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**Thursday, November 12, 1987**

**Kartika 21, 1909 (Saka)**

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Eighth Session**  
**(Eighth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. XXXII contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

*Thursday, November 12, 1987/Kartika 21,  
1909 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

**Construction of National Highways  
by Private Sector Organisations**

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\*81. **SHRIMATI BASAVA-**

**RAJESWARI :**

**SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :**

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2673 on 20 November, 1986 regarding toll linked Highway construction projects and state :

(a) whether some of the private sector organisations have since expressed their willingness to Government to take up the construction of high traffic density National Highways in the country ;

(b) if so, the details of such private sector organisations and whether Government now propose to assign them the task to construct National Highways ; and

(c) if so, the terms and conditions of the agreement and details of the National Highways likely to be constructed by such organisations ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI  
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.**

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI :** I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the policy of the Government: Whether they want to encourage private sector or not ? If so, what steps the Government has taken so far to encourage the private sector and whether the Government policy is made known to the public, Sir ?

**PROF MADHU DANDAVATE :** Public will support the public sector and private people will support the private sector.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** Sir, we in the Surface Transport Ministry are also facing a severe constraint of resources, In 1947 there were 21,000 kms of national highways and of todate it is 32,000 kms. The requirement is actually 56,000 kms which will actually mean an additional requirement of Rs. 6,000 crores which is phenomenal and very very high. Therefore, other avenues were examined. It was felt that may be the private sector should be told to see if they have any interest in developing the national highways.

Sir, several offers were invited. In July 1985, the Ministry invited offers and wrote to the State Governments to probe whether the private sector would be interested in developing State highways also.

A number of schemes were announced. These were that the source of funds for the private entrepreneurs should be from their own resources, that they will be allowed to fix tariffs according to their commercial judgment but subject to the interests of the users being protected to the existence of toll-free facility and various other stipulations were put down in this offer. There was a

response but there were so many conditions attached to it. It did not seem as if the idea would be to implement. Therefore, it is felt that due to the lack of enthusiasm shown by the private sector maybe this proposal is not going to see the light of day. However, we are still open to a dialogue and we will respond to it as and when proposals are received.

As far as the second part of the question is concerned, as I have said earlier, the Ministry had invited offers and also the State Governments had been informed in the month of July 1985.

**SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI** : Sir, I would like to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that FICCI had pointed out that the entry of private sector in selected areas of highway operations is necessary in the context of more than doubling the 66,000 kms of existing highways by the end of century, which would cost Rs. 45,300 crores. If so, whether the Government is considering to include the private sector in the operation of selected highways.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA** : It was with a view to probe the possibilities of the private sector involving themselves in the construction of national highways. This whole proposal was processed in the first place. As I said, we have not received any encouraging response in the sense that a number of conditions have been attached to the response that we have received. But we are still open for a dialogue.

**SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU** : Sir, as regards the national highways are concerned, the roads are in a poor condition. They are hopeless. In this regard, funds are being allocated to each and every State by the Centre. Supervision is being given to the States. More funds are not allocated each and every year. The same funds are allocated every year, in the same ratio. Because of the escalation in prices, we have to increase the allotment. We are not doing it. For example, we allot Rs. 2 crores in a year and the next year also the allotment is the same amount of Rs 2 crores. Because of the escalation of prices and overhead charges, we have to increase the amount of allocation for each and every State.

Now, I want to say something about the attitude of the Central Government with regard to the surface transport. They want to takeover the national highways under the supervision of the Central Government. I came to know this from the Hon. Minister, Rajesh Pilot. I want to know whether any amendment is being brought for taking over of the national highways under the direct supervision of the Central Government or whether any new legislation is being brought or whether you are actually consulting all the States with regard to taking over of the national highways under one umbrella.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA** : This question pertains to the funding of national highways development by the private sector. I would require separate notice for this.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to the question has perplexed me. Has the hon. Minister realised that road construction work is not being done properly under the supervision of the Government as a result of which the Government propose to assign this work to some private parties. Through this work the contractors are earning lakhs of rupees. In my opinion the Ministry of Railways and PWD are not infamous. When the Government itself cannot complete the construction work of these highways, will it be possible to complete it by assigning it to the private sector ? Has the Government realised that our work is not being done properly ?

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA** : There is no question of the work not being done properly. We are facing financial constraints.

*[English]*

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL** : Sir, the hon. Minister admitted that the conditions of the national highways are very bad. In order to improve the conditions of the national highways and to bring them to the standard of the specifications of the national highways that had been laid down, no doubt they require a lot of funds. The constraint of resources is the major bottleneck for the development of these national highways.

Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister that when the resources are not available in adequate quantity, why not we have some national highways linked with toll, that is to have toll-based national highways and collect the toll from whoever wants to use those highways? It is possible for the Government to collect a lot of resources by this method. There is one organisation in the Ministry called the Indian Roads Construction Corporation which deals mostly with the construction of road works in foreign countries. When other Corporations are inviting the deposits and mobilising resources and funds which are required for their purpose, why not they examine the possibilities of raising resources by inviting deposits in the name of Indian Roads Construction Corporation? And with those resources they can develop the roads. With the amount collected by way of toll, they can develop national highways. Most of the roads, although they are national highways, are worse than the district roads. These are single lane roads; they are not yet double lane and in order to make them double lane, huge funds are required. I would like to know, whether they are prepared to consider this proposal? The Hon. Minister said that the response of the private sector is not very encouraging but my own feeling is that adequate publicity has not been given to it. They might have written to the State Government. But why not make one more attempt to induce the private sector.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** Sir, I have not admitted that the condition of some National Highways is bad. The condition of some national highways could be better. Now, as far as the suggestions of Hon. Member are concerned, they are very constructive suggestions and all his suggestions will be taken note of.

**Death of Children due to health and Under-Nourishment Problems**

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**\*82. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH : SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT :**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent World Health

Organisation study warning that children in third World countries would continue to die of health and undernourishment problems;

(b) if so, what is the precise assessment of the World Health Organisation about children in India; and

(c) how far Government's assessment agrees with it?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

**Statement**

The Report has observed that the Infant Mortality Rate has come down from 124 per thousand live births in 1980 to 104 per thousand live births in 1984. In this respect, the wide regional variations in the Infant Mortality Rates have also been pointed out. The report also dwells on the prevalence of severe malnutrition in about 8.5% of the children, incidence of Goitre and iodine related diseases, nutritional blindness and anaemia. While on the topic of maternal nutritional status, the report also refers to iron deficiency anaemia. The report while pointing out these deficiencies has also positively commented upon the decline in the prevalence of severe malnutrition from 1976 onwards, and, also the increase in the calorie intake in the poorest income groups between 1975-80, due to the positive interventions employed by the Government. The integrated approach adopted for the maternal care and child development by the Government in its overall strategy for Maternal and Child Health is referred to and, the report recommends effective measures for the coordination of the various programmes under this strategy. The report is of the view that while country possesses enough resources—technical, financial and manpower for successful eradication of severe forms of nutritional deficiency, there is need to equitably distribute and optimally utilise these resources for bringing about an allround improvement in the nutritional status of women and children, so as to improve the physical quality of living. Government of India are aware of these problems and issues

and has, in collaboration with the States and Voluntary Organisations, taken up various programmes under Mother and Child Health Care Services, Integrated Child Development Scheme and supplementary nutritional programmes to overcome these problems and, as a matter of fact, the Infant Mortality Rate has further dropped from 104 per thousand live births to 97 per thousand live births in 1985. The Government is also encouraged to receive the positive comments on its efforts, as given in the report.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, although the Government has given a statement of one full page but it has not been mentioned in it what the Government is doing and what it is going to do. The Government has merely stated that the mortality rate has come down from 104 per thousand to 97 per thousand. But actually the fact is otherwise. Madam, you belong to Nagpur: A man went to the C. G. H. S. dispensary in Nagpur to get polio vaccine, which is essential for the safety of the life of a child, administered to his child. In this connection, a complaint has been received that the doctor of that dispensary told that man that only the children of Government employees were administered anti polio vaccine. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the policy of the Government in regard to administering injections? We find advertisements on the T.V. asking the people to go to the Government hospitals to get injections administered. But even then there is so negligence in this respect. How the doctor dares to say like this? It is a case of Nagpur and you also belong to Nagpur. In this connection, I have written to you a letter also. But two months have passed and I have not received any reply. We want to know the policy being followed in regard to such injections. Has the Government discontinued it or only the children of Government employees can avail of this facility? (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** Who are these children of Government?

