Kanpur Dehat, district Jalaun and several other districts in Uttar Pradesh can grow their crops. The construction of dam will do away with the dacoit in the affected areas also. Financial assistance should be provided to the State Government for this purpose.

**(vii) Need to Construct an Airport In Himachal Pradesh for Promoting Tourism in the State**

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government that Himachal Pradesh is a hilly and border State, with vast potentiality of tourism. Facilities of trains and extension of air services have not been made in Himachal Pradesh so far. The State Government is trying to develop tourism with its limited resources but it is not able to strike a balance between the immense possibilities and limited resources. Therefore optimum number of tourists are not coming to the State. I have been drawing the attention of the hon. Railway Minister and Minister of Civil Aviation towards the extension of rail and air services since three consecutive Lok Sabha terms but of no avail.

Through you, I request the Government of India to set up a National Airport where airbus 320 can land easily. It will facilitate tourists from Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata etc. to directly reach Himachal Pradesh.

**(viii) Need to construct bridges on Jhansi-Mirzapur National Highways in Hamirpur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the absence of

two small bridges between Kalapahar and Sugira Gram, two small bridges between Harpalpur (M.P.) and Devari Dam and any bridge on Kyolari river between Panwari and Harpalpur, the national highway between Jhansi-Mirzapur, that falls in my parliamentary constituency, remains totally blocked during rainy season while this national highway is a very busy road.

I would therefore like to request that survey of the above sites may please be conducted and approval for the construction of the above bridges be given immediately before the onset of coming rainy season.

**(ix) Need to Build Gorasahan-Sitamarhi Road on Indo-Nepal Border**

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Sir, there is a need to construct a road and bridge between Dheng railway station to Majorganj Block via Rega and district headquarters Sitamarhi and Ghorasahan Bairganiya Dheng railway bridge on the river Bagmati on the Indo Nepal border. This is link road between two countries. This is a very backward and sensitive area hence it is very essential to construct this road.

Hence, I demand the Union Government that this road should be constructed at the earliest.

**(x) Need to incorporate 'Right to Strike' as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution**

*[English]*

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, 'Right to Strike' is a sacred right enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy in the form of safeguarding workers interests. When the teachers and State Government employees of Tamil Nadu Government went on strike, the case went to the Supreme Court. The Court held that the Government employees had no legal right to resort to strike. To mitigate the effect of this ruling, various trade union organisations have been agitating for incorporating the 'Right to Strike' by workers/employees for their genuine demands as Fundamental Right guaranteed in the Constitution of India. India being a party and signatory to ILO Convention on Right to Strike, the Government should come forward to take steps. It has also been mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme of UPA and our Leader Dr. Kalaingar has also written to the Prime Minister for passing legislation guaranteeing the workers' right to strike.

I, therefore, urge upon the Prime Minister and the Labour Minister to bring a Constitution (Amendment) Bill to incorporate 'Right to Strike' as one of the Fundamental Rights.

**(xi) Need to Provide a Special Economic Package for Revival of Industries in Jharkhand**

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Above 2000 small and big industries have been closed in the last five years in Jharkhand which has rendered one and half lakh labourers jobless. Only recently five thousand labourers became jobless due to the closure of Glass Factory in Bhurkhunda in Hazaribagh district. More than twenty five thousand people who were dependent on the factory have also been deprived of their means of livelihood. Prior to it the one and the only fertilizer factory Sindri, 6 mines of Hindustan Copper Mines at Basal, Cement factory at Khalri have already been closed. The ECL and the BCCL of the Coal India Ltd., Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi are also not in good position. Jharkhand which was earlier known for its mills and factories and mines and opulent forests is losing its identity.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to provide a special economic package for reopening the closed factories and reviving the sick industries as Jharkhand is a tribal dominated State.

**(xii) Need to erect a statue of the renowned social reformer, Sree Narayana Guru at a prominent place in Delhi**

*[English]*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, Sree Narayana Guru was a social reformer who relentlessly fought against casteism and the social backwardness of millions of Indians. His renowned messages—'One caste, one religion, one God for mankind'; 'it is enough that one becomes pure be whatever religion one belongs to'; 'enrich yourself by education'; and his most humane and practical teachings have influenced millions of people. His teachings have become more relevant now, and it is necessary to honour and spread them to the future generations. It is only befitting that his statue be erected at an appropriate place in Delhi, preferably near Parliament, Rashtrapati Bhavan or Central Secretariat. I request the Central Government to take urgent steps in this regard.

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

I have also written a letter to the hon. Speaker to consider it being placed in the Parliament.

- (xiii) **Need to provide necessary support and inputs to the State Government of Nagaland to track down the culprits involved in the explosions at Dimapur on 2 October, 2004**

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Sir, Dimapur is the only commercial capital of Nagaland, which was rocked by two explosions in the morning of 2 October, 2004. One of the blasts took place at Dimapur Railway Station and the other blast took place in Hongkong market. Both the explosions were powerful and caused loss of many innocent lives and injuries to many others. Twenty-six persons died and about 75 were seriously injured.

The State Government set up a high level administrative inquiry into the bomb blasts and also constituted a special investigation team. However, the perpetrators have not been identified till now. As Naga underground groups do not indulge in such indiscriminate killings, this appears to be the handiwork of groups operating from outside the State. Involvement of terrorist organisations outside the country cannot be ruled out.

Nagaland had not witnessed such terrorist violence before. I request that the Central security agencies may provide necessary support and inputs to the State machinery to track down the culprits. I also appeal to the Union Home Minister to provide all possible assistance to upgrade the capabilities of the State security agencies to deal with this menace effectively.

- (xiv) **Need to allocate the required funds for enabling timely completion of the Special Rural Connectivity Programme—Phase I in KBK districts of Orissa**

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, pursuant to a discussion between the hon. Prime Minister and Chief Minister of Orissa on 10.4.2003, a special connectivity programme has been launched in the KBK districts in the year 2003-2004. Accordingly, the State Government have, in consultation with the Government of India, submitted the Phase-I of the special rural connectivity programme with an estimated cost of Rs. 828.10 crore to the Planning Commission of India. The programme, to be implemented in four years, is already approved by the Planning Commission in principle vide D.O. letter No. 13053/KBK/2/2003-MLP dated 15.9.2003. In order to implement this component within

the stipulated time frame (2003-04) to 2005-06, Planning Commission have been requested, vide P&C Deptt. Letter No. 7133/P dated 10.5.2004, to give firm commitment for provisions of additional resources of Rs. 387.17 crore. The Planning Commission's response is awaited. So, I request the Government to direct the Planning Commission to confirm it as KBK RLTP fully depends on the rural connectivity.

- (xv) **Need to declare the road between Ettaiyapuram and Rajapalayam in Tamil Nadu as a National Highway**

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): The world famous Pearl city of Tuticorin has the busiest commercial port situated in the Southern part of Tamil Nadu. The State road between Tuticorin and Rajapalayam, via Ettaiyapuram (the birth place of great freedom fighter Subramania Bharathi) on Kovilpatti-Thiruvengadam route bears heavy traffic because of to and fro movement of goods carriers from Tuticorin to Rajapalayam, which is another famous cotton business city in my constituency. There are more than 100 container lorries, tempos and around 100 State transport buses plying everyday on this State highway. Since the road is very narrow and congested, accidents are becoming a regular feature on this route.

I urge upon the Union Government to declare this route, i.e. Ettaiyapuram to Rajapalayam, as a National Highway and allot Central funds for strengthening and widening of the road. This would facilitate an alternate route to the commercial towns of Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu and Quilon in Kerala.

14.22 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL  
OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES  
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ORDINANCE  
AND  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITY  
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BILL, 2004—Contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up items 12 and 13 together. For this Bill, 4 hours were allotted. We have already taken 2 hours and 17 minutes. The time left with us is 1 hour and 43 minutes. I would request the hon. Members, who are going to speak, to be very brief in their speeches.

Yogi Aditya Nath may speak now.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Human Resource Development has introduced National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Bill, 2004 in the House. This Bill is against the tenets of our secular fabric given in our Constitution and which re-inculcates the feeling of two-nations theory which resulted in division of the country in 1947. Therefore, I strongly oppose the Bill.

Sir, the country is facing a lot of problems. The hon. Minister may be aware of the literacy rate in the country. Even after 57 years of independence, more than 35 per cent population of the country is illiterate. Had the Union Minister of Human Resource Development introduced this Bill to eradicate illiteracy irrespective of any caste, religion, class or community, all the parties would have unanimously supported the Bill. But, the Congress has divided the country on the basis of minority and majority and also created hatred in the country.

Since the UPA Government assumed power efforts are being made to spread hatred speedily in the whole country. The important issue on which we should pay attention is, who are minorities? According to UN Charter, a community constituting less than 10 per cent of the total population of the country is called as minority. In fact, other communities can be considered as minorities but Muslim community is not a minority community in India. We should try to desist from the way, the UPA Govt. are misusing minority card of Muslims on political considerations. The term 'minority' is being interpreted wrongly. It is also to be avoided. There was no need of this Bill as the objective of this Bill is already available under Article 30 which says that 'All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.' Despite all this, Article 30 provides for establishment and administration of minority educational institutions, so there was no need to introduce the Bill regarding affiliation. If any institution apply for getting affiliation to a university and the institution applying for affiliation does not fulfil the norms prescribed for the same, in such case the same institution can easily get affiliation in the name of minority institution. It was Arya Samaj who condemned the social evils and fundamentalism and it had to take shelter of the court to prove itself as a non-Hindu organisation. To protect its institution from the

Government intervention, the Ram Krishna Mission has also to take shelter of the court to declare itself a minority institution. Sinister effort is being made by the Congress Party to destroy the age old culture of India. I strongly oppose this effort. This Bill deserves strong opposition as the UPA Government have introduced the Bill to destroy the traditional system of India. Therefore, we support the resolution moved by hon. Member of our party for disapproval of the Bill. Definitely, the purpose of the UPA Government behind introducing the Bill is to appease the minority community. Out of six Universities named in the Bill, four universities are situated in North-East States.

Sir, he knows that the missionaries have made an attempt to destroy the traditional culture of the tribal community of the north-eastern States of the country after independence. Everybody know as to what treatment has been meted to the Riyang tribe six years back. They were compelled to embrace Christianity. When they did not embrace Christianity, they were sent out of the States. Even today, they are living in the refugee shelters. Efforts are being made to destroy their traditional culture. A plot is being hatched to affiliate the missionary institutions, either they fulfil the prescribed norms or not, to the four Universities namely North Eastern Hill University, Assam University, Nagaland University or Mizoram University. These are four universities of North Eastern region.

One is University of Delhi and the other one is Pondicherry University. The Bill provides for seeking affiliation to the six universities. Its main reason is that in the North Eastern States of the country, conversion has taken place after independence. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not disturb him.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Through conversion demanding change of the country and the position of terrorism that has been created there is being promoted by the Congress which is working in this direction. Besides, the plot being hatched by the Congress is the outcome of mutual rivalry. Today, everybody knows that there is mock fight between the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the Congress led Government at the Centre. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sometimes the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh proposes to set up an Urdu University, he talks about setting up minority colony in all the metropolitan cities of Uttar Pradesh and sometimes announces that there will be holiday on 'Jumma Namaj' day. Such type of meaningless announcements are being made in Uttar Pradesh, today. If on the lines of the above an Urdu University is set up in Uttar Pradesh then we will also set up such a commission which can be utilised as a vote Bank. Therefore, I would like to say that there are many issues before us. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Shailendra Kumar, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: It would have been in the fitness of things if the honourable Minister brought forward a Bill to introduce an amendment to the Muslim Personal Law in this country. The honourable Supreme Court of India has issued direction to the Central Government not once but thrice emphasising the need to enforce a uniform civil code throughout the country. The honourable Supreme Court of India has directed the Central Government thrice that a uniform civil code should be implemented in India. There is an urgent need to take corrective measures against widespread illiteracy, injustice and social discrimination etc. suffered by the Muslim women and prevalent in the Muslim society.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Therefore, today I would like to submit to the honourable Minister that there is need

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\*Not recorded.

to uplift the Muslim society by eradicating the illiteracy, educating and motivating them to control population rise and enabling them access to modern education. We would have been pleased to support any Bill brought forward by the UPA Government providing for discouraging polygamy prevalent in the Muslim society or mitigating their health problems. But this Bill cannot be supported at all because the Government have through this Bill initiated a conspiracy to divide India again on the lines of two nation theory. Not only are we opposing it but the 'Darol Ulum' has also opposed this conspiracy being hatched by the Congress. The "Darol Ulum" Nadvatul had also opposed the Conference organised by the honourable Minister in July.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, further more there is illiteracy prevalent in the Muslim society of the country today and if we go by the data of about twenty universities of north India, we would come to know that a meagre 1.5 per cent Muslim students are enrolled in them. Only two per cent Muslim students have taken admission in the ten medical colleges of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. What is the reason for this. The main reason of it is that today education is being imparted in Muslim society through madrasas and the main thrust thereof is to provide religious education and the fact remains, that religious education cannot produce scientists or doctor. Religious education through Madrasas in this country can only breed religious fanaticism and if the honourable Minister of Human Resource Development would have introduced any Bill to check that then we might have supported that. But we should oppose tooth and nail any Bill which intends to divide India on the basis of minority and majority. I would like to say the honourable Minister that his name is Shri Arjun Singh. In 'dwapar yuga' Aryan had fought against unrighteousness and injustice. At least he should not conspire to destroy India's traditional cultural and piety. I once again strongly oppose this Bill introduced by the honourable Minister.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I rise to support this Bill not merely because I am a Congressman and the Congress Party is leading the UPA Government but more because I am secular.

I have gone through the Bill very analytically. I find that this is the right time for this Bill to be introduced, particularly to infuse confidence in the minorities, to boost their morale which is at the lowest level now in their minds, to create a sense and a feeling that they are equal partners in the progress and development of the country, and also to ensure that the guarantee given in the Constitution to the minorities is carried out.

It was also seen in the opinions expressed by several minority leaders in a seminar conducted by the Ministry of HRD in the recent past that every eminent educationist has expressed a desire that we must have a commission for minority educational institutions. They are more eminent than us and they are more particularly from the minorities. They know what is good for them and what is wrong. They have said that this commission is required.

I have heard the other day my colleagues from the other side speaking. I heard the speeches of Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Shri Sushil Kumar Modi and Shri Anant Geete and other day and I have now listened to the speech of Yogi Aditya Nath. I was really surprised by the way they put their arguments? *...(Interruptions)*

Now, Yogi Aditya Nath has brought in a new issue. He says that the Muslims are not minorities. He has put in a very innovative idea. He says that they are not at all minorities. So, for that reason, he opposes this Bill.

I have also taken note of the comments made by Shri Rawat as well as Shri Modi. They said that the Congress Government was in power for the last 45 years but it has not done anything to see that there is improvement in the conditions of the minorities. I would like to ask them a question directly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Rao, please address the Chair; do not address individuals.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Presuming that they are right that the Congress has not done enough to improve the conditions of minorities in the country, at least they would all agree that Congress is not responsible for provoking certain religious communities and certain sections of the people through *rath yatras* and Godhra-like incidents. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, we oppose the reference to Godhra incident. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: Congress has never been responsible for such incidents. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you on a point of order?

*...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, would you allow this kind of an interruption to go on?