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** What action have you taken after the receipt of the complaint? How many injections you supply and what are your instructions in this respect? We should know about it.

[*English*]

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE :** Sir, the Hon. Member has brought to my notice the complaint from the CGHS Dispensary in Nagpur. I would like to inform the hon. Member that today I am leaving for Nagpur and when I go there I will definitely go into details of the case and whatever is possible, I will do it.

As far as the Member's query about what the Government is doing, I would like to inform the Hon. Member as well as to the House that so far as the universal Immunisation Programme is concerned, it was started in the year 1985-86 in 30 districts and field practice areas of 50 Medical Colleges. 62 districts and the rest of 56 Medical Colleges were taken in the year 1986-87. 90 districts were covered in the year 1987-88. About 120 districts are proposed to be covered during 1988-89. And it is proposed to take up the remaining 135 and odd districts in the year 1989-90.

A Technology Mission on Vaccination and Immunisation of vulnerable population, specially children, has been set up. The mission covers all aspects of action commencing from research and development to the affected population in the field.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, some days back, a conference was held in Nairobi in which as many as 300 delegates took part. Some doctors from our country might have gone there as delegates. If you go through the report, you will find that it has been underlined in the report that the highest rate of mortality among the children is due to iron deficiency and anaemic conditions. When a child is born, there is deficiency of vitamins in him and mothers suffer from the deficiency of vitamins and anaemic conditions. Has the Government formulated any scheme to remove this deficiency and what are you doing in this respect? By merely saying that we are satisfied that the mortality rate has come down from 124 to 104 in 1984 is not sufficient. If we compare it with other countries, we will find that the rate is still very high. May I know the effective steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

## [English]

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE** : Sir, we have taken a number of steps in this direction. We have found that great majority of cases of anaemia in mothers is of nutritional origin. We are giving tablets to the mothers and children. Under the scheme for rural mothers and children, we give iron and folic acid tablets for a fortnight or a month and the auxiliary nursing and midwifery staff, during the home visit, should verify on the actual intake of tablets by mothers and children.

**SHRI D. N. REDDY** : Sir, in Western countries, children get the first priority not only on health aspects, but in every department. But in our poor country, protein intake woefully poor, especially in the low income groups. Has the Government any plans to increase the allotment of funds to improve the hospitals for children and pregnant women? Is there a proposal from Hyderabad in this regard? Recently, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh met the Hon. Minister for Health and requested him to upgrade the children's hospital in Hyderabad. Giving vitamin tablets and folic acid tablets for a month or so is woefully inadequate and absolutely useless. It has to be followed with a proper nutritional programme for pregnant women and children who suffer from malnutrition especially due to low protein intake. I request the Hon. Minister to inform me whether there is any proposal to upgrade the Children's Hospital in Hyderabad so that a follow up nutrition programme can be taken up, which is very necessary in our country.

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO)** : It is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, when he met the other day did mention about this hospital. I know the Nilofer Hospital in Hyderabad right from the day it was started. I told him that this is a very important hospital in the country. Perhaps it is the first paediatric hospital in the country. I am very keen to do whatever is possible to upgrade this hospital. But that will have to be a part of the Plan. This also I have informed him and he also understood it that it has to be a part of the Plan. We will look into it.

## [Translation]

**SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, certain districts have been selected under the Universal Immunisation Programme. May I know from the Hon. Minister the criteria under which this has been done? Secondly, I would like to know the steps that the Government has taken to check mal-nutrition among children?

## [English]

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE** : Sir regarding this question, I would like to answer the Hon. member that the State Health Authorities have been advised to keep the following criteria in mind while recommending the districts for selection under universal immunisation programme-

- (a) the infrastructure availability preferably in on-going area projects.
- (b) High coverage under the integrated Child Development Scheme;
- (c) Strong and motivated leadership at the district level;
- (d) Within the reasonable distance—communication facilities for supervision and evaluation by the State and Central offices.

All the sixty districts selected this year were on the recommendations of the State Governments. And two districts were added here.

**Indefinite Strike by Delhi University Teachers**

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**83. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that despite settlement of the University and college teachers strike at the level of the All India Organisation of Teachers, the strike of the teachers in Delhi had continued;

(b) If so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the steps that were taken to bring about an end to the strike in Delhi through negotiations on the pending demands of the teachers in Delhi ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to make good the losses in studies ?

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) :** (a) to (c) . Yes, Sir. The D U T.A. did not accept the decision of the AIFUCTO to call off the strike. According to the DUTA, the settlement with AIFUCTO did not provide for the continuance of the merit promotion scheme with the new scales. They were also opposed to the option provided for continuance of the promotion scheme with different scales of pay and the provisions for recruitment, evaluation, etc.

(d) The University of Delhi has decided to make up the loss of 47 teaching days during the strike by holding classes on Saturdays, curtailing the winter vacation and extending the academic session by about 3 weeks.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated that according to the Delhi University Teachers Association, the settlement with the AIFUCTO did not provide for continuance of the merit promotion scheme with the new scales. If it is so whether Government is going to take some more steps in this direction ? If not, whether the Government propose to implement the merit promotion scheme with the new scales ?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** At present there is no such proposal.

**SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :** Besides this, may I know the demands put forth by the Delhi Teachers' Organisations and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

*[English]*

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** The

following issues are still pending for decision :

- (1) Revision of pay scales for Librarians and DPEs are under consideration.
- (2) Extension of UGC scales to Agriculture Universities. I have written to the Minister of Agriculture. He has also told me that that proposal too is under consideration and will probably go to the Cabinet shortly.
- (3) Allegation of victimisation against the teachers going on strike were made. I have personally taken up with State Ministers, that all cases instituted against teachers during the period of strike including those of arrests and detention may be reviewed. I cannot say "may be reviewed". I have requested them that they may review these cases.

Action taken against the teachers which might be construed as victimisation for participation in the strike may be reviewed. This is what I want to say.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :** The issue of pay-scales was also raised at the time of strike.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** I don't think that any points have been left. We accepted those demands which were acceptable and rejected those which were not acceptable.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He is forcing his way. Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

*[English]*

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** How can we be on four legs at the same time ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Six legs.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Sir, you see the manner in which the strike was handled and negotiations were conducted. Regarding this I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that almost all the issues which were initially

raised at the commencement of strike, all of them, have been boiled down to two simple propositions ?

Firstly, the teachers are not against evaluation at all for the promotion. But all that they say is there is an existing promotion procedure machinery by which the Academic Council can go through all the cases and they may evolve norms for promotion. Will you consider this particular demand of the teachers, so that some *via media* can be found ? Number two—part of the same question, i.e. the second aspect of the same question is : Is it not a fact that under the new scheme which has been arrived at, persons who are actually coming to the same promoted post through two different channels, these two categories will have differential in emoluments; and that has also created a lot of unrest and discontent among the teachers ?

Will you give an assurance to the House that on these two propositions you will keep your mind open like a parachute, so that good results can be produced ?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : My mind was open right through. We kept the merits of the case in mind. We went into the Mehrotra Committee report, and what that Committee's report had said about the merit promotion scheme, and the manner in which it was being implemented. Having taken all these things into account, we came to the conclusion that while the merit promotion scheme should not be closed down, and Government be exposed to the charge that something which was already in force has been closed down, we have thought of a separate package in which answerability *plus* emoluments have been clubbed together in a much more reasonable manner.

It is possible; it is open to any teacher to opt for the old pattern in which there was a merit promotion scheme in name, but which was not being implemented properly; even then we did not want to close it down, inspite of the fact that there was a very good case for closing it down. We did not want to be too hard on some teachers who are not really inclined to improve themselves. May be they are in no condition to improve themselves, no condition to lay themselves open to evaluation and so on; and still they can

continue in the old scheme. Witness younger teachers, most of them met me and said: 'We are prepared to be evaluated; we are prepared to opt for the new scheme. We are happy that you are trying to evaluate us and give us a challenge. We are taking up that challenge. So, I am happy that both the packages are on the table. It is for them to choose.'