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, all of us kept quiet when they were speaking. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Sir, this kind of interruption should not be permitted. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whenever an hon. Member speaks without my permission, it will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)\**

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: It is not a question of going on record or not but it is a question of interrupting the hon. Member and wasting the time of the House. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: What is wrong in it? I told as to what has happened. The Congress Party is not responsible for creating a wedge between one religion and the other or between minority and majority. They questioned as to what the Congress Party has done all those years when they were in power. They are the people who always say that the Congress Policy is towards appeasing the minorities.

When the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had brought the 15-Point Programme for improving the lot of the minorities, they said that the Congress party is following the policy of appeasing. Those people who were criticising the Congress Party all these years that the Congress Party was doing a favour to the minorities, are now saying what the Congress Party has done all these years. We have not shredded their faith and we have not created any ill-will in the society, between the majority and minority community.

I quote what my hon. friend, Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, had said and the reason why they oppose is very peculiar.

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\*Not recorded.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

"I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Education as to who is guilty if the representation of minorities is not up to the mark and they are not getting justice, in spite of the fact that the Congress have ruled this country for the last 45 years, more so on the basis of their support."

It is all right. ...*(Interruptions)* But he said as to why he opposed this Bill. It is because the Congress Party has not done anything all these years, particularly in the interest of minorities. The only reason they give is that this Bill is not in the interest of the nation or the minority community because the Congress party has not done anything in the last 45 years of their rule. Is it a sensible reason? Why they oppose this Bill? Is it against the minorities?

Now, another friend says that heavens would not have fallen by not bringing this Ordinance. Will heavens fall by bringing the Ordinance now? I am hundred per cent confident that this Bill will definitely increase the self-confidence among the Muslim minority and among the other minorities.

Is the Congress Party responsible for the murder of Staines in Orissa, shattering the faith amount the Christians, one minority section of the country? We are not responsible for it. Let them assess as to who is responsible. I do not make an allegation on anybody. But every time anything that comes about the minorities, whatever the discussion that goes in the House doing some favour to them, all of them will say, 'we oppose', 'we oppose' and 'we oppose'. Of course some other friends—one of these three friends—said that let this matter be referred to a Select Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bikram Keshari Dev, you please sit down. No word you utter is being recorded. Do not waste time, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

*[English]*

SHRI K.S. RAO: The reason they give is that the Bill is to be referred to the Select Committee and the

\*Not recorded.

opinions of the State Governments are to be taken before this is introduced in the House. Can my hon. colleagues from the other side mention one Bill which is introduced in this House which is totally foolproof, where absolutely nothing is to be amended or improved later on? Any Bill, whether it be introduced by this Government or by their Government, when it is introduced, there may be some lacunae. So, unless we find as to what are the lacunae during the implementation, we cannot bring an amendment. Suppose, we think that there will be some mistakes and some improvement is to be made, then we can never introduce a Bill at all. Their intention might be that this Bill should not be brought at all to the House.

I heard the other day when Shri Anant Gangaram Geete mentioned that they are for minorities, they die for them, they are their brothers. If that is so, why did the great Shiv Sena put crow-bars in the play ground when the Pakistani Team had come to play the game in Delhi? Is it because they came as terrorists? What is the reason? When they think that they are our brothers, they should have encouraged them.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I object to what he is saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not allowed you.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, it is okay that they are telling it, but what they have done on different occasions is the criterion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Owaisi, you will have a chance. Please sit down.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I will quote it. They complain that Congress Party is always appeasing the minorities, doing favour to them or neglecting the majority, but it is all wrong. They may be interested in getting the votes by provoking certain sections of the country, but we are not. We know pretty well that the minorities are only 15 per cent. When we support them, we support them on secular basis because it is a part of the Constitution, and not with an interest to get votes. Can anybody think that by neglecting the majority community of 85 per cent of this country, we can come to power? The point is whether or not we come to power, whether or not we get votes, we hold to our belief of secularism. They are criticising that all the time.

Now, they say that they are in favour of minorities and that they are their brothers. They may say anything, but the country is aware whether they are in favour of minorities. Now, our friend Yogi Aditya Nath was telling that it is the UPA Government that is spreading the poison. Since how many years has the UPA Government come to power? Is it five years or ten years? It is only six months. What action has been taken by the UPA Government to spread poison during these four or five months? Now, he talked of the tribal culture. He says that by giving the option to the minority educational institutions of attachment to the universities in the North-East, the Government wants to provoke the tribals there. It is not the intention. People cannot get votes by provoking somebody. Over a long period, people know what is the policy of a particular party, what are the policies of a particular Government, what they speak, what they implement in reality and what they believe in their private life. These are the criteria.

While telling all these things, I do not mind telling the hon. Minister that though I support the Bill today, may be over a period of time, we may have to bring some amendments to the Bill, particularly because our aim is to see that the progress and development is brought into minorities and not in a minority institution. Therefore, he may possibly have to make an amendment with regard to admissions into these minority institutions that minority students must be 50 per cent or even more. Unless that is there, there is every possibility of non-minority students entering in a large number into the minority institutions, which are getting the privilege by this Bill. Similarly, a definition is made in regard to the member of the Commission. While it is right to say that he must belong to the minority community, they also say that he should be a person of eminence, ability and integrity. I agree with it. But a man of eminence, ability and integrity need not necessarily be an educationist. So, it also needs to be mentioned that he must be an educationist. Possibly, by doing this, the purpose will be served. Similarly, I am happy that they have given the power, the authority to the Education Commission.

Lastly, in clause 25, it is mentioned that the authority of the Central Government to bring an order will be only for two years from the commencement of this Act, but I think, in the interest of minorities alone, it may require a change later. The very purpose is only the benefit of the minorities. So, if we are not to bring a change in this clause now, a change may be required later. So, I request

the hon. Minister to think about this clause also whether it is to be amended, if not now, at least after seeing the implementation of the Act over a period, before the end of two years.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there are still 25 Members to speak. I again request the hon. Members to be brief.

*[Translation]*

Today we have a lot of business and supplementary demands have also to be taken. So I want that it will be better, if you give suggestions only.

*[English]*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I stand here to discuss the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Bill, 2004. The issue that has led to bring this Bill is that the representatives of the minority community alleged that they face a lot of difficulty in establishing, and running their own educational institutions. The very purpose of bringing this Bill is with an allegation. The major problem in this was the issue of securing affiliation to a university of their choice. This is the reason for bringing this Bill, and it is there in the statement of the Bill.

The territorial jurisdiction of the State universities, and the concentration of minority population in some specific areas invariably meant that the institutions could not avail the opportunity of affiliation with the universities of their choice. Subsequently, various minority communities have affirmed before the Government that there is a need to provide access to such affiliation in view of the restrictive conditions imposed by the different statutes of different universities relating to the affiliation of such institutions. They felt that these conditions affected the right granted to them by the Constitution. What is that right? The Apex court has discussed it.

The Government has justified bringing this Bill by saying that there was no effective forum for appeal, and quick redressal. This only aggravated the sense of deprivation for the minority communities. Courts are there, and you should not circumscribe the judiciary.

We all know that the country cannot become stronger if a large segment of the population remains weak. The minorities, particularly, the Muslims are far behind than



[Shri B. Mahtab]

other sections in most areas of human activity. Their educational and economic backwardness is too well known to need recapitulation. If the Government is serious about helping them to come up in life, it will get support from all quarters, and from all well-meaning people and groups.

I would like to point out that the cause of empowerment of women within the minorities deserve special attention. The Muslims have been lagging behind other communities mainly because of lack of education among their women. We all know that this law is no substitute for a genuine desire for and will to emancipation, that emerges from the womb of the society. In this context, we may say that the intention of this Bill is noble. There is no doubt about it, but a careful perusal opens questions about the Government's real purpose. Is it playing politics for a narrow political end? The suspicion gathers credence since the HRD Ministry chose not to invite many political parties in the Conference, which was held last July.

Congress is heading the UPA, and it would try to woo the minority vote-bank. Will this recourse to tall promises of setting-up Commissions mitigate the problem? Instead of that the Government should address the crucial issues such as merit-based admissions, common entrance tests, and UGS's role in faculty appointments in these institutions.

The so-called 'secular recipe' of the Minister is to establish a Commission exclusively to provide affiliation to minority educational institutions. This would mean that such institution would bypass the norms set by UGC, the apex statutory body, to regulate higher education. It could also make the role of All India Council of Technical Education and Medical Council of India redundant for institutes set up by the minorities.

In item number 16 of the National Common Minimum programme, especially in the column 'Social Harmony', it has been stated that, 'A Commission for minority educational institutions would be established. The UPA will promote modern and technical education among all minority communities —not only among the Muslim minority community.'

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I have hardly spoken for five minutes. I need another three minutes. I am the only Member from my Party who would be speaking on this Bill.

As per the constitutional provisions, 'Minority' is both 'religious and linguistic' as has been rightly mentioned in article 30. It states:

"Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions—(1) All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice."

As per the constitutional provisions, if you are allowing religious minorities, why do you not allow linguistic minorities? They could form institutions and get affiliated to institutions of their choice. That is not there in this Bill. My apprehension is that by allowing any religious group, say, the Christian group and not necessarily only the Muslim minority, you will be opening the Pandora's Box and thereby tampering the federal structure or the character of our nation. This move is fraught with dangerous consequences and will be difficult to be handled in future.

I am of the opinion that by doing so, the Government will be encouraging people of all hues and shades to claim that their institute belongs to the minority and they could demand setting up of a separate Commission for their sects or religion. Let us also not forget the Supreme Court's ruling on minority institutions about which I had mentioned earlier. A majority of private educational institutions and technical institutes are earning huge money through capitation fees.

Now, I come to the core issue of the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. You have taken too much time.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please let him speak for ten minutes more ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I do not want ten minutes. I need hardly five minutes.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I am concluding. The rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice have been in the news for the last 18 to 20 months in this country, first due to the Full Bench decision of the Apex Court and then due to the clarification of the decision of the Five Judges of the Bench, followed by a number of regulations of the UGC and the Ministry of HRD, which have now been withdrawn.

15.00 hrs.

This has again been at the centre-stage because of this Ordinance which was promulgated last month to establish the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

Otherwise we shall have to sit through whole night. There is a lot of business.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, this Bill does not provide teeth to the Commission. It does not give enough strength to the Commission to determine which is a minority institution and which is not. There are the issues which I would like to deliberate upon. The Bill is silent on admission, reservation and funding of minority institutions. It cannot regulate the standards.

If I am not allowed to speak due to paucity of time, I will only say at the end that this Bill needs reconsideration. We are for minorities to strengthen their educational institutions. Our party will support this Bill, if you provide more teeth and more strength to it. It is not that only St. Stephen's College will get affiliation, if not from Delhi University but from some other University; or some institute in Hyderabad will get affiliation from the North-East; or a minority institution from Amritsar getting affiliation from Pondicherry. That will not serve the purpose.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you do not conclude, your speech will not go on record now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: That is why I request the Government to please reconsider the Bill. That is why we oppose the Bill. Don't rush through a half hearted Bill.

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not understand why the Government is in a hurry to make the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Bill, 2004 a law.

The Bill pertains to minorities. Keeping in view the concerns of the minority communities, it is appropriate that the Bill be properly studied. If there are any deviations in the Bill, they may be pointed out so that the Bill forms representation of all the minority communities as a whole.

Minority institutions range from primary schools to degree colleges, professional colleges, and professional premier institutions including technical colleges.

The Bill which is brought before the House in order to replace the Ordinance promulgated earlier lists a number of universities to which the minority institutions all over India will be affiliated. One cannot say why minority institutions will be subjected to six universities, four of which are in the North-East, one in Pondicherry and of course one in Delhi. I am not able to figure out as to what makes the Government take some inappropriate decision and then also try to do it in a hurry. This raises a lot of questions as to what would happen to the minority institutions already listed with other universities. We have to find out whether the Bill seeks to expand the sphere of minority education or it seeks to reduce it.

The Bill seeks to prohibit the minority educational institutions from enjoying their Constitutional rights under articles 29 and 30. Minority institutions have the Constitutional right to receive grants from the Government, universities and other bodies.

When we have the Minorities Commission already set up to assist the minority educational institutions a great deal, what is the logic behind setting up the Minority Educational Institutions Commission—that too when it seeks to reduce the legal framework already provided for these institutions?

I would like to know whether the Bill enhances the ethnic minority integration, or whether it seeks to provide

[Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan]

equality to all minority institutions, or whether it is meant for appeasement of one community or the other.

This is a very sensitive matter. So far, all major or minor riots have happened in regard to minorities. Therefore, we have to find out whether the Bill which pertains to minorities education needs proper study by a Joint Committee of Parliament.

I would like to know whether the Bill forms the basis for development of educational institutions dedicated to minorities or seeks to regulate the existing institutions only.

Sir, there is a need to remove real difficulties faced by the minority institutions and not to create a Commission which ends their constitutional scope and rights. Sir, in my view, public opinion should be sought and premier minority institutions like SGPC be involved and suggestions may be sought from them.

SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR (Thiruvananthapuram):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to lack of time, I am deliberately trying not to get provoked by some of the speeches made by the hon. Members on my right side.

Sir, it is very easy to wax eloquent about nationalism, internationalism, and humanity and ignore and close your eyes to the realities before your nose. That is what some of my friends are trying to do. After all, in our fast country there are many imbalances in every field. All are not equal. In the field of education, there is a difference between various sections of people—may be based on communities, may be for historical reasons. Anyway, it is a reality that there are various differences—some are backward and some are more backward; and some are forward and some are more forward. So, it is the duty of any Government to correct those imbalances. So, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for taking up these issues. Even though it is late—everybody as referring to 45 years or 50 years and all that—if something is done after a long time, why do they find fault with that also? You should say that at least now you are doing it. It is a good thing. So, I congratulate the hon. Minister and I welcome the Bill, in general. I underline 'in general' because my feeling is that such a piece of legislation would have been prepared or formulated with some more care. Perhaps it was done in a hurry. I do not know what has happened. So, I only want to touch on two issues.

The question of minority institutions, educational problems of minorities and backwardness of minorities cannot be tackled by the Central Government alone by appointing a Commission like this. It should be tackled with a common effort. It should be tackled with a common effort of the Central Government and the States together. I know in the States, there are various types of Government. I would like to say from my experience. So, let us look at the problem in the way that we have to put all your resources together, all our energies together. Unfortunately, in the Bill as it is framed, State Governments are not in the picture at all. I think, this was pointed out to the hon. Minister and I am happy to see that he has appreciated that. He has moved an amendment. The Minister himself has moved an amendment. I have moved an amendment. But in view of this amendment, I think, it is not necessary for me to move my amendment and press for it. So, I welcome that amendment. Only thing I want to say is that States have to bear a lot of responsibility in this matter. Experiences of various States have to be taken into account.

Second point is this. When I say that this Bill was drafted in a hurry or haste, I should like the Minister to bestow his thought on one main point later. My hon. friend Shri Rao also said this. We may have to make many amendments after some time on the basis of our experience. One point is about the definition of minority institutions. When you say that a person or some persons belonging to a minority community can start a college and automatically it becomes a minority institution, I think, it is a very risky definition. It can be misused in so many ways. My State is one where there are large number of minority educational institutions. There are more minority educational institutions than Government institutions. There are institutions run by some organizations and not by individuals. The Church is doing it. Now Muslim colleges are coming up. During the last 20 to 25 years, they have started many colleges, technical as well as professional colleges. Those colleges are run by Muslim Education Society (MES). It is an institution. It is not an individual. It is not intended to make profit. Money is not the main consideration.