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You have not replied about the Academic Council. What is your objection to allowing that matter to be raised in the Academic Council ? (Interruption) Why this differential in emoluments ?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : The Academic Council was always in the picture. The point is that the manner in which it has been implemented, has been so adversely commented upon, not by me, not by one Vice-Chancellor, but by the Mehrotra Committee itself, which I cannot ignore. Therefore, two packages had to be thought of.

The other thing is that whatever anomalies may arise—even now there are certain cases in which certain anomalies may arise. I really do not know; I cannot make a commitment. But if there is a real anomaly, a real hardship, we always keep our mind open, that all those anomalies are removed. This is always done. This is the normal procedure, but the point is one of principle; they were urging that certain thing that were available to them should not be taken away. We said : we will not take them away; but we have devised a separate package, Now you choose.' That is all that there is to it.

Mr. Dandavate spoke to me; I have told him even before....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He said the same thing. I thought he would tell me something more.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : There is nothing more. That is all,

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been observed that children do

not study properly in schools. The poor and the low salaried parents send their children to schools and arrange for their tuitions after borrowing money with difficulty but those children do not go to schools and colleges for studies; instead they roam on the roads like urchins. This creates problems. In addition, teachers too go on strike during the period of examination.

When the final examination is held, the children score zero marks. But the teachers promote them. You can very well imagine as to how much intelligent such children would be. No one knows who among them will become a Minister, the Prime Minister or the President of India but at least some of them should be intelligent. For this, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that in spite of the teachers being paid salaries regularly, though not according to their demands, if they go on strike, what action the Government is going to take against them? If in spite of payment of salaries regularly they go on strike, the Government should take strict action against them so that the children of the country may study properly and they may become good citizens. If the present position continues, then we will go on strike.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** It is a question to which I have no reply.

**SHRI V. TULSI RAM :** Let him remain in that state then.

(*English*)

#### Demand for sponge iron

**\*84 SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total demand of sponge iron in the country;

(b) the total production capacity of each sponge iron plant set up in Orissa and other States;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the production of sponge iron and reduce the import in order to meet the demand of sponge iron; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

#### Statement

(a) Sponge iron is a partial substitute of ferrous scrap used in steel making. The demand for this product is regulated by technological and economic consideration. Its use in steel making in India is of rather recent origin and the demand is yet to pick up in an appreciable way. During 1986-87, The Electric Arc Furnaces Units in the country used about 3 lakh tonnes of sponge iron.

(b) Three sponge iron plants have been set up in the country so far. Out of these, two are in Orissa. They are :-

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Installed capacity (in tonnes)</i>
Sponge Iron India Limited,	Kothagudem A. P.	60,000
Hyderabad,		
Orissa Sponge Iron Limited.	Nayagarh, Keonjhar, Orissa.	1,50,000
IPITATA Sponge Iron Limited.	Keonjhar, Orissa.	
		90,000
		<u>3,00,000</u>

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Sponge iron industry has been de-licensed with effect from March, 1985, with a view to encourage quicker growth. A linkage Committee has also been set up to assist the entrepreneurs in getting coal and iron ore linkages for their proposed units. Allocation of natural gas has also been made for setting up of two gas-based sponge iron plants in the country.

**SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has stated the installed capacity of each sponge iron plant located in the country. I would like to know from the Minister when these sponge iron plants started commercial production; and whether it is a fact that some sponge iron plants like Orissa Sponge Iron Limited, Nayagarh, Keonjhar District has not been able to achieve the production according to the installed capacity; if so, the reasons why it

is not able to produce according to its capacity? Is it because of over staff particularly a large number of officials than the actual necessity as a result of which the Company is facing loss and is likely to fall sick; if so, what steps the government is proposing to take to revive the plant?

**SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR :** I would like to inform the Hon. member that eight units of sponge iron plants have been registered for the State of Orissa. All these are in the private sector and none of them is in the public sector. For these the total registered capacity is 11.7 lakh tonnes and for another it is 3 lakh tonnes. Out of these, only two units are operational, six are not so far operational. The difficulty with the "sponge iron units is that they are not producing the sponge iron as per installed capacity because of problems in selling, since the sale of sponge is largely dependent on the prices of steel scrap. Since we propose that the dependence on imported scrap should be reduced, we are encouraging the sponge iron industry in the country and for that purpose we have delicensed these units and anybody can have any sponge iron plant in any part of the country; and we are also giving incentives to the entrepreneurs. We have formed a Linkage Committee under the Secretary, Steel, as Chairman and with two other members from the Department of Coal and the Railways. This committee will assist and help private entrepreneurs to have these sponge iron units in different States.

**SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :** Is it a fact that some days back the officials of the Sponge Iron Plant came to Delhi and had a discussion with the Ministry. What are the problems discussed with them and what steps the government is proposing to take to solve those problem?

**SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR :** I am not aware that during my tenure of office any such representation has been made. I have nothing on record to say that any such representation has been made to my predecessor. But, certainly, if any representation comes to us, we will try to help them as best as we can.

**SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU :** The Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant was started

way back in 1971 when the foundation stone was laid. Then this plant had not seen the light of the day for a number of years. The project is still being implemented and still the production has not started and the power plant also is needed. Last time when I met the Minister and requested, he said that the plant has to be a capital intensive plant and only then it can function because it is cost inefficient. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, whether the Visakhapatnam steel plant will end up as a sponge iron steel plant or will it be a stainless steel plant like the Salem Plant, or will it produce steel and how many jobs will it create for the people who have been displaced there by acquiring the land?

**SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR :** I hope, the Hon. Member is from the State of Andhra Pradesh. He is asking a question about an integrated steel plant. However the question being discussed relates to sponge iron plant.

**SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU :** I said, 'would it end up as a sponge iron plant'.

**SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR :** This steel plant would not end up as a sponge iron plant but we require some sponge iron for this plan also and we are making adequate arrangements for it.

**SHRI I. RAMA RAI :** Sponge iron is a substitute for steel scrap. Even now we are importing a large quantity of steel scrap and large amount of iron ore concentrate and pellets are exported to different countries from Mangalore, i.e. from Kudremukh iron ore project. Will the Government consider setting up a sponge iron plant in the public sector at Mangalore, thereby reducing the import of sponge iron and at the same time saving the foreign exchange?

**SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR :** We are not considering any such proposal to have a sponge iron plant in the public sector. But so far 15 units have been registered as sponge iron units in the country but only a few units of these are in operation at this time. If the Hon. Member wants to have any sponge iron unit in the State he is welcome to do that and I will take notice now that he is starting it and whatever help he requires we will give.

**SHRI I. RAMA RAI** : Not me personally.

**SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR** : Not you, personally, but I mean, for your State.

**DR. V. VENKATESH** : We are all aware that about 20 years back the Government of India in the name of getting votes got the foundation stone laid for a plant in Karnataka by the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi. So far nothing has been done. I want to know whether it is just to cheat the voters, or whether they are going to do it? I want a categorical answer. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER** : Is the word "cheat" a parliamentary word?

**SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR** : I can tell the Hon. Member only one thing : That we know how best to serve the people because we represent them.

**DR. V. VENKATESH** : The Hon. Minister does not know anything about Karnataka. What do you know? For 20 years it is going on... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER** : Mr. Venkatesh, what are you trying to prove? What are you trying to do? Nothing goes on record. I have not allowed him. Mr. Venkatesh, you can put a question like a gentleman. Why have you to be sarcastic about it? Put a question. That is all. This is not the way.

(*Interruptions*)\*

**MR. SPEAKER** : This is not the way. You have also been there. You cannot incriminate like this. Mind your language. I do not like it. This is not the way. Just remain in your senses and talk sense. Be reasonable. You should not behave like that.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY** : Let him answer the question. Let the Minister answer the question. He has not answered.

**MR. SPEAKER** : What is the problem? Is there any question? Do not interrupt. If you get so much agitated there is no question for answering. It is lost in tension. This is not the way to ask a question. I do not like it, and this is not the way to ask a question.

\*Not recorded.

**SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR** : Shall I reply to it Sir?

**MR. SPEAKER** : The best thing is that you can reply something.

**SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR** : Perhaps, he thought that I will get confused by the question the Hon. Member has asked. Let him remain under confusion, but I would not like to be confused myself.

The question pertains to sponge iron and does not pertain to any steel plant or any other integrated steel plant or any other mini steel plant. Perhaps his problem is about Vijayanagar Steel Plant. The Hon. Member is welcome to see me and discuss with me. He can ask any relevant question at an appropriate time. I will be able to reply and I will be able to tell the Hon. Member what the State Government is doing.

#### Integrated Container Terminal at Cochin Port

\*85. **PROF. K. V. THOMAS** : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for setting up of an integrated container terminal at Cochin has been accepted;

(b) whether order has been placed for a new dredger for Cochin Port;

(c) if so, the price of the proposed new dredger; and

(d) the new equipments sanctioned for handling containers at Cochin Port ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA)** : (a) The proposal to set up an Integrated Container Terminal at Cochin Port is under consideration.

(b) and (c). Tenders for the dredger have been received.

(d) The new equipments envisaged in the proposal under consideration are :

(i) quayside gantry cranes	2 Nos.
(ii) Transfer cranes	2 Nos.
(iii) Tractor Heads	19 Nos.

(iv) Trailors	16 Nos.
(v) Small Forklifts	15 Nos.

**PROF. K. V. THOMAS :** Sir, Cochin Port was once called the queen of the Arabian Sea. Now this port is in such a crippled stage and had become the widow of the Arabian sea. There has been proposals to modernise the Cochin Port. One proposal was for the integrated container terminal in the Port and the second thing was for starting an international container terminal at Vallarpadam island which is a newly reclaimed island by the port itself. If this international terminal can be started at Vallarpadam, then all the international ships having the containers, which are now using Colombo as a station for transferring these containers, can make use of Cochin for this purpose. So, I would like to know what has happened to the second proposal of having an international container terminal project at Vallarpadam.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** There is a suggestion about a transhipment terminal at Vallarpadam. However, this is at a very very preliminary stage and various aspects are being thought about it through this suggestion about the preparation of feasibility report, terms of reference and all the other processes that are concerned with the initiation of any implementation of such a suggestion. As I said, it is still a suggestion and thinking on this suggestion is still at a very preliminary stage.

**PROF. K. V. THOMAS :** There are two projects. One is to modernise the present Cochin Port for containerisation and the second is the Vallarpadam project. The another thing is that Cochin had a dredger called 'Lady Wellington' which was working for more than one hundred years and now it is out of commission. There is a proposal with the Government of India to have a new dredger. Now the present position in Cochin Port is that about fifty per cent of the income of the Cochin Port is being given to the Dredging Corporation of India just for doing the dredging work. So, the Cochin Port would like to have its own dredger. This proposal is with the Government of India for more than ten years. Now they asked for tenders and tenders are with the Government. So, I would request the Government to take an immediate decision

so that atleast the income of the Cochin Port remains with the Cochin Port, otherwise more than fifty per cent of the income is being transferred to the Dredging Corporation of India.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** Sir, the Hon. Member is correct in saying that Lady Wellington has outlived her economic life and it is very necessary to acquire a new dredger. The Ministry has already taken a decision to acquire such a new dredger. The tender responses are under evaluation and I think we should be in a position to take some decision in the next few months.

**SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :** Sir, the main handicap of the Cochin Port is the linkage. This is a man-made island where wharfing is taking place, but it is not connected by proper roads. One Bristow who founded it, made two bridges and they are still in use. But they have outlived their life. This is always a great bottleneck. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any proposal before the Government to link this port with the southern side of Cochin, that is, with the Alleppy district area where a national level road can be constructed. On the other side, this road can be connected with the Ernakulam mainland of Kerala. So, I would like to know whether there is any such proposal pending with the Government, and if not, whether the Government will consider this proposal and revive the present condition of the Cochin Port.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** Sir, these are very precise details of the proposal. I will certainly make enquiries and inform the Hon. Member. However, I would have imagined that the setting up of the integrated container terminal of such a large size would have involved a study of the development of the infrastructure in a comprehensive manner. But I cannot tell the Hon. Member whether this is a part of the proposal. However, I will make enquiries and let the Hon. Member know.

Staff strength at the Indian Language  
Department of Banaras Hindu  
University

\*86 **SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI :**  
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE

DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2757 on 13 August, 1987 and state :

(a) when proposals from Banaras Hindu University for creation of additional posts each of Professor, Reader and Lecturer were received;

(b) the progress made with regard to sanction of these additional posts;

(c) the present sanctioned strength of academic staff in each section under Indian Language Department of Banaras Hindu University; and

(d) the present strength of students in each section under Indian Language Department of Banaras Hindu University and separately for Nepali Section ?

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) :** (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission the proposal from the Banaras Hindu University for creation of two of these posts was received on 21 April, 1987 and the proposal for creation of all these posts was received on 21 July, 1987 by the Commission. The proposal is under examination by the Commission.

(c) and (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

I would like to assure the Hon. Member that we appreciate the manner in which she has been pursuing this matter of Nepali in Banaras Hindu University. The matter is now being considered. May be it is at the final stages of consideration by the University Grants Commission. I would personally take some interest in it and see that the decision is given as early as possible.

**SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI :** Sir, I am surprised to hear the same reply from the Hon. Minister as was given to me on 13th of August by the State Minister Shrimati Krishna Sahi Ji. Today also the Hon. Minister has given the same reply saying that the information is being collected

and will be laid on the Table of the House. I wonder how long our Government take to collect such simple information.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** Sir, obviously it is taking a little time because probably it involves going a little out of the way in the case of Nepali. There are certain norms as to how many students have to be there for the creation of a Professor's post, of Reader's post, of a Lecturer's post. Maybe, the UGC does not find this proposal fitting properly into the accepted norms. That is why it is my surmise that it is taking a longer time. I will certainly request them that Nepali language has to be given some consideration in the Banaras Hindu University and if it is possible, we will try to expedite it. There is no other opinion about it. The only thing is the UGC has been considering the proposal for some time.

**SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI :** Sir, I have all the information and the comparative list of different languages also. I can pass it on to him if it helps him in any way to fulfil our request. I will give this statement to him.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** Yes.

**Computerisation of Centralised Traffic Control and Passenger Information System in Delhi**

**\*87. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Northern Railway propose to instal a Computer operated centralised traffic control and passenger information system in Delhi to facilitate smooth train operation and provision of fast and accurate information to the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction so far ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project would provide micro-

processor based train information system and remote control signalling over 20 railway stations located at Delhi Area. Visual Display Unit (VDU) terminals and key boards would be provided in the Central Enquiry Office at New Delhi for displaying the position of all trains to and from the capital for furnishing this information to the rail users. The project is estimated to cost about Rs. 20 Crores out of which Rs. 8 Crores approximately would be the foreign exchange content.

(c) Letter of acceptance for this work has been placed on M/s GEC General Signal Limited U. K. Survey and design work has been started.

**SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :** As this system has been quite acceptable in various foreign countries, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is planning similar system in the four major metropolitan cities in the country and also other major railway stations. I would also like to know whether he is planning to manufacture this system indigenously in our country.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** Sir, under the terms of agreement with the firm, the terms of agreement include technology transfer and ultimately indigenous manufacture of this system is envisaged. In the long range planning, we have contemplated similar systems to be provided at other metropolitan cities and possibly in 20 other centres on the Delhi-Bombay-Calcutta as well as Delhi-Madras routes.

**SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :** I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether this scheme provides for improvement in the information system for the passengers who at present do not get exact information on the platform.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** As a result of introduction of this system, it will greatly benefit the passengers in the sense that they will come out with the real time information and advance information of train will be collected from 9 Stations—Panipat, Rohtak, Mathura, Khurja, Hapur, Meerut, Bagpat Road and Rewari—which will give more accurate information to passengers. Also at Delhi and Nizamuddin, special modern display boards will be set up which

will give real time information regarding the arrival and departure time of the trains. Enquiry Offices in Delhi and New Delhi and Nizamuddin and a Centralised Enquiry Office in New Delhi would be provided with visual display units and key boards automatically displaying the train arrival and departure timings. So, the passengers are very much to be benefited by this.

**SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we are aware the Railways are the biggest commercial organisation in our country and our Government is augmenting and modernising the entire railway system very effectively, I would like to know from the Hon. Railway Minister whether this computerised traffic control system will be applicable for the goods train traffic also because 70% of the railway revenue comes from the goods traffic. So, how are you going to connect this system for control and monitor the goods train traffic and also to monitor the turn-round time of the wagons?

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** This is not connected with the turn-round of the wagon or to improve utilisation of the wagon capacity. That is another system which is under consideration of the Railway Ministry. This system really is attuned to the passenger convenience and improving the passenger facilities. There are two main benefits from the system. I have already read out one of the benefits as to how the passenger would directly benefit by giving on the real time information for arrivals and departures of trains. But the second fall out of this which would greatly benefit the system would be that a manually controlled system greatly decreases the efficiency of the control of entries and exits into the Delhi area, which you can well imagine is a tremendous pressure on entries and exits from New Delhi. And therefore, going on to a computerised control system would greatly improve the efficiency of entries and exits. Many times the Hon. Member must have found that it is only about 25 minutes or half-an-hour late at Faridabad and then you have to hang on because you missed the particular slot in which you were being entered into New Delhi. All this will improve that system and there will be a more efficient utilisation of time regarding entry

and exit of the train. These are the two benefits that will accrue.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister the number of such areas in India as are backward and have not been connected with railway lines ? You are spending so much on the computerisation for increasing efficiency but how that will benefit 75 crore people of India ? This money can be utilised in those areas where railway lines have not been laid so far. The foreign exchange you are thus spending is not going to benefit the people of India. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are no railway lines in the backward areas. Ask him to reply this question.

**MR. SPEAKER** : Every thing will be done turn by turn.

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS** : They are not laying even a single line in Rajasthan and are spending crores of rupees on computerisation.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**SHRI AMAL DATTA** : Sir, what the Hon. Minister has said about the signalling system, it is on that point that I want to ask you a question. The signalling system improvement in Delhi is no doubt necessary, but I think the Hon. Minister will agree that the commuter traffic coming to Delhi is not even a fraction of what comes to Calcutta. I do not think that they have made any improvement in the signalling system in Calcutta as a result of which all long distance trains have to stop at the outer signals whenever they are late. Usually they are supposed to arrive before the commuter service starts arriving. If they are late even by as little as half-an-hour, they ultimately become late by one hour, one-and-a-half hours to two hours because they have to stand in outer signals. Therefore, an urgent necessity is there to improve the signalling system in metropolitan cities where the commuter traffic is very dense. So, what is being done in this connection for Calcutta, Bombay and Madras ?

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE** : Because it is Bengal there are more red signals there.

**MR. SPEAKER** : The trains won't enter !

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA** : It is an on-going process. It is true that the signalling system will be greatly improved by computerised control and Delhi is really a pilot project. Ultimately in our planning we do envisage the extension of such a system to other metropolitan cities and signalling is a very important part of railway working and we are doing our best to improve the signalling in the Calcutta area also. We understand this problem.

**Incidence of leprosy in tribal and harijan colonies**

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**\*88. SHRI JAGANNAIH PATTNAIK:**  
**SHRI H. B. PATIL :**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have conducted any survey regarding the number of cases of leprosy in the country;

(b) whether incidence of leprosy is found high in the tribal and harijan colonies and also amongst students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

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

(d) whether Government have framed any plan to eradicate this disease and provide a preventive cover to the growing leprosy population as well as the places where incidence of leprosy is suspected to be several times higher than the State average ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE)** : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

**Statement**

1. Leprosy cases are reported by all

States. However the prevalence of the disease is not uniform. It varies from State to State and district to district.

2. Disease has no affinity to any particular group of the society. It has clustering tendency accentuated by over crowding, poor hygiene and mal-nutrition.
3. Survey of the community, patients' families and school children has been made an integral part of duty of leprosy workers under the programme. This has been done to detect the cases in the early stage of the disease to achieve complete cure and avoid disabilities. There is no evidence to suggest any recent increase in the incidence of the disease.
4. National Leprosy Eradication Programme has been launched to achieve disease arrest activity in all the leprosy cases by the year 2000 AD. Multi drug treatment to leprosy cases is being planned in a phased manner so as to cover all the 201 high endemic districts by 1995. So far 48 such districts with a population of 99.2 million and 1.34 million leprosy cases have been brought under MDT coverage.
5. To create awareness among the community and to avoid social stigma, health education activities have been mounted through mass media and involvement of voluntary organisations.
6. The research is on to develop suitable leprosy vaccine to provide preventive coverage.

**SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK :** I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what is the development and achievement in our research work with regard to preventing, early arrest of the disease and permanent cure.

*(Interruptions)*

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE :** I have not followed your question. Will you please repeat?

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK :** What development has been made in the field of research for prevention, early arrest and permanent cure of diseases.

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER :** Question Hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**SCI's passenger steamer service at certain ports on Bombay-Goa route**

**\*89 SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shipping Corporation of India's passenger steamer service operating on Goa-Bombay sea-route, which has commenced its regular service from 1 October, 1987 is not calling at the ports of Jaygad, Musakaji, Jaitapur, Vijaydurg and Devgad on its route; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) and (b). The Shipping Corporation of India vessels are calling at all intermediary ports on scheduled routes between Bombay and Panaji since 25th October, 1987.

**Nangal-Talwara railway line**

**\*90 PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in the construction of Nangal-Talwara railway line in Himachal Pradesh as on 30 September, 1987;

(b) whether the railway line would be

constructed upto Una, the District Headquarters, by the end of the current year and upto Amb by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the place upto which the land has been acquired by the Railways and the construction work initiated; and

(d) if not, what are the target dates for the section-wise construction of the line upto (i) Una (ii) Amb and (iii) Talwara?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) 9 per cent Rail line has been commissioned upto Rai Mehatpur.

(b) to (d). Completion of the rail line upto Una, Amb & Talwara will depend on availability of resources in the coming years. Land has been acquired upto Km. 16.7 from Nangal Dam. Earthwork and construction of bridges from Rai Mehatpur to 11.4 Km. have been completed and work is in progress from Km. 11.4 to 16.7

**Pollution from Indraprastha Power Plant**

**\*91. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :**

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indraprastha Power Plant in New Delhi is releasing untreated effluents into Yamuna which render the river Water unwholesome and poses a grave threat to the aquatic aestheticism of the Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the preventive steps taken to control the situation ?

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) :** (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

**Statement**

1. Yes, Sir, Indraprastha Thermal Power Plant in New Delhi is relea-

sing untreated effluent into the Yamuna through three outlets viz., A, B and C. The effluent through the outlet 'A' exceeds the prescribed standards in respect of temperature, that through 'B' exceeds the standards for total suspended solids and the discharge through the third outlet 'C' meets the prescribed standards. However, the threat from the discharges of the plant to the aquatic aestheticism of the Capital has not been studied.

2. The Indraprastha Power Station has prepared two reports on preventive steps to be taken to control the situation. These reports contain suggestion for provision of cooling towers, tanks, screening units and other civil works for bringing the effluent quality within the prescribed limits.
3. A show-cause notice under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has been issued to Indraprastha Power Station, as they have violated the consent conditions for discharge of effluents and emissions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
4. The Central Pollution Control Board has filed an application in the Court under Section 33 of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for getting a direction requiring Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) to set up treatment plant within a specified time.

**Development of Kakinada Port**

**\*92. SHRI SRI HARI RAO :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the volume of goods to be handled through Kakinada port is increasing progressively;

(b) whether there is an urgent need for development of Kakinada port in the light of setting up of Fertiliser plants and Oil and Natural Gas Commission operations at and around Kakinada;

(c) if so, the steps proposed for development of the port; and

(d) the reasons for delay in releasing funds for the development of the port ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) During the 10-year period 1977-78 to 1986-87 the annual volume of cargo handled increased progressively till 1983-84 but declined thereafter.