But if I start a college of my own and you give all benefits of a minority institution, then there is very possibility of misusing it. Why do I say this? It is because now in the field of higher education, the main problem is that of commercialisation. It is being debated all over the country. The hon. Minister, I understand, previously

considered the question of a central legislation in that field. You should be very careful about it. Anybody with some money can start a college, call it a minority institution and make it a business. So, as far as possible, allow only those institutions which are run by some credible organizations and not any organization. There should be credible organizations. In Kerala, the Church officially runs so many colleges. I should say that I have my differences with them. They even had participated in the liberation struggle in the old days. But even then I should say, many of their institutions are run much better than other institutions. So, that definition of a minority institution has to be looked at more carefully. Later on, at least, there should be some change in the definition.

I do not want to take more time of the House. This is a very important matter. I want my friends on that side not to see everything through a particular glass. That is the difficulty with them. They look at everything with a communal glass. This is the reality. The backward communities are there in many places. The Scheduled Castes and Tribes face their own problems. Those problems have to be solved.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR: I waited for so long and I thank you for giving me this time and calling me at this point of time. In general, I support this Bill and I want the Minister to go into the matter in more detail, at least later.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my Party. Pattali Makkal Katchi, I whole-heartedly and overwhelmingly support the National Commission for Minority Education Bill, 2004.

In our views, this Bill is an exercise in social justice, and as a person coming from Tamil Nadu—the land of social justice the land which has seen the era of Periyar, Perignar Anna, Dr. Kalaignar, Dr. Aiyya and POTA famous Vaiko—I support this Bill because this bill is aimed at ensuring economic prosperity with social justice to the people.

The people who have opposed this Bill have no reason to advance, and they have been giving arguments which are far-fetched and have no relevance to this Bill. From my point of view, this bill is constitutionally correct, politically proper. Further, there is economic and social

justification for this Bill. Now, why this Bill is brought? This Bill provides a mechanism for the minority institutions to seek affiliation from Central universities through the National Commission. This Bill will make the National Commission a facilitator of getting affiliation from certain universities for the minority institutions.

Now, I would recall the splendid role performed by the minority institutions in this country. When we take in terms of minorities, let us not talk in terms of any particular religious group. The minority institutions, as a whole, have rendered greater service to the educational cause of this country. I would only like to quote one institution of Southern India—St. Joseph College, Tiruchy where persons like His Excellency, the President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam graduated. There are so many persons of that calibre who have come out of these institutions of minority character from Tamil Nadu and elsewhere also.

But these institutions today, find it very difficult to get themselves affiliated to Universities. For instance during the last two years, a particular institution, which was seeking for a 'deemed university' status, was denied permission in spite of the fact that the High Court intervened and said, 'you give the 'deemed university' status. The erstwhile Government did not provide that. Therefore, the constitutional guarantee provided under article 30 has been vitiated by such a refusal by the Government. This provision says that the minority communities can have institutions of their own choice. Now, this right is a real and meaningful right. It is neither an abstract right nor is it to be exercised in vacuum. It is a real right. If this right has to be exercised, the minority institutions must be recognised. If they are not recognised by the higher institutions, then there is no use of running these institutions at all. Therefore, these institutions must be affiliated with the hither institutions. And, this Bill provides a facilitating mechanism. Unless these institutions are recognised and affiliated, the students who are coming out of the portals of these institutions will not be recognised for any job purpose. The degrees which they are going to get would be passports for them to enter into career and life. Therefore, this Bill definitely, has a constitutional backing and a provision of Article 30(1). There is nothing hurry to bring this Bill or any such thing.

Secondly, some people said that this will dilute the quality of education. People who have not understood the context and provisions of this Bill, will only opine this. What the Bill says is that a particular minority institution will apply to a university and the latter has got

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

its own prescribed norms and yardsticks to judge the courses, curricula and syllabi, the teachers who are available there and based on satisfaction of these criteria only, these minority institutions would be given the affiliation. It is not that the National Commission will ask the Pondicherry University or the Delhi University or the North-East University to give wholesale affiliation to any minority institution. It is based on standards of excellence maintained by the minority institutions that affiliation will be given by the Universities. Therefore, Sir, this Bill satisfies the criterion of higher education also.

Some people said that it was a privilege given to somebody. Even if that argument is right, the privilege given to the backward minority sections has to be justified.

Sir, as a follower of Dr. Ambedkar, you would recall what Dr. Ambedkar said. He said: "Society today in India is a graded society. There is inequality." The Gopal Singh Committee has categorically said that the minorities in India today are more backward than the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. When you have unequals, we cannot have equal treatment. Unequal treatment to unequals alone can meet the ends of justice. Here, even if the Bill gives privilege to a particular religious group or a minority group, it is a deserving unequal treatment and privilege that is given.

The political argument, that the Government was in a hurry and it is bringing this Bill in a haste, does not hold water. This UPA Government is fulfilling one of its commitments made to the people of this country. The leaders of Tamil Nadu went to the people and said that when they come to power they would bring this Bill. They have brought this Bill. They promised to repeal POTA, and it has been repealed. Similarly, they promised to bring a National Commission for Minority Educational Institution Bill, and they have done it. We have a professional economist at the helm of affairs as the Prime Minister of this country. We have a symbol of supreme sacrifice, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. These are men and women of action in this country. It is their dynamism which has enabled the Government to bring this Bill so soon. Prompt action does not mean hurry and haste.

Finally, this Bill will provide an opportunity to the backward people of India to get education, which is a means of not only social development but also a source of earning and thereby, the economic development of the people. If anyone opposes this Bill, he should give reasons from this angle. Our Party fully supports this Bill on constitutional, political, social and economic grounds.

It is not for vote bank-for catching votes-but for the welfare of the minorities, which has been relegated to the background in the last six years. We are fulfilling the commitment—that we will work for the welfare of the people—we gave to the people of this country. We are doing this through this Bill. Therefore, we congratulate the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development for imparting justice through this Bill. As one of the friends has said, "Arjun" means justice. So, he is rendering justice and not injustice as that friend said. Hence, I support this Bill wholeheartedly.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a discussion was initiated in the House two days ago on the National Commission For Minority Educational Institutions Bill. When this debate was initiated two days before, a senior honourable Member of the ruling party from Gujarat Shri Madhusudan Mistry was the prominent speaker. The honourable Minister will give his reply after going through all aspects of the Bill. I came to know about the intention of this Bill through the speech of the main speaker from the treasury benches. Some issues were raised two days before and these were reiterated. What is the motive behind this Bill?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Today we have so much business and we have to conclude this discussion at half past four and thereafter another business has to be taken up. The honourable Minister will reply at half past four. So whosoever want to speak may speak for one-two minutes only. There are a few names with me who had already spoken day before yesterday. It will be difficult to give them time to speak. All the honourable Members may kindly speak for one-two minutes only otherwise we will have to sit through the whole night.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: It was said while initiating this debate that the NDA people are having sectarian and segregated mentality. The Gujarat episode was repeated many times. We do not see everything from communal point of view. The UPA Government under the leadership of Congress should not say like that. Why and under which circumstances the Constitution was amended after the judgement given by the honourable Supreme Court in Sahbano case in the year 1985?

Is it not minoritism? If I start counting such instances since the year 1985, it may take the form of a book. I would like to recount an instance. Leftist in Kerala launch a struggle on a particular issue. Under the leadership of Congress, there was clarity of stand till yesterday but

they suddenly turned their back subsequently on that issue, one leader in Kerala is involved in a political issue. The common people of that State have launched a struggle on that issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing of whatever he is saying will go on record.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I am not attacking any community. But the movement which is going on in Kerala, the Congress leadership first said regarding the matter of that community, that it should be expunged. But today why have they taken a U-turn. If an analysis may be done of the whole issue from the year 1985 to 2004 and from Sahbano case till now the policy of minoritism of the Congress comes to the fore.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was repeatedly said here that in the past, four classes have been pushed to the backward status which included SC, ST, OBC and those belonging to Minority Community. These classes have not developed so far. I want to raise this issue once again, many of Members have also raised this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: The Congress Party that has been ruling the country for fifty years. ...*(Interruptions)* This is democracy, why are you standing in the middle? I've heard you for such a long time. Hon'ble Minister will reply to it. Why should I listen to you. ...*(Interruptions)* Soniajee is watching you, you'll definitely become a Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, please provide me with protection.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: If we doesn't interfere, I will have my words. I am a new Member. I also repose my faith in democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever he is saying without my permission will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Today the Congress Party should be made answerable as to why

\*Not recorded.

it's raising the issue of state obligation after ruling the country for fifty years. This is politically motivated. If it is so much worried over State obligation, the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh is committing the sorts of deplorable act as in Aligarh University. Why is it that the Governor is opposing it. He is not in agreement with this party. Both are Vying with each other. Which minority group can move closer to which party, which of them can garner votes from the minority community. Both of them are competing over this issue. They are urging us to be gracious enough to place faith in democracy. They alleged that we triggered a milieu of hatred in Gujarat and we look at everything from communal angle. The Congress allies must not forget that a particular community was victimised with the mass killing in 1984. I would like to know whether they were in minority at that time. The countrymen can't afford to consign that episode into oblivion. The Hindu Pandits have migrated from Kashmir. The years of their migration has completed ten years. They are no longer in their memory. They don't have any idea about this position. These people don't bother to remember them. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: When they politicise any issue, it appeals to them but get irritated when factual position is told. Mistrijee said that our leader Bachi Singh Rawat is doing away with the spirit of the Constituent Assembly. I differ with Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru on a number of issues. But Shri Govind Vallabh Pant, Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel, K.M. Munshi, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Gopinath of the Constituent Assembly were special invitees to the assembly headed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I would like to quote.

*[English]*

"The Committee are satisfied that the minorities themselves feel that in their interest and no less than in the interest of the country as a whole, the statutory reservation of seats for religious minorities should be abolished."

*[Translation]*

Reservation and today's issue both symbolise the same mindset. What suits them is validated in the name of Panditjee.

\*Not recorded.

[Shri Dharmendra Pradhan]

In case anything is not convenient to them, they happen to remark that Panditji's statement is not relevant today. It's their dual policy. I would like to say about a state only. Currently, they have formed the Government in Andhra Pradesh on the heels of a Public Interest Litigation filed in the Andhra High Court. The Government submitted its reply. Raojee and Vasudeb Nayer had stated as to how these are misused. I would like to cite an example before you. An affidavit was submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Government in the Andhra High Court in terms of three minority institutions of Andhra Pradesh that as many as 234 students get admitted into the minority institutions out of which 188 get admitted after conversion of their religion. An article was published in Andhra edition of The Times of India. It has been stated that if it has certain shortcomings—that will be taken care of later on. I would also like to state that experience of the State Governments earlier.

*[English]*

"According to sources in the Andhra Pradesh State Council for Higher Education, many of these colleges collect huge 'donations' from B.Ed. aspirants and encourage them to embrace Christianity so that they can get in through the minority quota."

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if he is quoting any judgement of the High Court, then he has to authenticate that document and Table it in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, I would certainly lay it on the Table of the House. This has been given by the Andhra Pradesh State Higher Education Department. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Have you authenticated the document? You have to sign the document and authenticate it. ...*(Interruptions)* The rule is that the hon. Member has to sign the document, give advance intimation to the Chair and then lay it on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

Don't teach me the rule. I've made them aware that one is supposed to go through any judgement having authenticated the same under intimation.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I would like to submit on one issue only. As they have said that it'll be taken care of later on. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY (Peddapalli): He is not telling the factual position. I hail from Andhra Pradesh itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, I would certainly like to learn from Shri Sharad Pawar and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. There is no doubt about that. ...*(Interruptions)* If I am wrong, then I will withdraw it. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, you please protect me. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Dasmunsi, please do not harass me. If I am wrong you can guide me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am only telling him to take the permission of the Chair and lay it on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, I quote:

"Though the Government did come up with a new rule prohibiting minority colleges from admitting students on their own, the college managements sued in the court and got the order suspended."

*[Translation]*

When Andhra Pradesh Government brought in a legislation to put a check on such forged cases, the people running minority institutions appealed in the High Court and a stay order was issued by the Court. This will eliminate the Education Mafia Raj. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): This is not the epitome of all the judgements. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am not discouraging my young friend. He must have his say and we are here to listen to him.

Sir, if I heard him correctly, then he said that some converts were given admission in the colleges under the minority quota. Now, if these are the findings of a court, then the document from which he is quoting, that should be authenticated by him and laid on the Table of the

House as a property of the House. If it is proved contrary to what he is saying, then he will have to face a privilege motion. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, I am producing the documents provided by the Andhra Pradesh State Higher Education Council. I take responsibility for it. I will lay it on the Table of the House with my signature. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded and no running commentary please. Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude my speech. If the Hon'ble Minister intended to think of the minority community, I would like to submit through you that. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please don't make running commentary.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he can't afford to think ahead of that. They have brought in a Bill in the name of competition. I oppose it as it is politically motivated and has been introduced with a view to getting Muslim votes. This is a Bill introduced with the prime objective of raising oneself above the internal conflict of the Congress. Let me thank you for giving me an opportunity to make submission.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulberga): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, through you at the outset I would congratulate Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Shri Manmohan Singh and Shri Arjun Singh that in the last 50 years this is the first time that they have brought forward this historical Bill in the House to give protection to minorities education rights so that minorities can also compete with other sections of the society. I support and welcome this Bill.

This Bill is with regard to connecting Minorities with education system and giving affiliation and recognition to their institute. In the discussions of last two days many Members have diverted this issue on technical grounds that the MCF is being taken over all norms of DCI and

AITEC etc. are being abolished by this Bill. It has been clearly mentioned in this Bill that six Universities have been identified for this purpose. An educational institution can seek affiliation from these Universities. Affiliation is accorded under some norms, guidelines and is maintained through proper mechanism. To follow that mechanism six Universities have been identified. So it is a completely different thing to say that it is being taken over.

An honourable Member has said that Government is not doing anything for primary education of minorities, whatever is being done is for professional education only. I welcome him too. But I would like to ask him as to how provision for primary education of minorities hinder the passing of this Bill. Therefore, my suggestion is that the Bill should not be stalled.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, under the leadership of the Chief Minister of Karnataka we have submitted a proposal before Shri Arjun Singh that there is uncertainty in all professional colleges of India, there is no common legislation, therefore to bring unanimity in all institutions, a central legislation has to be enacted. At that time Shri Arjun Singh had agreed to consider a proposal of Central legislation. Therefore I welcome the presentation of this bill by UPA Government in the House. We have not witnessed such bill during fifty years regime of the Congress party. We have to see what provisions are their in Constitution for the Minorities. Article 32 says that:

[*English*]

There is a lot of ambiguity at different times in different states. On each judgement, different interpretations have been given. No guarantee of 100 percent admission for minorities is given under article 30. Still there is ambiguity and controversy. There should be clarity on this point. For that purpose, this Bill is brought here.

[*Translation*]

Article 32 gives the rights.



[Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi]

[English]

to establish and to administer educational institutions.

[Translation]

This Bill is brought to bring transparency in the system. I support it.

Some of the Members say that this right is misused, violated and people do not attend meeting. But there are rules. The Minister of Health has said in reply to a Starred Question yesterday itself that there is a separate system for that.

There is a system for that even if it is misused. This does not mean that the Bill should be stalled. For the first time in last 50-60 years such a Bill has been brought that gives confidence and empower minorities. I congratulate Mr. Arjun Singh of UPA Government for bringing this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bellarmin you can speak for two minutes as the Minister has to reply at 4.30 P.M.

[English]

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all I congratulate our hon. Minister for introducing the Bill.

Our Territorial integrity is dependent on the emotional integration of all sections of the people. In a country like ours with plurality of ethnic, linguistic and religious groups, every section must have the opportunity to have equal growth.

That notion of equality, especially the unity among weaker sections to achieve that goal is advocated by the forces of social and economic changes like the communists. I may not confine myself to any particular religion with my universal outlook. But I can not ignore and wish away certain things. We all know that evolution of Christian ethos emerged as notion of democracy and egalitarian ideals like socialism.

No one can deny that Christians have been premiers in the field of modern education in India. They are known for their significant contribution in the field of medical services. Their institutionalised care of the handicapped and the weak sections are known to all, like the name of Mother Teresa.

We cannot ignore the fact that Muslims have made great impact on social evolution of India through their emphasis on equality among men. Islamic influence has led to creative evolution of Indian art, music, architecture, literature, norms of social behaviour, etc.

Now, we have come to a phase in the national life where interdependence between different communities takes new configurations. We want to restore an age of creative amity and tolerance.

So, we take our minority brethren as copartners in the task of developing India. It is because we will share a common Indian heritage and language, folklore, games and music.

Indian democracy and the liberal Indian society need to provide adequate and effective means to ventilate their grievances and get redressal. Setting of National Commission for minority institutions is a right step in that direction. The defects mentioned by hon. Member Shri Sebastian Paul day before yesterday may also be looked into to make it perfect.

The aim of the Bill is to ensure the constitutional rights provided to minorities in administering institutions they establish. This Bill seeks to streamline the efficient functioning of minority institutions with an understanding mechanism that will protect all the rights of the minorities.

Over the years the rights of minorities to commence and run institutions as per their ethos have been eroded. This Bill seeks to establish a check and balance mechanism. From now on, with the parliamentary record of this Bill, a Commission will look into collision courses and to resolve conflicts. Educational institutions, especially the professional institutes shall be affiliated to Central Universities. They are six in number. Since these six universities are not covering all the States, a few more Central Universities may be opened.

Here, I would like to make an appeal. Kanyakumari region and Palayamkottai in Nellai region in Tamil Nadu are traditional seats of learning in Tamil Nadu, with numerous minority run educational institutions in this part of the country.

Hence I urge upon the Union Government to establish a Central University in Kanyakumari which could be a nodal University to all the minority institutions in that area. It can even cover all such academic bodies from both Tamil Nadu and Kerala or the southern parts of these two States.

I hope it will be appreciated that my demand conforms to the efficient execution of the authority of the proposed National Commission for minority educational institutions.

I welcome the philosophy behind the Bill that the responsibility to provide educational facilities to minority communities, especially women and weaker sections among them, is possible by empowering such communities themselves.

The proposed Commission as per the mandate will look into the conflicts and disputes arising between the State administration and the State universities on the one hand and the minority institution managements on the other. Here, I would like to emphasise that such managements must ensure better service conditions to the staff serving in the minority institutions.

The noble idea to empower the minorities to reap the gains of spreading education is commendable. It has been found that more than 80 per cent of the population in the developed countries have got educational facilities.

Finally, I would like to express my apprehension that this Commission may not have teeth in the absence of constitutional status either to this Commission or for that reason even to the National Minorities Commission. This Commission must not end up as a mere arbitrator of certain civil cases. But, it must ensure a civilised society roping in all the neglected communities in the national mainstream.

With these observations, let me conclude my speech with my support to this Bill to establish a National Commission for Minorities Educational Institutions.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it seems that this Bill has been brought in accordance with the Common Minimum Programme to fulfil the promises made before the people. It would have been better had the Bill been brought in a better way. The objective of the Bill has been clarified as:

*[English]*

"Among the various issues raised by the representatives of the Minority communities was the difficulty faced by them in establishing and running their own educational institutions."

*[Translation]*

It was a small matter and in their 50 years of rule they did not register the institutions. Why did not they bring the Bill then. There is a provision in the Constitution that any person of the minority community can get affiliated with any institutions. The Bill appears to be permitting to create minority universities. If you want to create a university give it a separate name but it will create discrimination. The alumni of such institution will face discrimination. Therefore, this should not be separated. I have never found in Constitution a proper definition of minority. First the Government should clarify "What do they mean by minority" This Bill also does not clarify the word. It says:

*[English]*

"Minority Educational Institution" means a college or institution (other than a University) established or maintained by a person or group of persons from amongst the minorities."

It means what?

*[Translation]*

The Government should first define minority. If you do not define the word minority I do not think the Bill will be presented properly. If you wish the welfare of minorities then you should not segregate them from the mainstream. I request you not to create casteism and feeling of religionism.

I have been elected for first time as an M.P. I have been listening to all the honourable Members and I find that they digress from the subject and bring politics in between. I think one should speak on the subject only and not bring politics.

I am from district Akola. Hon. Minister Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad is not present here at the moment. The BJP workers have established an institution and they have named as Ghulam Nabi Azad College and children of all the communities whether Hindu, Muslim or Christian study there. If you segregate the Muslim society it will convey a good message. I feel there is a no need of this Bill. Minority Commission is already in place. It Can be fully empowered with all the rights which are already there

[Shri Haribhau Rathod]

with the Minority Commission. Registration of institution is a small issue. If an University is not getting registered, it can be done under the authority which is already with the Minority Commission. This Bill will only create the post of Chairman and an office and will unnecessary increase expenditure by such creating political post. I request to hangover all the authority vested in the Minority Commission to this Institution. There is no need to bring this Bill.

[English]

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL (Marmugao): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. In some States of India, the State Governments are interfering in the running educational institutions run by minorities. In my State of Goa, the State Government has been actively interfering in the running of educational institutions, especially those within Church-controlled Diocesan Education Board. The management of these institutions have contributed to establishment of schools and colleges throughout the length and breadth of the State, right from the time of liberation of the State from Portuguese Rule in 1961. Today, the Government oversees the admissions to these institutions through cumbersome administrative mechanisms and one has to commonly pull strings with prominent leaders of the ruling BJP in the State to secure admission for children even at the primary level in these convent schools.

Sir, this is a novel method adopted by the BJP, in addition to saffronisation on which minority community individuals and parents are forced to knock the doors of BJP leaders in desperation to secure admission for their children.

Conversely students from Vidya Prabodhini School in Porvorim, which incidentally is run by the RSS affiliated organisation, benefited from an examination paper leak in the Goa Board of Secondary and High Secondary Education. The culprits have not been booked and the investigations have come to a standstill.

Sir, I urge the House to evolve methods to prevent interference in educational institutions especially run by the minority community management and adopt laws uniform to all in this country.

I call upon the National Commission of Minorities Educational Institute to look into the matter that I have raised.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I rise to support the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Bill, 2004. Sir, this Bill is the promise made to the people in the CMP. This has been given shape through an ordinance and subsequently by bringing forward this Bill for the protection of minority institutions.

Sir, articles 30 and 31 of the Constitution provide certain safeguards for the minorities. But this Bill will also remove some of the practical hindrances of these communities. In the National Common Minimum Programme, it has been stated to provide full equality of opportunity, particularly, in education and employment for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and minorities. This is one of the basic principles of the National Common Minimum Programme. This promise, which was made in the NCMP, has been fulfilled in the shape of this Bill.

This Bill will also provide the mechanism to the State to take care of the interests of the minorities. This Bill will pave the way for the recognition of the professional minority educational institutions to the Central universities. This will also encourage the minority community groups to come forward to set up some task or held put these minorities. This is a large felt demand of the minority community, especially, the educationists, the community leaders and associations of the minority institutions.

I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Bill. I support this Bill on behalf of my Party.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, first of all I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill. I want to make one comment as the one hon. Member has talked about Kerala.

Remember Kerala with this context. During the Quit India Movement, one VAKKOM Abdul Kadar was hung by Britishers. A day prior to his execution, he wrote to his mother. This country will get Independence one day. I will be hung, I will be dead, but my Hindu brothers will look after you and family. There is history in Kerala like that also. When we talk of Kerala, we talk of VAKKOM Abdul Kadar, who is our Bhagat Singh.

The purpose of the Bill is to give some respect and also opportunity for the members of minority communities, who are neglected. I think, in a democracy, social justice must be for all and to meet social justice, the last link of the chain must be strengthened. So, the minorities are the concern of our society. We are a plural society.

16.00 hrs.

I do not want to go much into it. I generally welcome this Bill on behalf of my Party. But, I have to make one or two small points. This Bill should not be allowed to be exploited by MERCENARIES or those people who want to use it for commercial purposes. Any individual can start a college or a tutorial, whatever it is. He can get it affiliated or he can run it as benami, as my friend Dr. Sebastian Paul yesterday mentioned. If such things are allowed, the whole purpose of this Bill will be hijacked.

Also, in Kerala, there are wonderful institutions run by Churches. Shri P.K. Vasudevan Nair talked about them. Muslim institutions like MES are doing wonderful job. Of course, we have some difference with the Management. That is a different question. But, in the name of minority, anybody coming into the field and saying that he is a minority and he can start institution and just exploit it for commercial purposes, I think, that will not help minorities.

16.02 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

I have got one of two more points. One point is about defining the minorities. Another point is this. On the one hand, the Bill says that Government's decision shall be final on governing disputes, on the other hand, it says that the decision cannot be challenged in the courts. I think, that will be dangerous. There has to be an appeal.

Another point is this. The Bill also says that if there is any dispute between a minority institution and a university, the decision of the Commission will be final. Normally, a university takes decisions on affiliation and UGC also has a role to play. In this case, if a university refuses to affiliate a particular institute, that can be questioned in the Commission. I wonder whether this will take away the power of the universities and the UGC! Certain institution may come up with its own syllabus and mode of examination and ask for affiliation. What would happen in such a situation? I would like to know whether there will be any condition to ensure merit-based appointments, common entrance tests and faculty appointments in these institutions. I think, these points have to be looked into.

Of course, as one of the hon. Members said, in the course of time, I think, this Bill could be perfected. Regarding the apprehension which we have about by-

passing the States, because education is in the Concurrent List, the hon. Minister himself is proposing an amendment. I do not want to raise that issue any more. Generally, I welcome this Bill and also I want to say that whenever we talk of minorities, somebody is telling that minorities are a danger to this country, it is not so. It is the arrogance of some of the people in the majority which creates the problem for the minorities.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Bill presented for minority education institutions. It is an important Bill and the opposition has tried to analyse it only superficially. I think that the Constitution has provisions to safeguard minority communities of this country. One of the different ways to safeguard the minorities is that where their welfare is neglected or they are unable to express themselves fully the ordinance or commission need be constituted and I fully support the effort made in this regard.

The issue has been comprehensively analysed. Honourable Member Mr. Swami has said that the country has a secular structure and the constitution is secular and this is the reason that the Bill is discriminatory. The people who have been suppressed for a longtime and whose welfare has been neglected due to their number, in such a system the constitution of such commission becomes necessary.

I wish to submit that the people who are always busy trying to create Gujarat like situation in the entire country are doing maximum discrimination. They oppose such safeguards rules and regulations at each and every occasion. The good institutions run by us and which face hindrances in normal channels due to malafide intentions, can get justice through this Commission. We thank a lot and congratulate the honourable Education Minister for this commendable effort.

I wish to submit that there is a provision for minority education institutions in our constitution. This Commission makes for the arrangement for the reservation and provisions for the deprived and downtrodden. So, it is good. It is symbolic of high social & political values of the U.P.A. Government. So I fully support the Bill on my own behalf and as well as on behalf of R.J.D.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of National Minorities

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

Educational Institutions Commission Bill, 2004. The diverse views of many Member have been given in favour and against the Bill. In India Muslim minority brethren are 13-14 crores in number. In addition to that Sikh, Christians, Jain, Parsis and Buddhists are also there. However, if we evaluate the condition of these communities, worst economical and social condition is that of Muslims. The U.P.A. Government has provided a sum of Rs. 50 crores in this Bill for Muslim brethren but it is not sufficient. I want that it should be increased.

The Hon. Members opposed to us have pointed towards Uttar Pradesh Government also. Yogi Adityanath ji is sitting here. The proposal for the university going to be opened there after the name of the great freedom fighter Ali Johar ji has been passed twice in the legislative Assembly. In that University only Muslim students will not study. ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: We do not have any opposition against it. The opposition is to the fact that person like Shri Azam Khan will be the Vice Chancellor of that University.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, you don't disturb him.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: You make amendments to that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shailendra ji, you please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Shailendra Kumar says.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yogi Adityanath ji, your words are not being recorded.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: You can express your protest, but I want to submit that in that University not only Muslim children will study, but that of all the castes, communities and religions.

The arrangements for the education in all the streams like Medical, Engineering etc. has been made in it. But

\*Not recorded.

we are sorry that every Member of the Opposition stands to remain obscure minded and they find only one thing important *i.e.* to protest in the name of Muslim. Muslim have contributed a lot in every sector. Martyr Veer Abdul Hamid, painter Fida Husain, musicians and singer like Mohammad Rafi, Talat Mahmood, Bismilla Khan and Jakir Husain were born in this country. In the field of sports great players like Mohd. Azahrudin, Mohd. Kaif and Irfan Pathan are there while scientists like Shri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam have been born in this country. Hence, I would like to submit to my friends in the opposition that they should not look the things with any prejudice but should rather consider the factual situation. In the last decade, minority people were 50-55% in jobs, but now they are only 1-2%. Unemployment is also maximum among them with these words further. I support the Bill and conclude.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank the Government that it has introduced the National Minorities Education Institutions Commission Bill, 2004. The need to bring such a Bill would not have arisen if the Minorities Institutions in some States had not been attacked physically during the last one decade. It is very unfortunate that even some of the political forces in ruling coalition also had a hand in the assault. If it had not happened, the issue would not have arisen as to how to give protection. I support this draft Bill moved by the Government. I request that the Government should ponder over 2 or 3 other aspects also. The Minority Institutions have been functioning in this country for quite a long period. The Government has to ensure that there should be no backdoor commercialization in the Minority Institutions because commercialisation has made the condition of our educational institutions worse. It should be checked. Education is in the Concurrent List. Therefore the State Government should also be taken into confidence.

Third point is that they have chosen 6 Universities. if minority educational institutions of one State has to seek affiliation from the other state then problems may crop up. So more Universities can be selected for affiliation. This should also be ensured that the educational institutions are not able to manipulate the new law by doing away with the existing affiliations and opting for the new affiliations. So, this sort of provision should be made in the law itself. I thank you for giving me the chance to speak.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): I rise to support the Bill but I oppose the motion moved in the House. First of all, I would like to quote Sardar Patel who was the Chairman of Advisory Committee.

[English]

In the Speech delivered on February 28, 1947, he says:

"Nobody can be more interested than us in India is the protection of our minorities. Our concern is to satisfy every interest and safeguard the interests of all minorities to their satisfaction."

This was reported in the *Framing of India's Constitution* by B. Shiva Rao (Selected Documents, Vol. II, page 66).

Regarding the Bill that has been moved, I would like to say that this is the first serious attempt that has been made in the last fifty years for the implementation of a Fundamental Right provided in Article 30. There are many Directive Principles of our Constitution. One of them prohibits slaughter of cows. In the 1980s various State Governments have made laws on this because the Directive Principles of the Constitution had said so. This Government is making a serious attempt to implement a Fundamental Right of the Constitution which empowers the minorities to open and administer colleges. In fact, this is a charter of rights that was given to the minorities.

I request the hon. Minister through you to look into the suggestions I am offering. On clause 2 (a), I would like to tell him that there is no need of a 'Scheduled University'. Let it be written 'a university of choice'. Secondly, I would like that Boards should be included. This means bodies which conduct examinations and award certificates for students passing Class VIII, Class X and Class XII in any State. Further, it should mean any school, college or institution, including university, established and administered by a person or a group of persons from among the minorities.