(b) The development of Kakinada would be beneficial to the development of the hinterland.

(c) According to information furnished by State Government the main steps proposed for the development of the port are :

(i) Extension of the existing breakwater by another 750 metres;

(ii) construction of suitable barge berthing facilities.

(d) Out of Rs. 300 lakhs allocated during the State's VII Plan Rs. 131.151 lakhs have been spent upto 1986-87 and Rs. 70.00 lakhs has been allotted during 1987-88. The releases are proportionate to the elapsed plan period.

**Extension of CIWTC services from Haldia to Allahabad Via Patna**

**\*93. SHRI R. P. DAS :**

**SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :**

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation has considered the

possibility of using inland water resources of the country for transportation of petroleum products and coal;

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend its services from Haldia to Allahabad via Patna in the near future along the National Waterway No. 1 in view of outstepping demand of oil;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) CIWTC have already been transporting POL products between Haldia and Budge-Budge for various oil companies. Marketing efforts for oil and coal cargo are also being made.

(b) and (c). The CIWTC are currently operating river services between Haldia/ Calcutta and Farakka which could be extended further upto Patna on commissioning of the navigational lock at Farakka. The service between Patna and Allahabad on the National Waterway could be started after completion of the ongoing Pilot Project.

(d) Does not arise.

**Navigability of Hooghly river**

**\*94. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that navigability of the Hooghly at Calcutta and Haldia is fast deteriorating;

(b) the present drafts at Calcutta and Haldia;

(c) the expected draft at Haldia when it was planned;

(d) the measures taken by Government to increase the draft of the Hooghly at Calcutta and Haldia including the amount spent so far; and

(e) the results achieved ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):** (a) The navigability of the river has shown improvement in Haldia from 1986 and in Calcutta during 1987.

(b) The draughts at Calcutta and Haldia differ from day-to-day depending mainly on tides. During October 1987 it varied between 5.3 meters to 8.4 meters at Calcutta and between 7.9 meters and 9.3 meters at Haldia.

(c) The designed draught at Haldia was 12 meters.

(d) The construction of Farakka Barrage project was completed during 1975 in order to increase fresh water flow into the river Hooghly during the summer months. In addition, extensive river training and corrective works at a cost of Rs. 12 crores were also undertaken to increase the depth in the navigational channel leading to Calcutta.

For Haldia, construction of spurs to check bank erosion and other river training works and dredging were undertaken at a cost of Rs. 10 crores for improvement of draught to Haldia Port.

In addition to the above training works, a comprehensive project amounting to Rs. 40.50 crores involving river training and dredging for improving the draughts of Haldia and Calcutta is under implementation. The amount spent upto March 1987 on this scheme is Rs. 11.90 crores.

(e) As a result of the various steps, shifting of the shipping channel has been arrested to a great extent and erosion of the river banks has been controlled and the navigability improved.

#### Preservation of Temples in Bhubaneswar

\*95. **SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of ancient temples in national monuments in and around Bhubaneswar are in a dilapidated condition; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for the proper preservation of those temples ?

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMH RAO) :** (a) None of the monuments under central protection are in a dilapidated condition.

(b) Question does not arise.

#### Expenditure on modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant

\*96. **SHRI AMAL DATTA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3868 on 20 August, 1987 regarding expenditure on modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant and state :

(a) whether Government's sanction has been given to the scheme for modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant; if so, what is the figure for which sanction has been given and estimated annual expenditure till completion;

(b) what steps, if any, have been taken to select contractors/consultants for turnkey packages;

(c) whether the quality of steel produced after expansion will be different; if so, in what respect; and

(d) the implications of modernisation in terms of employment and product range ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 1357 crores. The year-wise expenditure will depend on the pace of work from year to year.

(b) Steel Authority of India Limited

(SAIL) have in consultation with their principal Consultant, M/s Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants India Limited (MECON), short-listed tenderers against various packages of work.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The product range of Durgapur Steel Plant will remain unaltered after modernisation. SAIL have undertaken an exercise to ensure rationalisation of the staff and redeployment of manpower to suit new technologies under modernisation.

*[Translation]*

**Attack on Indian Ship in Gulf**

\*97. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :  
SHRI YASHWANTRAO  
GADAKH PATIL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently an Indian Oil ship was attacked in the Persian Gulf;

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

(c) whether Government have assessed the loss caused by this incident; and

(d) if so, whether Government have preferred its claims with the concerned Government for payment of compensation for the loss of life and property caused due to this incident ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On 2-10-87 the Indian Ship MT 'SPIC EMERALD' was attacked by a gun boat while on voyage from Al-Jubail to Dubai damaging the ship's side. No loss of life or injury to any person is reported. However the vessel reached Dubai on its own power.

(c) The financial loss as initially reported by the owners is assessed as U.S. Dollar

50,000/- . Final estimate of cost would be available only after vessel is dry docked.

(d) As the identity of the attackers could not be finally established no claims etc. could be preferred.

*[English]*

**Damage to Railway Tracks due to floods in Bihar**

\*98. DR. G. S RAJHANS :  
SHRI LALITESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to unprecedented floods in Bihar recently, the railway tracks between Madhubani, Jhajhpur, Nirmali and Laukshi have been badly damaged;

(b) whether Union Government have received several representations for their repair;

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

(d) when the tracks will be completely repaired ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Restoration work was taken up by the N. E. Railway on a war-footing and the traffic restored expeditiously on all the effected sections, except the 2 branch line sections, Sakri-Nirmali and Jhanjharpur-Laukha Bazaar where the restoration work was hampered due to prolongation of the flood conditions, including occurrence of fresh floods during October, 1987. Restoration works on both these sections are now in good progress and these are expected to be completed within this month (November, 1987).

**Damage to Bijapur Gumbaz due to railway traffic**

**\*99. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that due to close proximity between Bijapur Railway Station and historical Boli Gumbaz, there is an apprehension of this monument being damaged due to railway traffic;

(b) whether Government have received complaints from tourists that echoes are not audible due to railway traffic; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to shift the railway line to a safe distance from this monument before permanent damage is done to it ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Mail trains with 26 bogies**

**\*100. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to run mail trains with 26 bogies;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time by which it is likely to be implemented and the routes; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to provide the facility of longer platforms therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) to (c). Running of longer passenger trains is still at an experimental/trial stage. The decisions regarding optimum number of coaches on these longer trains will be taken at the appropriate time.

**Revision of scholarships for students of Lakshadweep**

**\*101 SHRI P. M. SAYEED :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from Lakshadweep Administration for upward revision of scholarships for students of Lakshadweep;

(b) if so, the revised rates proposed by the Lakshadweep Administration;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter; and

(d) the time by which the revised rates of scholarships would be made applicable ?

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**Iron ore exported by Kudremukh Iron Ore Co.**

**801. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of iron ore exported by Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. in 1986-87;

(b) the target set for the export of iron ore by the said Company during the year 1987-88;

(c) the steps taken to achieve the target; and

(d) the details of the profit earned from the export of iron ore in 1986-87 ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) In

1986-87 the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) exported 3.36 million tonnes of iron ore in the form of concentrate and 0.15 million tonnes in the form of pellets.

(b) For 1987-88 KIOCL have set a target for export of 3.94 million tonnes of concentrate and 0.66 million tonnes of pellets.

(c) KIOCL have already obtained firm orders for sale of 3.37 million tonnes of concentrate and 0.85 million tonnes of pellets. Vigorous efforts are being made by the Company to obtain further orders.

(d) The company earned a gross margin of Rs. 9.42 crores from sales in 1986-87. After providing for interest, depreciation and prior period adjustments, there was a net loss of Rs. 15.37 crores during the year.

[*Translation*]

#### Plantation of herbs

802. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to implement a programme for growth and exploitation of medicinal herbs in Chamoli district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

#### National Policy on Mining Education

803. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any National Policy on Mining Education;

(b) if so, what are the essential features thereof;

(c) whether our country is self-reliant in respect of trained mining personnel;

(d) whether Government are considering to bring about further improvement in mining education; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER FOR STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOIEDAR) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Mass displacement in mining areas

804. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that mass displacement of villagers has become a reality in the mining areas;

(b) if so, the total area at present covered by mining and what is the planned overall programme to bring new areas under mining and total number of people displaced and are likely to be displaced annually;

(c) whether Government have prepared a plan for their rehabilitation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with likely expenditure ?

THE MINISTER FOR STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (d). Total area covered under mining lease in the country at present is approximately 7997 Sq. Km. out of which the area where mining operations are actually in progress is about 5118 Sq. Km.

Bringing new area under mining operations depends on various economic considerations including potentiality of the area; there is no overall programme in this regard.

Large scale displacement of people in mining areas has not been normally taking place. Some displacement takes place in case of big mining projects which necessitates rehabilitation of the displaced families and such rehabilitation measures are invariably under taken by the Project Authorities.

To safeguard the interest of the owner and occupier of the land where mining operations are to be carried on, Central Government have amended the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 which now provides that an application for grant or renewal of mining lease has to contain the consent of the owner and occupier of the land for undertaking mining operations thereon. It has also been made a condition in the lease deed that the lessee shall, in the matter of employment, give preference to tribals and to the persons who become displaced because of taking up of mining operations.

As rehabilitation of displaced persons is generally executed through the respective State Governments, information about likely expenditure in rehabilitation of displaced persons will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

#### Air pollution in Dhanbad

**805. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether rate of air pollution has been increased in Dhanbad town and its surroundings due to the open cast mining of coal and stack burning of coal by Bharat Coking Coal Limited; and

(b) whether Government intend to study the effect and rate of pollution in Dhanbad jointly by the premier Institutes like National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur and Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. A study has recently been

completed by the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution in collaboration with Bihar State Pollution Control Board and the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad.

#### Rail Yatri Niwas at Howrah

**806. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of the proposed Yatri Niwas at Howrah in West Bengal has been started;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the expected time when the project would be completed ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The work is likely to be completed by March, 1989.

#### Illegal cutting of trees

**807 SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received against the cutting of trees in reserved forests area during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons arrested and convicted for cutting trees in reserved forests area for the above period, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to save the trees ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) and (b). Details will be collected and placed on the Table of the House.

(c) The following guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/UT's to save the trees :

- (i) Checking illicit felling of trees and removal of forest produce.
- (ii) Enforcement of the provisions of the Indian Forests Act.
- (iii) Providing deterrent punishment to the offenders.
- (iv) Programme for Wasteland Development for fodder.
- (v) Strengthening of Forest Protection Forces.
- (vi) Control on shifting cultivation.
- (vii) Stricter control on functioning of saw and Veneer mills.
- (viii) Increase in protected areas like Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks.
- (ix) Closure of vulnerable forest areas to grazing.
- (x) Promotion of use of alternative fuel to reduce pressure on forests on account of firewood extraction.
- (xi) Substitutions of wood in industries, railways and other uses.
- (xii) Elimination of contractors.
- (xiii) Guidelines for preparation of working plans and felling in the forests issued to State/UTs for conservation of fragile areas in particular.
- (xiv) Restriction on felling trees above an altitude of 1000 meters.

In addition, the Central Government has introduced a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure for pro-

tection of forests from biotic interference, under which funds are provided to the State Governments on a shared basis, to prevent illegal exploitation of forests.

**Report of the Inquiry committee in respect of Cochin Shipyard**

**808. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee appointed by the Chairman-cum-Managing Director to enquire into the complaints against some members of the Board of Directors of the Cochin Shipyard has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the recommendations made in the report and the action taken thereon ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOI) :** (a) and (b). Cochin Shipyard Limited had appointed an Enquiry Committee, headed by GM (Finance) of CSL, to examine matter of excessive procurement of pipes and to streamline the procedures followed. On the basis of the report made available, CMD has been asked to pin-point officers responsible and to take action against them.

**Introduction of a train between Varanasi and Dwarka**

**809. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a train connecting Varanasi-Dwarka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Booking and enquiry system in railways**

**810. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry have any plans to improve the system for onward booking and the enquiry system in railways; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken towards such improvement ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) and (b). Steps are taken on a continuing basis to improve the system for onward booking and the enquiry system on the railways. Some of the measures taken are :

**I. Onward Booking :**

- (i) Major reservation offices have been brought on the railway teleprinter circuits.
- (ii) Courier system has been introduced for exchange and confirmation of reservation messages between important cities.
- (iii) Reservation messages are being handled on computers in Delhi area.

**II. Enquiry System :**

- (i) Hot lines have been provided between important Train Control Offices and Enquiry Offices for relaying the latest information about the running of passenger-carrying trains.
- (ii) For easy accessibility, multiple telephone lines with hunting facilities have been provided in the Railway Enquiry Offices at metropolitan cities.
- (iii) Senior officers and Senior Supervisors ring up Enquiry Offices and

take up with the staff who do not attend promptly to public calls or do not give proper information.

**Electrification of railway lines in Haryana**

**811. CHAUDHARY RAM PARKASH :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of railway lines proposed for electrification, passing through Haryana, during the current financial year; and

(b) the progress made so far in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) Nil, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Action plan to revive navigation transport**

**812. DR. B. L. SHAILESH :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the rivers being declared as National Waterways during the current Plan period;

(b) whether any action plan has been prepared to revive navigation transport in the country to ensure coordinated planning for waterways;

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the capital outlay involved;

(d) the progress made so far in developing the Ganga for navigation and creating infrastructural facilities to provide facilities for night navigation;

(e) whether any infrastructural will be located at Allahabad;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) In the 7th Five-Year Plan the rivers Brahmaputra, the Godavari, the West-Coast Canal (Quilon-Cochin Section), the Krishna and the Sunderbans are proposed for declaration as National Waterway.

(b) and (c). The action plan envisaged in the 7th Plan includes development of the National Waterways, hydrographic surveys of important waterways, acquisition of additional fleet by CIWTC, modernisation of the Rajabagan Dockyard, development of various important waterways under state sector etc. In the 7th Five-Year Plan a total outlay of Rs. 225.73 crores has been made for development of Inland Water Transport in the country. Out of this Rs. 155.00 crores is in the Central Sector and Rs. 70.73 crores in the State Plan Sector.

(d) Three schemes for development of infrastructural facilities on Ganga-Hooghly-Bhagirathi river system have been sanctioned for each of the stretches Haldia-Farakka, Farakka-Patna and Patna-Allahabad at a cost of Rs. 189.50 lakhs, Rs. 394 lakhs and Rs. 978.60 lakhs respectively. Works on these schemes are in progress and are expected to be completed during 1988. However, commercial navigation upstream of Farakka upto Patna is feasible subject to the commissioning of Farakka Lock. No night navigation facility is envisaged in this stretch for the present as also for the Allahabad-Patna Stretch. Channel marking and aids to navigation including night navigation facilities are envisaged in the Haldia-Farakka stretch.

(e) to (g). The Inland Waterways Authority of India has planned to set up an IWT terminal at Allahabad at an estimated cost of Rs. 26.00 lakhs.

#### **Assistance to States for medicines**

**813. SHRI ANIL BASU :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 759 dated 30th July, 1987 regarding assistance to States for medicines and state :

(a) whether the information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) to (c). There are several programmes under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under which assistance to States for medicines have been given. Since the information is to be collected state-wise for all the programmes for 3 years separately, it involves considerable time and labour for collection and compilation of the same. Although most of the information has been collected some more information/clarification is to be obtained before a reply in fulfilment of assurance given to the Lok Sabha Question No. 759 answered on 30th July, 1987 is given.

#### **Women's colleges in rural areas**

**815. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the policy in regard to setting up of women's colleges in rural areas;

(b) the number of women's colleges so far established in rural areas in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of facilities being given to women's colleges in rural areas ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) The primary responsibility for establishing colleges including women's colleges is that of the State Government. The Central Government have not laid down any criteria for establishment of women's colleges.

(b) A statement indicating the list of women's colleges functioning in the rural areas of the country, state-wise, is given below.