As far as the qualification is concerned, I request the hon. Minister that it should mean a certificate or a diploma or a degree or any other qualification awarded by a Board, Council or University.

Regarding Chapter 3, my suggestion is that notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, a minority educational institution

may seek permission, approval, recognition and affiliation to a Board, Council or University.

As far as Chapter 4 is concerned, my request is to look into specific complaints regarding deprivation or violation of rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice regarding approval, recognition, permission or affiliation by a Board, Council or University and report its findings to Central Government. In Chapter 6, clause 18 (1) should be deleted because a Scheduled University is not at all required. Let it be 'a university of choice.'

I also request the hon. Minister through you to examine my suggestion that the number of members should be increased from four to six. This Bill talks only about technical education but not about medical education, dental education, etc. this also needs to be looked into. If you add, 'Council', in section 2, it would mean any statutory body established by an Act of Parliament to set up norms and standards for recognising institutions of medical and technical education. As of now, the Bill talks only about technical education.

The whole premise of bringing in this Bill is that the State Governments were not much interested in giving affiliations. Now, if this power is again given to the State Governments, it would be open to abuse.

[Translation]

Day before yesterday Mr. Rawat quoted a good couplet. He said "Ibtidaye Ishque Hai, Aage Dekhiye Hota Hai Kya" then he further said "Shuruaat Achchi Hai Anjam Bura Hai". For five years they tried their best to ruin India. An Urdu poet has said a couplet and that portrays your ruling time in the right form and it says "Barbadiye Gulistan Ke Liye Ek Hi Ullu Kafi Tha, Har Shakh Pe Ullu Baitha Hai Anjame Gulistan Kya Hoga". You said "Ibtidaye Ishque Hai. Iqbal also has said something very good about you. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Sir, he is reading out the couplet wrongly. The couplet is "Ibtidaye Ishque Hai Rota Hai Kya, Aage Aage Dekhiye Hota Hai Kya." It is very painful to see that those who are supposed to be Urdu knowing are misquoting the couplet.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: I did not read the whole couplet. I just read the first line. Iqbal has said:

"Kanat Na Kar Aalame Rango Boo Par,  
Mukamat Aahophugan Aur Bhi Hain."

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

Sir, I request that the hon. Minister should ponder over the points I have taken up. The efforts are in right direction. During the last five years the Ministry of Human Resource Development was converted into a sister organization of Sangh. But now the work is being done properly. If you incorporate these suggestions we will be thankful.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not be able to say much but I support the Bill about education. I congratulate the Minister of Human Resource. Shri Arjun Singh who has presented this Bill and soon it will be passed also. It is rightly said better late than never. Many honourable Members have supported the Bill and even after 56 years of independence the previous Governments, although they should have done, did not do anything for the welfare and security of the minority communities. UPA Government has presented this Bill and we should be proud of it. NDA people are referring again and again about Congress, but they forgot one thing. Although being younger and less experienced, I do not want to say much but I remember the words of Yogi Aditya Nath should know that it was the Congress who fought for independence and none of these people had their name in that list. It was the Congress who under the five year plans has developed the country to this extent. However, unfortunately the path shown by Gandhiji was distorted few years back. Now the UPA Government needs time to remove these distortions.

They were talking about the politics of votes but I wish to clarify that Congress during the last 56 years has never played the politics of votes. You go through the election manifestos. Whether it comes in power or not the Congress has never asked for votes in the name of region, language or mother tongue. But there are people sitting over here who have ruined and used this country by getting votes in the name of temple. They have mistreated the minorities. You can see what happened in Gujarat in the recent past. ...*(Interruptions)* My friend gave an emotional lecture that Hindus had been coerced to leave Kashmir. However, he forgot that Jagmohanji is not the Member of this august House. I too am native of Kashmir and I have been a Minister there till 1990 in the State Government at the ruling time of Shri Jagmohan.

When Shri Jagmohan was the Governor there, in those days Lal Chowk in Srinagar was talked about in buses as Rawalpindi. He was a caretaker who himself

had permitted that Hindus should be forced to leave as Hindus were being killed in the State. So what was his intention, to safeguard the minorities? Who are the people being killed there for last 12-13 years. Even today the hundreds of people being killed there are not just Hindus, they are people of Muslim minority community too. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sharma, you please come to the topic.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: I was replying to the Hon. Members. An Hon. Member had said that Hindus were expelled from there. I want to submit that the UPA Government should fulfil the commitment made in the Common Minimum Programme to strengthen the Minorities. Further, whether it is Congress or our coalition Government, there is no difference in our words and deeds.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: You are also requesting me to conclude so without adding anything further I support this Bill and resume my seat.

*[English]*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. The hon. Minister, ever since he took over the reins of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, has been trying to instill confidence in the minorities and to protect the rights of the minorities which was under some sort of threat, I should say, during the last four to five years.

Now, what is the context of this Bill? Education involves not merely the acquisition of knowledge but also character-building and propagation of culture. Hence, it is important to enable religious communities to impart education to its members that matches the uniqueness of their spiritual cultures and their traditions, so long as it does not go in conflict with the spirit of our Constitution. The rights of the minorities—religious and linguistic—revolve around Article 30 of our Constitution. It is fundamental and inalienable. At the same time, we should understand that this is a sacred trust that has been reposed by the founding fathers in the minorities of our country.

But what we see now is that the scope of rights of minorities has been progressively whittled down from a stage where the minorities could run educational

institutions with a sprinkling of members from other communities to a stage where the Apex Court has imposed a ceiling of 50 per cent on admissions from the concerned community. The minority communities have made enormous investments into these institutions, many of which are unaided. These institutions have been built up with the perfect understanding that the full scope of Article 30, the rights that have been guaranteed under Article 30 of our Constitution, will be available to them. Natural justice demands that this understanding is not eroded unilaterally.

Now, certain doubts have been expressed here by my hon. friends from the other side about certain provisions of this Bill. First of all, there has been a mention about the constitution of this Commission, the provision that the Chairman and the members of this Commission shall be from the minority communities. I heard the arguments saying that this is against the Constitution and it might be struck down in the court of law.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, I have not even started yet. In two minutes, I am concluding, as you wish.

I think, this provision is necessary. We can even call it a necessary evil as the desired level of sensitivity, goodwill and in-depth level of understanding may not otherwise be obtained.

As regards affiliation to universities, there is a Schedule of Universities mentioned here, but I think, a few more good universities could have been added to this list like the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) or the Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

As regards affiliation, we have aided and unaided institutions in this country. If an aided institution, which functions in a particular State, opts for affiliation into another university in the Schedule, then it can create a lot of problems. The hon. Minister has brought an amendment, which is very good. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Minister for eradicating this confusion. Otherwise, there could have been a lot of confusion as far as curricula, conduct of examination, rules and regulations, etc. are concerned. Now, all those issues have been addressed by the hon. Minister's amendment.

As regards the change of Members, it is said that they will be given an opportunity to be heard. I would like to know as to who will hear them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. George, you should now come to your last point.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Yes, Sir. I am concluding. In Chapter 4, clause 11, sub-clause (b) "Look into specific complaints regarding deprivation or violation of rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice....." it is mentioned that this Commission will do it. I think, one more word has to be added along with deprivation or violation, that is, abuse of rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice, and any dispute relating to affiliation.

I would like to mention one more point. In the T.M.A. Pai case, the Supreme Court directed the Central Government to come out with a suitable legislation to regulate admissions, and fee structure in private educational institutions or unaided or self-financing educational institutions. This law is there to protect the rights, whereas the other one, which is being contemplated, is to regulate.

If my knowledge is correct, the hon. Minister is calling a Conference of Education Ministers next month in Bangalore.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: There should not be any conflict in these two laws. There should not be any overlapping provision, and they should go side-by-side. I would say that, probably, for the past several years there has never been a legislation like this piece of legislation intended to protect the rights of the minorities, especially in the education field. The law should be foolproof and it should really help the minority community. It should instill confidence in them, and promote educational values in our country.

I once again take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Minister for having come out with this piece of legislation.

[*Translation*]

DR. SHAFIQUK RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)



MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Barq, please keep in mind the time limit. Don't speak for more than two minutes.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Sir, I will keep in mind but you should also give some consideration as this issue concerns minority education.

Sir, So far as National Commission for Minorities Education Institutions Bill is concerned I support it and congratulate the Minister of Education for presenting the Bill. I think this will definitely provide some relief to the Muslims, but it is a pity that our food habits, the way we walk, how we look at the things and what we speak, everything is attributed to Pakistan. Each activity of ours does not please our brothers. In the matter of education also, it was said that Muslims should not be educated or they should not receive any education. They all were saying like this and opposing it. I want to say that—

"Hum aah bhi karte hain, to Badnam ho jate hain  
Wo katl bhi karte hain, to charcha nahin hota"

This is the issue. What sacrifice we have not made for the sake of this country. For the freedom of this country, we went to jails and sent to the gallows also. Ashfaq Ullah Khan allowed himself to be hanged. Maulana Mohammad Ali Johar had not said in the Round Table Conference that he came from a slave country and if he did not get freedom, he would be given a place there for his grave and he died there. Similarly, the first person who had issued 'Fatwa' against the Britishers in Hindustan was Allama Fazal-Ai-Haq Khairabadi.

The people like Hakim Azmal Khan, Dr. Mukhtar Ansari, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad and Maulana Hasrat Mohani were born in this country. They sacrificed their lives for this country. However, if we see honestly, they have neither got any recognition of their sacrifices nor are they getting it. We want that children receive education in the country and they receive primary (Ibtadal) and University education also. Today, this Bill has been introduced and still it has not been appreciated by our brothers. They created situations like Gujarat, Moradabad in many places and committee genocide of Muslims. They even demolished Babri Masjid. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you conclude your speech, otherwise I will declare that you have finished your speech.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Despite this, they are prepared to say what does not behave them. If

Muslims in this country are not safe how will this country run? If the Muslim is not educated, the country will lag behind and other communities would also be left uneducated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Barq, now you take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: If a person becomes paralysed, you cannot call him a healthy person. As long as, Muslims and other people do not receive education and develop, that society cannot be called a healthy society. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair rules that your speech is now over.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you are speaking is not going on record.

*[English]*

I am not allowing you to speak further. Nothing will go on record, except the speech of Ms. Mehbooba Mufti.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI (Anantanag): Sir, I support this Bill, I would say that it was a long awaited step and at last, it has been taken. This is a good beginning.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as mentioned in Islam "Hubal Watan, Minal Iman", which means to love one's country is a matter of faith. Simultaneously, the country is also called motherland. It means the people of the country are the children of our motherland. It is the duty of mother to pay more attention to the child who is weak or in a difficulty. I believe that even after 50-60 years of our independence, duty to our motherland has not yet been fulfilled. Our country in the whole world is termed

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\*Not recorded.

backward despite having a rich history. Here, we face the problem of population explosion. If we look at the most important reason for economical and social backwardness here, we find that the vast section of our society and population are minorities, SC's, ST's, Women and OBC's, whom we have not taken along with us in the last 60 years but neglected them. I'll speak more about the minorities because they have been lagging the most. As long as we do not help this section of the society, their lot will not improve. The easiest and foremost measure is literacy. So long as we do not provide education to a certain community, there could be no awareness among them.

Sir, some of our friends say that, if those people do not want to study, what can they do. It is not so. There is district Kargil in Jammu and Kashmir, where the percentage of education was very low two-three years back. Religious education used to be given to the boys there. Since the formation of coalition government there, we have introduced incentives for the girls. You won't believe this but as of now almost cent percent girls are getting education in Kargil. The time is not far when the Kargil district would be number one in terms of education. Despite Muslim majority and problems in Jammu-Kashmir, the number of Madarsas is less in comparison to other states of the country. The reason is that there is free education from the primary to the university level and once people receive free education, they don't shift towards Madarsas. Here, big things have been spoken about Jammu-Kashmir and secularism has also been touched upon. I want to tell my colleagues that the kind of life which Gandhiji observed at that time, still exists. Today when our C.M. is a Muslim, the Dy. C.M. is a Hindu, the Chief Secretary is also a Hindu and our Principal Secretary is Kashmiri Pandit. Where would you find such a great example? Secularism is not a mere slogan, which is just spoken here without touching the real spirit. It should be in your heart, it should be in your mind. If we really want to learn the lesson of secularism, we should then learn it from Jammu-Kashmir. I have 2-3 suggestions for the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, please conclude now. Three minutes are over, there is time constraint today.

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI: One of my suggestions as far as education is concerned, is that firstly we should introduce marketable skills in schools. Otherwise, we would produce only unemployed educated youth from there also. Secondly, our country is famous for spiritualism

too and our biggest war begins due to religious exploitation itself. I would request Shri Arjun Singhji that Islamic studies, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism should be introduced in institutions after primary schools as an experiment so that religion is not exploited in shakhas, schools or madarsas, rather they would impart true lesson about Islam, Hinduism, Christianity and Sikhism.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. Please co-operate. You are a Member of the Panel of Chairmen. There is a time constraint.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I support the minority issue, but I am constrained to support this Bill. That is because it is a Bill to replace an Ordinance. The Government is already committed, hence, I am supporting this legislation. In the normal course, I would not support.

In the first place, from a legalistic point of view, there are many inherent defects in the Bill. Are the minorities' rights provided in the Constitution a basic feature of the Constitution? It is a question to be decided by the Supreme Court whether the minorities' rights is a basic feature of the Constitution or not. If it is a basic feature of the Constitution, it cannot be amended. That matter is still under the consideration of the Supreme Court. That is one point.

Secondly, the Commission which is constituted is a judicial body and it is given the power of a judicial court. It is given all the powers of a civil court. Why should there be a disqualification for a citizen of India to be a member of that Commission? They are discharging a judicial function. The Chairman of the Commission should be a minority community man. Suppose a minority judge is not available. What will happen? That is another point. If this argument is accepted, then there is another difficulty.

There are six universities in the Schedule. Suppose the Aligarh Muslim University has applied for it and, because the minorities should be protected, that university is included in the Schedule. Then, all the Muslim educational institutions from Kanyakumari to Kashmir will apply for affiliation to Aligarh Muslim University. What will be the state of affairs then? You cannot prevent them. Any Muslim educational institution can apply for affiliation to Aligarh Muslim University, which comes under the Schedule.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to support now or not?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: So, please remove that mention of community. It is a discrimination. It is clearly a discrimination. The Chairman need not be a Muslim. Let us take a case. Suppose there is a dispute with regard to affiliation. A minority educational institution is applying for affiliation to a Scheduled University. If there is any dispute, the matter will be decided by the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, which is consisting of minorities only. There will be a prejudice then because the Scheduled University is not a minority institution.

It is a majority institution. Minority educational institution is a party to the dispute and that is being decided by a Commission consisting of minority community members only. This is there in the Fundamental Rights of our Constitution. It is highly discriminatory. That is why, I am afraid that the Bill will not withstand the judicial scrutiny. *...(Interruptions)* I want to help the legal process. *...(Interruptions)* It is not a political process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to support the Bill, Shri Radhakrishnan?

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We must do something for the minority communities. It should not be a stunt. *...(Interruptions)* We will have to take all these into consideration and get the defects removed. *...(Interruptions)* There are many provisions in the Act which have to be rectified. *...(Interruptions)* There are many provisions which have to be changed. *...(Interruptions)* Who is from the minority community? As per the provisions of the Act, this the Central Government will decide. Education is in the Concurrent List. States will have to decide the minority status. *...(Interruptions)* That is the decision of the Supreme Court. As per the provisions of the Bill, whether a particular community is a minority community will be decided by the Central Government. This will not stand. *...(Interruptions)* So, we will have to remove all these defects immediately. Then, it will stand. Otherwise, it will not help the minority communities. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Shri Radhakrishnan. Now, Shri Francis Fanthome.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Francis Fanthome.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Francis, I have called your name. You may start your speech.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not fair. You are a senior Member, Shri Radhakrishnan. He is a new Member. Let him speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOMÉ (Nominated): Hon. Chairman, Sir, may I thank you for allowing me to support the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Bill and oppose the Resolution of disapproval against the promulgation of the National Commission for Minorities Educational Institutions Ordinance (No. 6 of 2004) promulgated by His Excellency, the President of India on 11th November, 2004.

I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for Human Resource Development for this historical legislation and thank the UPA Government for supporting the provisions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, you are in the Panel of Chairmen. No cross-talks please.

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOMÉ: I would like to compliment the hon. Minister in the words of Mohsin Zaidi, and I quote:

*[Translation]*

Zumbishe noke kalam hi sahi khanjar ke khilaf koi maidan mein aaya to sahi sitamgar ke khilaf.

*[English]*

With these words, let me commend the hon. Minister and his Ministry for moving this historic legislation. My friend, Shri Rawat and the hon. Members on the other side have said a lot of things which basically create a lot of suspicion, a lot of bogey of pandering to the minorities and generating concerns of mistrust. This is most unfortunate. The Bill only facilitates affiliation of institutions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

I would only like to say in the words of Nida Fazli:

[*Translation*]

"Safar mein dhoop to hogi, jo chal sako to chalo, sabhi hain bheed mein, tum bhi nikal sako to chalo, kisi ke vaaste rahein kahan badali hain tum apne apko khud hi badal sako to chalo."

[*English*]

Thank you for allowing me to speak. With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Sir, I welcome this Bill on National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions. I really congratulate Madam Sonia Gandhi and the hon. Minister Shri Arjun Singh who has brought this Bill for the welfare of the minorities. During six years of NDA rule, minorities have been neglected in all aspects, more particularly in Kendriya Vidyalayas. In my State of Tamil Nadu, during that time, not even a single student was admitted in the Kendriya Vidyalayas. This should be taken care of. You have to give preference to the minorities in every institution. The Government must ensure that rich people should not use this Bill for opening a *benami* institution and taking advantage of it. The Government should ensure this. 'Minority' means the Muslims, the Christians, the Buddhists, the Jains and people from other communities. The linguistic minorities should not be included in this. For your information, in the Southern part of India, the forward community and more particularly our Brahmin friends are opening institutions in the name of minorities. That should be checked. A parliamentary Committee must be formed to grant permission for opening such school and colleges under one umbrella. Minority educational institutions must reserve fifty per cent of seats for the minorities and charge subsidised fees from the students of minority community in colleges as well as in other institutions. Teachers' training staff colleges must be established to train teachers in the skills required for teaching the minority community. There is no single Muslim minority educational institution for the teaching of the minority communities.  
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): He is using the word 'Brahmin'. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, he is a Brahmin. He is asking:

"Why did he take the name of Brahmins?  
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: What have you done for the minorities? You have converted the Kendriya Vidyalayas into BJP Vidyalayas. In your period, Kendriya Vidyalayas have been turned into BJP Vidyalayas.  
...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there will be any objectionable and unparliamentary word, it shall be expunged.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: The minority educational institutions for higher studies must be given the status of a deemed university. A proper grant must be created for the payment of salaries to the teachers, so that appropriate talent is attracted for this profession, which is also the most important ingredient of any educational system.

In my district of Dindigal and Theni, we want Kendriya Vidyalayas to be opened. In my State, Urdu schools are there. In 1980s, there were 2,000 students and now the strength has gone down to 20 or 30. My hon. friend from vellore constituency Shri Kader has said that in his constituency urdu schools have been maintained by non-Muslims. Those who do not know Urdu, they are the Head Masters there. This thing should be curtailed. I appreciate this Bill.

This UPA Government whatever says, does it. In Tamil Nadu, Whatever Kalaingar says, he is doing that. This is there in the manifesto.

With these words, I conclude. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Biswamuthiary.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, he has made some derogatory remarks. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already given my furling. Any derogatory remark will not be on the record.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Those remarks should be expunged from the records.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already given my ruling that objectionable and unparliamentary words will be expunged. Now, please take your seat.

You have written in section 2 that

[English]

...(Interruptions)

this Commission will be constituted with only three Members. There will be one Chairman and two other Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Bwiswmuthiary.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)\*

If you include only three members, then how would you be able to provide this facility to the tribals and scheduled caste people?

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me this opportunity to speak on the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Bill, 2004.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

This Bill does not contain any provision for providing adequate Central fund and resources to help sustain the educational institutions set up and run by the minorities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri B.K. Devji, you are a senior member. I have given ruling in that context. You have not listened to that. You are not attentive in the House.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

If we are to solve the problem of education to the minority people, the educational institutes established by the tribal people, scheduled caste people and religious minority people should be provided funds directly by the Union Government. So, my suggestion is that

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Sir, I support this Bill with certain reservations. It is because I am afraid whether this Bill will comprise the tribals and the Scheduled Caste people. If by 'minority' term the Govt. mean only Muslims and Christians minus Indian tribals and the Scheduled Castes, do they think that the educational status of the tribal people and the Scheduled Caste people of this country can be improved?

[English]

So, my humble suggestion to the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development is that let the tribal and the Scheduled Caste people also be included within the purview of this Bill because this Bill lacks a clear-cut interpretation of the term 'minority'.

the Government of India should set up a good number of Central universities to provide quality education on science and technology, information technology, medical science, agriculture, humanities and social science segments to the younger generation of the minority and the tribal people.

[Translation]

Which castes and religious groups of people do you mean by 'minorities'. You have no rigid concept about this matter.

The Government of India should created a new mechanism for providing funds and necessary resources to the educational institutions set up and run by the minorities and the tribal people of this great country—India.

[English]

Therefore, Mr. Minister, you shall have to make it very clear whether the minority will define the Muslims, Christians and some other religious groups of people. You shall have to define it in a very clear-cut way.

Sir, in regard to the Bodoland area, I would like to demand the following:—

- (1) A Central university with the name 'Bodoland Central University' should be set up within the Bodoland territory;

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\*Not recorded.

- (2) A Central agricultural university should also be set up within the Bodoland territory;
- (3) A medical college and an engineering college should also be set up within the Bodoland territory;
- (4) An IIT should also be set up within the Bodoland territory;
- (5) A Bodoland National Institute of Information Technology should also be set up;
- (6) A National Institute of Textiles and Fashion Technology should also be set up within the Bodoland territory;

16.59 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

- (7) As many as five polytechnic institutes should be set up within the Bodoland territory;
- (8) A minimum of 10 ITIs should be set up within the Bodoland territory;
- (9) A National Institute of Management on the pattern of Indian Institute of Management should also be set up within the Bodoland area as well as in very many tribal and Scheduled Caste dominated areas in the country.

Only by doing this, you will be able to improve the educational status of the tribal people and the minority people.

Otherwise, by way of bringing this kind of a Bill alone, the standard and quality of education in tribal areas can not be improved.

17.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill is a revolutionary step taken by the Government. Through this Bill, the Government have taken the Constitutional responsibility of security of the people of minority community. Shri Arjun Singhji has introduced this Bill in the House in order to link the educational

institutes of minorities with the university and give them rights. I welcome and support the same on my behalf and on behalf of my party. I would just like to say that the responsibility of security of the minorities lies with all of us, since we have promised it. We are just trying to keep that promise but the people sitting on our opposite side feel that this Government support the minorities only. If you too had supported them, you would not have met this faith. SCs and STs also should be provided reservation in the educational institutes of the minorities. They should be provided reservation in general institutions also.

MR. SPEAKER: You please conclude.

[*English*]

Do not get distracted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: As far as he has told of my joining the Cabinet, I shall also get you the membership in the Kanchipuram ... (*Interruptions*). So, there does not arise the question of the Cabinet here. I do not want to take more time and would like to make my submission in brief. I shall fully cooperate you in running the House smoothly, but these people are not cooperating.

Chalana hi hai to secular ko chalo  
Communalism ko chalane se kya fayda  
milana hi hai to hindu-musalman ko aapas mein milao  
unko alag karne se kya fayda  
chalna hi hai to UPA ke saath chalo

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: After that shayari, nothing more is required to be said.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: How would it benefit to be with the NDA. With these words, I conclude while supporting this Bill.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your cooperation.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Respected Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been holding discussion on this Bill for about last two days. This Bill under discussion was enacted earlier as an ordinance and now the Bill has been introduced in the House to ensure its passage. I am grateful and thankful to all the hon. Members that they have at least realised it that this is Bill does not pertain to a insignificant subject, rather it pertains to an important one. That's why all the Members took this much time of the House as well as of the country. While expressing their views on the Bill during the ongoing discussion.

I would also like to point out that several things not directly concerned with the Bill, had also been mentioned here and it also happened naturally as the subject concerns every citizen of the country as the subject comprehensively deals with education in that how our family and other countrymen could be educated and even more unfortunately trained. I have not come here to give any prescription. I would also like to make in clear that I am not a great educationist. But being an ordinary political worker, whatever I have come to learn, hear and do in the company of good people, especially as an ordinary sepoy of the Congress party, during the last 50 years, could emerge only out of a wider national approach in our national Context.

It cannot evolve from parochial and narrow mindset. I feel pained that our hon. fellow Shri Bachchi Singh Rawat, while initiating the discussion, has mentioned a point which is not even remotely linked with this Bill. He unnecessarily linked the name of the Prime Minister of our country with this subject and with the comment that I have introduced this Bill with the aim to make our Prime Minister feel let down and to pretend that I am doing something for the minorities. Only you give credence to this tendency. We all are the Members of a disciplined party, the President of which is Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. By supporting this Government and electing him the Prime Minister, the Congress Party has given them the responsibility to lead the country on the path of progress and we are fully committed to them. We are not at all working with this approach as he has mentioned and it is but natural on his part to mention in this way. Politically I would not like to say anything. We have all been involved in the politics. We will talk of the politics when appropriate time for the same comes. Since the

subject is concerned with education, whatever views you and the Ministers in the previous NDA Government have had in the field of education during the last five-six years, should certainly be known to this House. Sir, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, being the Prime Minister formulated the National Education Policy in 1986. The policy was implemented throughout the country after holding discussions with each party and getting it approved from the Parliament without having any political motive. That education policy contained a provision which formed part of its action plan that a National Committee for Minority Education should also be formed. Subsequently, the said Minority Education Committee was formed in pursuance of that policy. Its first meeting was held on 28 July, 1995 since Rajivji had put in place the process of revision of this Committee as well as of the National Education Policy and it naturally got linked with that. Its term ended in 1998 and it was hoped that we would continue to work under the old policy itself since your NDA Government did not come out with any new education policy in the country. It is very sad that all other things were kept aside but the Committee which meant for the minorities neither held its any meeting after 1998 nor any other Committee was formed and it was recently on 7th of August that the UPA Government have reconstituted this Committee now.

However what does the rhetoric of support they indulged into, indicate? Did it mean anything, yes it did. But they wanted to neglect it and just pretend that they were supporting the National Policy for Education and subsequently when the people of this country cornered them as this right belong to the masses and when the need to Start a fresh debate on education was felt. Then this suggestion came as a natural as to what burning issues related to minority education are sought to be addressed. We all may have different opinion and approach about it. But it is very necessary to know as to what the minorities actually think. All the Heads of all the national political parties of the country were invited on 03 July, 2004 for holding deliberations without any political consideration. A question was raised as to why we did not invite the BJP when all the national parties that are recognised by the Election Commission were invited. It is right. I would like to tell as to why the BJP was not invited despite its being a national party. Kindly listen to what I say ...*(Interruptions)*. During the last five years, the minorities were persecuted. If we had invited you for dialogue, there would have been no discussion there. Only Squabbling would have been taken place. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rawat, you will have an opportunity to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Do not think that you have the right to say anything about me and I would be intimidated not to retaliate. Do not have such misconception in your mind.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give you an example. You won't imagine that a Minister of the Union Government can behave like this. That's why we did not want to create tension over such issues. We really desired to hold discussions, so that things may be unearthed by the way of dialogues. For this reason, we did not invite them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give one more example. The Karunya Institute of Technology and Science was established near Coimbatore. For this, the KITS was treated with partiality. The only reason seems behind this is that the Institute was established and managed by the minorities. Kindly listen to how all of it did happen. The KITC submitted the application for the establishment of the deemed University to the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 17 March, 2000. The application was submitted under the provision of section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

The quotation of the above section is as under:

"Application of Act to institutions for higher studies other than Universities—The Central Government may, on the advice of the Commission, declare, by notification in the Official Gazette, that any institution for higher education, other than a University, shall be deemed to be a University for the purposes of this Act, and on such a declaration being made, all the provisions of this Act shall apply to such institution as if it were a University within the meaning of clause (f) of section 2", *i.e.* it is a deemed University.

It clearly means that the Union Government was to fulfil a legal condition only in order to notify the Karunya as a deemed University and if they desire to do so with a good spirit. The condition was that the Union Government should have given positive recommendation for the Karunya to the UGC. This is the *modus operandi* usually adopted. The UGC is competent to lay down its process in such cases. The Commission constitutes a Committee of experts on its own level. They inspect the institute submitting the application first. They also see whether the courses being conducted by the institute are approved by the concerned actual counselling or not. The same process is followed in each such cases. Since the

legislation recognises only the recommendation made by the UGC as it is clear by the section 3 of the Act, generally the Ministry issue notification in respect of such applications. The same process was followed in past too, at present also, pattern is the same. Then I would like to know as to what were the reasons, it has not been done in the case of Karunya.

The UGC constituted its Committee of Experts in the case of KITS also. The Committee consisted of five Vice-Chancellors also. Out of those five, three were the Vice-Chancellors of technical universities. The UGC's Committee inspected Karunya. On the basis of the Committee's report and finding that all the courses being conducted by the KITC were approved by the Indian Technical Education, the UGC forwarded its recommendation to the Central Government on 24 April, 2001. Now the Ministry of Human Resource Development was to issue a notification only. Minister's approval was required for it. For some reasons which are not clear from the files, the AICTE recommend it or it was recommended by the Council. Since AICTE did not come into being at that time, when UGC recommended it that the courses of Karunya which were already recognised and approved by the council, were accredited since 1999 itself because of not being accredited by the National Accreditation Board and that the courses legally recognised by the AICTE require UGC's recommendation only. Accreditation is only a matter of mutual comparison of the institutes which is elective in the matter. The institutes of international repute like the Delhi University and the JNU refuse to take accreditation from the NVSE, an institute parallel to accreditation. The Ministry did not accept the recommendations of the UGC, in the excuse of accreditation. The UGC did write to the Government that the attitude of the AICTE in this matter is not legally right, but the Ministry took no action over the application in respect of Karunya during the period from April, 2001 and 23 June, 2004 *i.e.* the Ministry did not take any action in this matter for three years.

On the other hand, there are remarks written on the file in which the Secretary, Education has written that there is no hurry in it. The reasons behind adopting such attitude and act are not clear. The Karunya had to at last knock at the door of the court of law in compulsion. The Chennai High Court on 13 August, 2003 ordered the Central Government to provide Karunya a status of deemed University in the same month at its application. Far from obeying the above order, the then Minister perhaps for the first time indicated in the file that this order. ...(*Interruptions*)



[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, for the last ten minutes, the Minister is only denigrating the Minister of the previous Government. Sir, you are the Speaker. Please try to understand what the hon. Minister is speaking. Merely denigrating the previous Minister is no reply. The Bill is on something else. How is he replying? If it is one or two sentences, then it is all right.  
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You people please keep quite and sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, he is not yielding. This is no point. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quite.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has not yielded. You have not requested him to yield. You are raising a matter which is not pertaining to the subject matter. It is not a point of order either.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, the hon. Minister may please continue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, I have shown proper respect for you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, I have always shown respect for you. I have shown respect to all the hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, you cannot interrupt Minister's reply. The issue has been raised here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Such expressions will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir,  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down please.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I am talking of democracy.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members may kindly sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: O.K., hon'ble Minister, you please speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are different view points. You have to hear to others. You do not agree to that. But you oppose it in a proper manner. Mr. Rawat will reply. He can reply to that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when they do not have the courage to listen then why they are talking so much. ...  
...(Interruptions)

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\*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot dictate to the Minister as to how he should reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are running against the time.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: The point is not just that the hon'ble Members having different political ideology wrote to the hon'ble Minister and also reminded him. I am telling the names of some of them here. Shri Vaiko wrote letter to the hon'ble Minister on 22 May, 2000, Shri Denzil Atkinson on 23 July, 2001, May 2002 and 12 November, 2002, Shri Master Mathan in June, 2001 and Shri P.A. Sangma wrote letter to him in April 2003. The hon'ble Minister gave no reply to them, except sending acknowledgments of their letter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only this, the President of Tamil Nadu Bhartiya Janata Party, Dr. Kripanidhi also wrote a letter in October, 2000 when the Head of Karunga, Dr. Deenakaran requested him to interfere in this matter. The hon'ble Minister did not take any action over these letters, but he only acknowledged them. Unfortunately, neither any action was taken in this matter, nor any reply was given. There can not be a greater example of committing atrocities against minorities than this.

Sir, not only this, when the UPA Government was formed and this case was brought before me, I thought it right to inquire from the Secretary, Education first as to why it happened. You would be surprised to know that when the Secretary, Education was asked, he clearly stated that he was not in a position to comment anything in this matter. You can see as to whom one should approach to get justice for minorities.

Sir, in the background of all these things, it has been decided to introduce a legislation. It is upto them to agree with that or not, but this decision does not go against anybody. It is also a fact that no Bill has been introduced under this section of the Constitution till date during the last 50-55 years of Independence. So, it was contemplated that a Bill should be introduced at least to safeguard fundamental rights guaranteed for the minorities. We are not trying to go against any decision or individual.

But a provision should be made under which the minorities could get some relief. That's why the said Bill has been introduced.

Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble Members that the introduction of this Bill does not aim to go or work against anybody. Neither the jurisdiction of anybody has been affected nor it has been curtailed, be it the UAC, AITEC or any other organisation.

Nobody's powers have been diluted. The only objective is that if an aggrieved person should be given an opportunity to is his a grievance be listened. Now they would say as to why I have done so. If they think so, please forgive me. The people sitting on other side have a totally different opinion over this issue. But I would not accept it unless legal opinion forbids us. As far as the Supreme Court is concerned, some of them have said that it would declare it invalid. Supreme Court is, after all, the supreme judicial body. Whatever is the decision of the Supreme Court over this issue, we would certainly abide by that. But I do not think so. I think the Supreme Court is not bound to act according to their will.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that the issue should not be treated in light of whether it is subject of the state or union but because States and the Centre both would like to work together on this issue although this subject comes under the concurrent list. Then came the issue of commercialisation. There's no denying the fact that the concept of commercialisation is largely being adopted in many fields. There are different rules and fees for recruitment. Different states have given representation over these issues. We have decided that on behalf of centre we would not act separately over this because of State relation. A conference of all the Ministers would be called and a consolidated approach would be adopted and on the basis of that a central legislation would be enacted to curb commercialisation. ...*(Interruptions)* The depoliticisation would take place only when they do not bring politics in it. If the conduct is not like this, the people would then have to think over it despite their unwillingness....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you need not respond to every interruption.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I do not respond to interruptions which are obviously motivated. But the

[Shri Arjun Singh]

impression should not be there that as if we have nothing to say. That is why, I said it.

The amendment that I have moved is in the light of that approach that the State and the Centre would like to go together on these things so that there is no misconception on what we want to do and in what manner we want to do.

[Translation]

In this connection, I have to say only this that I hope the House would pass this Bill and perhaps the good sense will also prevail over the Members sitting on the other side and they will also pass it unanimously.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Rawat's statement will go on record.

Every hon. Member, on whatever side he is, is entitled to make his observation. He has a right to make his speech. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not recorded. Nothing is recorded. Let us develop the system of hearing the other's point of view also.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please speak during the third reading.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, now it is 5.30 p.m. Would you agree that the Half-an-Hour discussion can be taken after we conclude this item?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the end there is a word that let good sense prevail on us, I thank God that this discussion commenced on the 14th and after its commencement it was put forward by the hon'ble Members that.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There should be no cross talk. After all, these are important issues. The hon'ble Member is entitled to make his statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': The States as well as academicians should have been consulted in this matter. All these things made such an impact that immediately good sense prevailed upon the ruling side and they have brought this amendment today on the 16th day of the month. I think that they should have given it a bit more thought as the hon. Members supporting UPA including hon. Radhakrishnan and Owaisiji should have taken into account the legal aspect as to how it might affect the autonomy of the universities.

There was hue and cry and allegations were levelled pertaining to the curtailment of autonomy of the IIM Ahmedabad. But when the academic autonomy of the universities across the country is being curtailed and the Government have brought an amendment seeking to amend section 10 thereby providing that the State Governments would consult the concerned universities. But where only the State Governments are involved and he has conceded that it is mentioned in the concurrent list, then the hurry being shown is uncalled for. When the maximum period of your 56 years. ... (Interruptions)  
Let me conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rawat, are you yielding?

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I am not yielding.

MR. SPEAKER: You deal with that when the clause comes up for amendment.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': It would be better if he submits all points while concluding because there are numerous points and it will go on and members will begin to ask. I think that whatever the hon. Speaker rules would be appropriate. At least one amendment has been brought about with regard to the jurisdiction. Further, with regard to the natural justice, as he also apprehends, appellate jurisdiction might be challenged in the Supreme Court. Why should such a condition be allowed to grow. When we *i.e.* Parliament is the supreme body to formulate legislation and we have got time at our disposal. Besides, we have constitutional authority to do so. It is not a prestige issue either. At the start of the debate we made it clear that NDA is not in opposition to the spirit. We are not against the spirit of this bill. It should invariably be brought and affiliation should be granted. But this should be done following established procedure and practice. Some shortcomings have crept in as it has been decided in a hurry. It should be further deliberated upon. I have asked for 90 days for eliciting the opinion on the said amendment and in case of another amendment I have asked it to be circulated till 20.8.05 for eliciting the opinion thereon. Either this should have been accepted or another proposal to refer it to Select or Standing Committee should have been made but such a proposal has not been made. You made a passing reference while mentioning about globalisation that in future the Government propose to bring a bill about which a requirement was being felt urgently and which could take care as to what extent minority institutions can be strengthened and brought at par with other institutions. However when the apprehensions were expressed that if affiliation is granted by bypassing the norms of the U.G.C., the AICTE, ACI and DCI, the quality of education will be affected, no reply to this apprehension has been given.

About the minorities, the hon. Bodo Member as well as others submitted that we go there from South or the Bodos go there,

[*English*]

They are in minority. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. It will not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

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\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bwiswmuthiary, you cannot stand up any time you like.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have already spoken. Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': This point should also be deliberated upon. I have been alleged of a wrong statement. I want your protection in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You made very good points. Kindly conclude now.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I want your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: I need protection. Now-a-days Speaker needs protection.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Initially it was said that I had made a wrong statement. In fact, I have got the whole verbatim record of the speech I have made.

[*English*]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, by mistake I took his name. This comment was made by Shri Sushil Kumar Modi.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': The allegation levelled against me was that I quoted the speech of the first Prime Minister of the country Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and said that hon. Minister wanted to become the Prime Minister. I have nowhere made such a mention. The hon. Minister has wrongly made such an allegation, I have nowhere said it in my speech. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: That has been clarified.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Someone else might have said that. I never said that the hon. Minister wanted to become or hon. Minister was in the race for the post. But this statement has gone on record now that I made this statement against him. So please get it checked. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have concluded. You have submitted very good points.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': This has not been said by me. This is a personal allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, he is not asking for anybody's support.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I am not asking for any support. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You carry on yourself.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': There is nothing. This statement is not there in my speech, so I need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: I give full protection. I give protection and also ask for it.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': It is not in my speech. The hon. Speaker may kindly order it to be expunged you must have made some error in hearing. ...*(Interruptions)*

Your spectacles are alright, but there is definitely some error in hearing.

Mr. Speaker, I need your protection. The allegation levelled against me may kindly be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He has clarified that it relates to Shri Modi.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I am not talking about qualification and capabilities. He is qualified, but I have not spoken about that. He may become that, my best wishes are with him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing has been told about you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': It was constantly being told about the previous Government and the erstwhile Ministry that delays were made in granting recognition and the issue was taken to the court. I think that hundreds of cases of HRD Ministry related to education, promotion, recognition, affiliation, services etc. go to the court even today and such cases were there during the time when you were also Minister. We are not aware as to what has happened or what has not happened and the erstwhile concerned Minister is no longer a Member of the House. He could have given a proper reply in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You should not refer to each and everything.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': But one thing he said was that the Bharatiya Janata Party was deliberately not invited. We are working under a democratic system and all the Members are elected by the people. As regards the language used, I would say that the Bharatiya Janata Party is the second largest party in India and it is number one in respect of membership. The Election Commission can throw light on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He is entitled to make his submission.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': The Election Commission of India can decide the allegation levelled

against me. The Supreme Court of India can give its verdict in this regard and our recognition can be cancelled. In a nutshell, every political party of the country is working in the political arena with full faith in the Constitution of India. Hence, this allegation is not true, it is baseless and against the spirit of the Constitution. It should be condemned and withdrawn. Any recognised political party having Members here, is fully empowered. But I apprehend that they want to usurp the right of the Election Commission. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are becoming sensitive to every statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': We remember the period of emergency of 1975 and apprehend about their mentality which might again move into that direction. They want to pursue the politics of confrontation. From the very beginning, it has been our contention about this Bill that it should be presented properly in a comprehensive form after due deliberations and not through confrontation. Why is there so much haste? What message is being tried to be sent out by keeping away both the SP and the BJP? Nothing else except appeasement appears to be involved. In these circumstances only this can be said. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you have covered all the points very effectively.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Several hon. Members have recited couplets, I would also conclude my speech with one. The hon. Minister has presented this Bill under the garb of pseudo-secularism. It is not that this is immediately going to serve the interest of any community. Neither is it urgently needed. May good sense prevail upon them even now! Again, I know this because it is my bill that in the case of the amendment introduced on their behalf the majority will prevail. Our amendment is going to be negated. If they introduce that amendment on their own behalf there is no prestige issue. ...(*Interruptions*) If a good bill

is introduced tomorrow, we all will support it.  
...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have very forcefully spoken on behalf of your party.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I am telling a couplet with a slight change in its reference:

"Barbad gulistan karane ko Ek Hi Lallu Kafi hai,

Anjame Gulistan kya hoga, Har shakh pe Lallu Baitha Hai"

With these words, I conclude my speech, strongly opposing this bill and with a request to the hon. Minister to reconsider this bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow. He is not the Minister that he would reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you shouting? Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated.

...(*Interruptions*)

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\*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rawat, do you wish to press this resolution?

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have not given any solution to my point. Your intention is not good. The way you are adamant, you are not even ready to bring in an amendment, you have failed to satisfy us. This has been done today only for appeasement. Opposing it I, along with my partners walk out of the House. ...(Interruptions)

17.40 hrs.

*(Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' and some other hon. Members then left the House.)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I shall put the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the National Commission for Minorities Educational Institutions Ordinance, 2004 (No. 6 of 2004) promulgated by the President on 11th November, 2004."

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, there is an amendment to motion for consideration moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat for sending the Bill for circulation.

The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion by 20th March, 2005."

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to constitute a National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions and to provide for

matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 9 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 9 were added to the Bill.*

Clause 10

*Right of a Minority Educational Institution to seek affiliation to a Scheduled University*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Vasudevan Nair, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR (Thiruvananthapuram): In view of the amendment to be moved by the Government which meets our objection to a great extent, I do not want to move my amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): No, Sir. I am not moving my amendment for the same reason.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, there are two Government amendments.

*Amendments made:*

Page 3, line 40,—

for "10." substitute "10. (1)" (3)

Page 3, after line 42,—

*Insert—*

"(2) The Scheduled University shall consult the Government of the State in which the minority educational institution seeking affiliation under subsection (1) is situate and views of such Government shall be taken into consideration before granting affiliation." (4)

17.45 hrs.

## HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 10, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 10, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 11 to 26 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title*  
*were added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

—  
*...(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Disintegration of NDA is welcome. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now we come to Item 18.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening?

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall delete everything.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up Half-an-Hour Discussion. It is very important.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): It is good for the future of the nation that NDA is divided.  
*...(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

### Drought Affected States

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up item No. 18—Half-an-Hour Discussion.

Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, responding to Question No. 64 on 6.12.04, the Government admitted that there was a fear of drought in several States due to inordinate delay in monsoon. Our's is an agriculture oriented country and agriculture plays a major contribution in economy of the whole country. Besides farming is directly related with employment whether it is for the farmers or for farm labourers. But it is unfortunate for this nation that a number of its States either face flood due to heavy rains or drought due to scanty rainfall. But till date no concerted efforts have been done to solve this problem.

This year, too, the average monsoon in the country has been recorded less than 13%. This has created a drought condition in a number of States. But in reply to this question, it has been stated that the arrival of monsoon in the month of August improved the conditions in many States. Despite this, there has been no improvement in the biggest, State, Bihar due to monsoon. We want to draw your attention to the fact that while there was on an average 13% lesser rains in the entire country, in Bihar it was 60 to 70% lesser and in contrast to this 2.8% of the country's area comes under Bihar and 8.1% of the population of the country is in Bihar. If we consider in terms of population, there are 880 persons per Sq. Km. But today half of the North Bihar is already in the grip of flood whereas southern part of the river Ganges is in the grip of drought. Before the partition of Bihar, it did not lack resources but after the partition the entire Bihar is dependent on agriculture and there is no industry there. All the industries have been closed down. Only the Barauni Refinery of Indian Oil is operational in entire Bihar, otherwise that there is no industry there. It is because of this there is lack of resources and the denizen of Bihar is basically depend on agriculture. But due to erratic monsoons this year, the agriculture of the



[Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan']

entire State is affected severely. The paddy crop was sown somehow with the help of diesel pumps as there is no proper arrangement for water. But scanty rainfall ruined the entire paddy crops. 'Tal' area in Bihar, which has got the name because of its pond like conditions in rainy season, is the largest grower of pulses. The pulses are sown at a particular moisture level after the rain water flows away from there at the end of rainy season. But this time not an inch of rain water accumulated in those areas. Older people of the village say that they have never seen such bad times in their life when there is not an inch of rain in this area. The farmers of these areas are on the verge of starvation.

Moreover, acute potable water shortage is likely to occur in these areas. Because of scarcity of rains, ground water level is annually going down by 10 cms. annually. Hence, it is not being possible to arrange drinking water there. But this problem is likely to go bad to worse after two months. In reply to a question in this regard the Government have said that they are planning to send a team in several States but there is no such proposal for Bihar. They submitted about more allocation for Bihar but it has also not been clarified that the demand so made was for floods or to tackle the drought. The condition of Bihar is pitiable today because of mismanagement of Bihar Government. Although water and agriculture are State matters but unfortunately Bihar Government does not believe in management, it believes in mismanagement. The condition in Bihar has become horrible and will further worsen.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Agriculture as to how much money was demanded by the Bihar Government to tackle drought and whether they have submitted any action plan to the Union Government in this regard. I would like to ask whether the funds so allocated and food grains released by the Government, so far, are meant to tackle the floods or drought. If it is meant to tackle both, then I would like to know as to how much money was allocated to Bihar Government to tackle the drought. In view of severe impending crisis, I would like to request the Government to start employment generation schemes like Food for Work Programme in order to provide employment there. Whatever, drought relief measures are taken or introduced and implemented, should be under the vigil of Centre since we do not have any hope in the State Government. They have created total anarchy there. It neither has will nor the will power, hence through you, I request that arrangement should be made by the Union Government to monitor all these programmes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I wish to compliment you. It was very well put.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I would like to put two questions.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot put. This is not the way to function. There is some thing called 'rules'. For your kind information, the Members, who have previously intimated the Speaker, may ask a question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact. I will call all the four hon. Members whose names have become successful, as you all know, in the ballot.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, the Government has selected about 150 districts under the Food-for-Work Programme. But there are places where there were no rains continuously for seven years. How is the Government planning to help those places which are not included in the 150 districts?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Nalanda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, last week also I had raised this issue through Special Mention with your permission. Some parts of Bihar are reeling under severe drought. As honourable Member has just mentioned that there is a drinking water crisis as water level has gone down. Consequently, six people have died in Nalanda district alone as I have mentioned earlier. Most of these people were dalits and agricultural labourers. I have mentioned everybody's name in the House earlier. During weekend, when I visited my parliamentary constituency, I was very sad to know that the number of people who had died had touched twelve. Situation is turning worse day by day and no action is being taken by the Government in this regard. Honourable Rural Development Minister is sitting here who I had spoken to a month ago and I had apprised him of bad state of affairs. I requested the concerned officers also to chalk out some scheme so that poor agricultural labourers may get some job.

Most of the people depend on agriculture and since crops could not be sown so people have been rendered jobless. and are facing the threat of starvation under this condition the Government should immediately take some initiative and launch a scheme. As I had mentioned earlier

that twelve States in the country faced drought during NDA's regime and whichever State demanded for food grains, it was provided. As some areas are facing drought therefore I would request the Government to include those affected districts, which have not been included under food for work programme in it.

Secondly, in view of the conditions prevailing over there, the Government should avail this opportunity and start some scheme for the benefit of the people. The Government can take up farming related projects including the expansion of irrigation facilities. Just now honourable Member mentioned about toll area. Sir, as you are aware, it comprises one lakh nine thousand hectare agricultural land where pulses are grown. Earlier, entire toll area was under irrigation and it is for the first time that the crops have not been sown in this area. The situation has turned quite serious. People are not getting drinking water and livestock are not getting fodder. Diesel has become quite costlier and there is out cry everywhere. Honourable Devendra Yadav may get hurt but the Government should pay some attention towards humanitarian relief. The State Government and party in power as well is holding Mazdoor Kisan Rally. My submission is that if the money spent on such rallies was spent for this purpose there may not have been hunger deaths. They are getting elected by their votes whereas after winning the election they are not at all bothered about them. None goes there to see the sad state of affairs. Honourable Minister of Agriculture has just gone, otherwise I would have requested him to visit the affected areas at least once. Since half-an-hour discussion has been permitted on this issue so they should be given some relief atleast. I would urge honourable Agriculture Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar to visit the drought affected areas of Bihar. I myself had visited Rajasthan when I was the Minister of Agriculture. I would request honourable Agriculture Minister to spare sometime and take stock of the situation in affected areas and provide them the required relief immediately. He should find out some solution to their problems. Secondly, I would request him to start Food for Work programme in Nalanda District also.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am greatly thankful to you as you have given me an opportunity to speak on the issue relating to drought. 80 crore people in India live in the villages and most of them depend on agriculture for the livelihood. The population of Uttar Pradesh is 18 crores. It's true that the Government have passed the buck on erratic rain-fall

and we also have admitted it. As honourable Nitish Kumar ji has stated that the people are dying of hunger. In this regard I would like to say that the Government can extend help to the affected people so that the people on verge of hunger can be saved. Agro-scientists working with the agricultural institute have conducted a survey in western Uttar Pradesh and Purvanchal about unirrigated area of land and the number of people affected by drought. My submission is that the Government should start all centrally sponsored schemes in the affected areas. In absence of any employment the marginal farmers with the holding of 1½-2 bigha land are on the verge of hunger.

18.00 hrs.

The exodus of people from rural areas to the urban areas has created problem of unemployment in cities. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should take some effective steps for the benefit of people living below poverty line so that their major problem relating to food grains is solved.

Secondly, agricultural loan taken by the farmers, and interest thereon should be waived including the water-cess. In addition to farmers, the conditions of animals and the birds is also pitiable. They are also dying of hunger. Everywhere people are facing drought and no fodder is available. Therefore, my submission is that the fodder may also be provided. I conclude with these words.

*[English]*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I would like to know whether the Government is aware that some districts in Kerala were drought affected. It was reported in the Press that the Kerala Government had made an attempt to impress upon the Central Government in this regard.

I would also like to know whether any Central team had gone there to assess the damage. Will the Government take any action on the basis of their report? Please also let me know whether any Central assistance was given to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry, I will not allow. I had allowed 45 minutes on this question. I myself suggested, at that time, that it is an important issue and that is why I would allow Half-an-Hour Discussion on this question. I cannot violate the rules. I am sorry. Please excuse me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very difficult nowadays that the Chair cannot speak and only all of you want to speak. I was trying to help you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is because of the ballot, only four hon. Members could be accommodated. They have also referred to their respective States, namely, Bihar, U.P. and Kerala.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure, you are concerned about the whole country. The hon. Members from other different States also wanted to raise their pertinent issues. I am not denying it. But it is not permitted because of the rules. Therefore, I am sure, you will have the whole country in mind while replying.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai-South Central): Sir, I want to say about the State-of-affairs in Maharashtra.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am talking to everybody. What shall I do if you break the rules and throw the Rules book.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, you promised to me that you would behave in a nice manner.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, I will put you in the Panel of Chairmen. Now, Mr. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): I

thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak here and I am also thankful to Shri Rajiv ji for raising the issue of drought which has far-reaching ramifications. I am grateful to other hon'ble Members also who participated in this discussion and I honour the feelings of the hon'ble Members of the entire House. Sir, acceding to your direction I would like to be very brief and concise. There is no denying the fact that whereas the entire country, experienced more than 70% of the total rainfall during June to September, rains are dependent upon the South-West monsoon. The shortfall of rain during this period or the fluctuation in rainfall for some weeks adversely affected the agricultural production and the supply of potable water.

Therefore, due to these climatic conditions for our country the crisis of drought has been hovering over this or that part of the country every year but the belief that we have accepted drought as an inescapable reality and in case of drought our policy remains confined merely to allocation of funds for relief works is not based on facts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the only permanent measure to deal with the problem of drought is to ensure irrigation facilities. At times, the acute scarcity of rainfall in irrigated areas leads to severe drought conditions. In such situations and in those unirrigated areas where adoption of conventional irrigation methods is not possible due to natural reasons, such a system of regional development is built so as to augment the capacity of these areas to bear the onslaught of drought. In other words provision of, irrigation facilities and different programmes of regional development are the only two remedies for elimination of drought.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1951 when the first Five Year Plan was launched 13.1 crore hectares of agricultural land was under cultivation out of a total geographical area of 32.8 crore hectares in our country. Only 17% of it *i.e.* 2.2 crore hectares was irrigated. Without going into much detail I would like to say that the total area under cultivation increased to 19 crore hectares from 13.1 crore hectares while the areas under irrigation expanded to 7.9 crore hectares from 2.2 crore hectares *i.e.* the area under irrigation registered an increase of more than three times.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will get answers on your points.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We also know that. Right now, please tell something in the specific context.  
...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You always dictate to each other what he will say and what he will not say.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow other hon'ble Members.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Minister, please tell what you are doing about drought and Food for Work programme.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Just please listen, Nitish Ji, you know, has been a Minister but other hon'ble Members, should be given an opportunity to listen.

MR. SPEAKER: You speak, we do not know.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this was a very important matter. I myself suggested at the time when this Question was discussed—on that day, I allowed 45 minutes for one question—that you give a notice for Half-an-Hour Discussion and I shall allow it. Unfortunately, our rules provide for only five hon. Members—one who initiates plus four. I have allowed them. Although only one question is allowed, even then I have allowed Shri Nitish Kumar and other hon. Members because of the importance of the matter.

The hon. Minister has also a right to reply. He must deal with the points you have raised, but if he has a little long preface, you accept it.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, we may be allowed to ask clarifications. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: There are no clarifications in this regard. You also had been a Minister. How can you ask me to violate the rules?

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, honouring the feelings of Shri Rajiv Ranjan ji, I would like to submit all the facts in the House as per your direction.

MR. SPEAKER: I have directed you to be quick.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ordinary droughts are no more here. In view of this situation there can be such pockets even in this area which may require programmes for regional development like the Watershed Management or the programmes such as DPAP. Through them we can tackle all these problems. I am not in a situation to give much data as the subject of irrigation pertains to the Ministry of Water Resources.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would however, be sufficient to merely clarify that irrigation gets higher allocation than almost all the other departments in the Five Year and the annual plans of the States. Apart from it, a loan of Rs. 14,840 crores has been provided to different States under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme sponsored by the Ministry of Water Resources. Utilization of this fund has made the storage of 220.76 T.M.C. of water possible in the States. There are achievements which have been achieved by the States in addition to the works undertaken under their respective plans due to which this has been possible.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in those areas where there is scarcity of rainfall particularly where there are no perennial sources of irrigation, certain measures are required to be taken which may increase the capacity of those areas concerned for tackling the problem of drought. Through these measures unirrigated areas of those regions are irrigated which require irrigation due to frequent droughts there. In those areas either due to financial constraints or of natural causes provision of irrigation facilities have not so far been ensured. This objective has been sought to be fulfilled through various programmes being conducted by different Ministries. Due to paucity of time I would like to give a brief account of all these programmes. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Members. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is all about drought management. It pertains to the Ministry of Agriculture. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar, please listen to the hon'ble Minister. Mr. Minister you please speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am giving information to the hon'ble member about everything. As Mr. Speaker has permitted me to speak, I am ready to share the information with the House. Please don't worry. The issue pertaining to the Ministry of Rural Development requires simultaneous co-operation from many departments in order to tackle the situation of drought. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar, Please take your seat. The hon. Minister is coming to that point also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell that co-operation from many departments is required to tackle the situation of drought. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do not get diverted by the interruptions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: The Ministry of Rural Development is running the D.P.A.P. *i.e.* Drought Prone Area Programme in 182 districts of the country. This programme is being run in the 182 districts as per the feelings expressed by you.

[*English*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, he is mentioning only about various schemes. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I have to ask one question, if the hon. Minister agrees.

MR. SPEAKER: No, Mr. Yerrannaaidu, I cannot tolerate this. I would not allow it even if he agrees to it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Under the said programme the 107 lakh hectares of repeatedly drought affected land has been treated, at a cost of Rs. 4023.02 crores till March 2004. Similarly, under the Integrated Wasteland

Development Project, more than 50 lakh hectares of land has been treated at a cost of Rs. 1559.49 crores.

Similarly, under the works being carried out under the Ministry of Agriculture I would like to tell Nitish Kumar ji that 75 lakh hectares of waste land is being treated under the National Watershed Development. Project being run under the Ministry of Agriculture at a cost of Rs. 2159.54 crores. Alongwith this, 54.86 lakh hectares of land is being treated under the R.B.T. & F.T.R. programme of the Ministry. Likewise, I would like to tell in brief that since 1950, of more than 5 crore hectares of agricultural land has been brought under irrigation. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, kindly mention about the short-term measures. I am speaking just for you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 3.20 crore hectares of land is being treated through the watershed and other techniques. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Hon. Members' interruptions should not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: The land has been irrigated with other techniques in such a way that it has developed the power to bear the drought.

After evaluation of these areas it has been noticed that there is a rise in ground water level there. Such types of activities have resulted in rise in the ground water level there and the cover of flora and fauna has also increased. Our UPA Government have made a fresh effort. This new endeavour has been made under the guidance of our hon'ble Prime Minister and the Chairperson of the UPA, Smt. Sonia ji. Dry land farming is also being started as a result of efforts being made by the Prime Minister under which arrangements are being made for Water Conservation in fields of farmer itself. The report with regard to this project is being prepared and the Planning Commission has principally given the

\*Not recorded.

indication of allocating two thousand crore rupees in the Tenth five-year plan so that the farmers of drought affected areas may prosper on account of rising water level in those areas. The whole House is concerned about it. The hon'ble Prime Minister has separately made a provision of two thousand crore rupees to overcome this situation so that it could bring about happiness and good fortune to the farmers. The Prime Minister has come out with a solution to this. The brief statement makes it clear that long term measures have not been neglected and the concerned Ministries have made a substantial progress in this direction. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall conclude this discussion, if it goes in this way because nobody is interested to hear. What is the good of this discussion? Please sit down. You are all senior Members and you know the rules.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, we want to put a pertinent question. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: When you become a Minister, you would become an articulate Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The interruptions will not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair. You are intentionally interrupting.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Hon'ble Rajiv Ranjan ji has put forth his point to know from the Government about situation in Bihar. In this regard, I would like to tell that drought relief fund of Rs. 162.18 crores has been made available to Bihar. Besides, 2 lac metric tonnes of foodgrain has also been allocated. Provision for more relief would also be considered by February, 2005. I appreciate the way in which the hon'ble Members have expressed their feelings. Chinta Mohanji has also desired to know and I would like to tell him that the hon'ble Minister of Rural Development would make the information available under the Food for Work plan and would work in consonance with feelings expressed by the hon'ble Members. Our young colleague Kiran Kumar ji also wants to have information. Through you, I would like to tell that

Rs. 192 crores have been made available for Uttar Pradesh ...(*Interruptions*) Provision for additional drought relief funds is also being considered. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be no running discussion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Efforts would be made to provide additional relief assistance to Uttar Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly also tell about the Nalanda district of Shri Nitish Kumar ji.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: When he was the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Nitish Kumar ji did a lot of work for Nalanda district. Still more work is required to be done there and I will try to meet the expectations of the hon'ble Member. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Very good, now you have got the reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: I would try to provide more assistance there. We respect your feelings.

You have done a lot of work as the Minister of Agriculture. If still there is need to do more work anywhere there, we would do that on priority basis. Radha-Krishnan ji is also our senior member, we respect him. Respecting his sentiments we would certainly try to do work as desired by him.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you hon. Members. I am grateful to you for your kind cooperation.

The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

18.21 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 17, 2004/Agrahayana 26, 1926 (Saka).*

\*Not recorded.

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