(c) The University Grants Commission provides development grants to colleges which have a minimum enrolment of 250 students in degree courses. In the case of women's colleges the Commission has relaxed this requirement to 150 students. In addition, the Commission provides 75 per cent of the approved cost for construction of women's hostels against the usual 50 per cent.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of women's colleges in rural areas
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6
2.	Assam	2
3.	Bihar	—
4.	Gujarat	3
5.	Haryana	5
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
8.	Karnataka	5
9.	Kerala	5
10.	Madhya Pradesh	3
11.	Maharashtra	2
12.	Manipur	—
13.	Meghalaya	—
14.	Nagaland	—
15.	Orissa	—
16.	Punjab	12
17.	Rajasthan	18
18.	Tamil Nadu	—
19.	Uttar Pradesh	4
20.	West Bengal	3
21.	Delhi	—
All India		61

**Moradabad bye-pass**

816. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

Plant	Recruitment made during		
	1984	1985	1986
Bhilai Steel Plant	1467	2116	1075
Durgapur Steel Plant	338	290	196
Rourkela Steel Plant	724	440	456
Bokaro Steel Plant	536	989	434
Indian Iron & Steel Company (Burnpur & Ore Mines)	514	287	105
Alloy Steels Plant	101	62	24
Salem Steel Plant	30	4	5

(a) whether work on the Moradabad bye-pass has not commenced though sanctioned more than a year ago;

(b) if so, the steps taken to complete the work and the time by which it is expected to be completed;

(c) whether the condition of National Highway No. 24 between Moradabad and Rampur is very poor and needs immediate attention; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to improve the condition of the National Highway ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) The construction of Moradabad Bye-pass on National Highway No. 24 has not been sanctioned so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The National Highway No. 24 between Moradabad and Rampur is generally in traffic worthy condition and the works of improvements are carried out keeping in view the availability of funds and inter-se priority on all India basis.

**Persons recruited in SAIL Plants**

817. SHRI MANIK SANYAL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the number of persons recruited in different steel plants under SAIL during the last three years, plant-wise and year-wise details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** The number of persons recruited in different steel plants under SAIL during the years 1984, 1985 and 1986 are given below :

**Movement of essential items for drought relief**

**818. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have extended their cooperation to maintain high priority movement of essential items like foodgrains, edible oils, fodder and diesel to drought and flood affected parts of the country during last 6 months;

(b) whether Railways have also given priority to providing water and electricity in all railway establishments and to create greater awareness among the staff; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the plan of Government in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All possible measures have been taken by the railways to conserve water and augment water sources. The measures include stoppage of water leakages in pipe-lines and water tanks, re-cycling of waste water, review of existing distribution net-works and modifications wherever necessary. For purposes of augmentation of water sources, new and deeper tube-wells are being provided, sick tube-wells are being revived by compressor/chemical treatment. Action has also been initiated to install plants for conversion of brackish water into potable water.

All concerned have been instructed to optimise on the energy utilization by eliminating wastage in all its forms, and, by taking measures like replacement of ordinary electric lamps with more efficient mercury/sodium vapour lamps, etc.

**Purchase plan of Homoeopathic Medicines**

**819. SHRI SIDHA LAL MURMU :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the annual purchase plan of the Central Government and various State Governments for homoeopathic medicines;

(b) whether against this plan, imported homoeopathic medicines are allowed to be purchased; and

(c) if so, the details of purchases made during the last three years ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) The annual purchase plan for homoeopathic medicines under the Central Government Health Scheme is as detailed in the statement below. To the extent information is available with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, none of the other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India has drawn up such annual purchase plan for homoeopathic medicines. As far as State Governments are concerned, 'Health' being a State subject, the Central Government are not involved in the purchase of homoeopathic medicines by the State Governments; nor is such information available with the Central Government.

(b) Imported medicines are not allowed to be purchased against the purchase plan under the CGHS.

(c) As far as CGHS is concerned, the requisite information is 'nil'.

**Statement**

1. Registration of firms as Approved Supplier to CGHS is done every year through DAVP advertisement in National dailies. The firms are approved if they qualify to norms prescribed under Medical Store Manual.

2. CGHS has its Homoeo Formulary which is so far screened every year for additions and deletions by inviting suggestion from CGHS Homoeo Dispensaries all over the country. Then screened by a preliminary committee of M. O. Incharges of all Delhi dispensaries. The final and comprehensive list of drugs in the formulary is prepared and are then placed before CGHS Homoeopathic Formulary Advisory Committee for approval.

under the Chairmanship of Advisor (Homoeo) to Government of India and members consisting of Dy. Director CGHS, CMO (Stores, MSD) Dy. Adviser (Homoeo) M/O Health and Family Welfare, Senior Homoeo Physician (CGHS), three Medical Officers of Delhi and Officer Incharge, Homoeo Store Depot as Convenor. This formulary is the official schedule appended to Rate Enquiry for purchase of Homoeo Medicines in CGHS, duly approved by Director (CGHS).

3. The Annual tender of Rate Enquiry is sent to Registered approved Supplier under CGHS. The purchase procedure involves testing of samples on opening of tender. These are sent for protocol testing at Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad. The firms whose samples fail are not eligible for Rate Contract for those group of medicines.

4. The approval of rates made through CGHS Purchase Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Adviser (Homoeo) Government of India with other members as under (2) above.

5. The annual forecast quantities required for purchase by CGHS Delhi is made on DPAR proforma and is finalised by a committee of four members—Sr. Homoeo Physician (CGHS), M. O. Incharges of two dispensaries and officer Incharge or Homoeopathy Store Depot. This is duly approved by Director, CGHS.

6. The supply orders are sent on 4 and 6 monthly requirement with delivery period of 60 days and subject to extension of 30 days under special circumstances.

7. The acceptance of supply is made after every batch is tested at Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Government of India, Ghaziabad and Inspection notes are issued after satisfactory test report.

#### **Ticketless Travelling**

**820. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :**  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of checks conducted to detect ticketless travelling since January, 1987;

(b) the number of persons detected and fine realised since January, 1987 zone-wise;

(c) whether ticketless travel is on the increase; and

(d) the steps being taken to educate people against ticketless travelling ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) The number of checks conducted on the Railways during January-September 1987 was 3.20 lakhs.

(b) The necessary information for January-September 1987 is given below :

Railways	Number of persons detected travelling without ticket or with improper tickets (in lakhs)	Amount of Rly. dues realised (Rs. in lakhs)
Central	6.77	182.51
Eastern	8.79	146.68
Northern	6.67	214.42
North Eastern	3.30	55.24
Northeast Frontier	1.30	45.24
Southern	3.17	98.56
South Central	3.29	122.47
South Eastern	7.59	126.86
Western	7.59	165.09

(c) No, Sir.

(d) With a view to educating the travelling public against ticketless travel, the hazards and consequences of ticketless travelling highlighted through different means namely (i) information published in the Railway time-table (ii) advertisements in Newspapers and on radio (iii) display of short films in cinema halls and television (iv) delivering lectures in educational institutions and (v) frequent announcements on the public address system at important stations.

#### **Swedish aid for health schemes**

**821. DR. G. VIJAY RAMA RAO :**  
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sweden has given Rs. 42 crores for Health Plan and if so, the details thereof and the utilisation thereof;

(b) whether Sweden had given similar aid for health schemes earlier also;

(c) whether some other countries have promised aid for health and if so, the details of aid received earlier for health, country-wise and year-wise during the last three years; and

(d) whether benefits have been monitored and evaluated so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Sweden has provided two hundred and nine million Swedish Kroners

Rs. 44.72 crores approx.) from 1987-88 to 1989-90, through UNICEF, for Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) to India. Out of this 97 million Swedish Kroners (Rs. 20.75 crores approx.) have been disbursed upto 30.9.1987.

(b) Yes.

(c) Foreign aid is received for various health and family welfare programmes from various countries and bilateral agencies.

A statement indicating such aid received from some of these countries/agencies is given below.

(d) Evaluation of the benefits achieved under various foreign aid programmes is regularly done.

#### Statement

##### *Details of Foreign Assistance Received for various Health and Family Welfare Programmes during the last three years*

Country	Period	Agreed Amount	Amount Received
1	2	3	4
Sweden	(i) 1984-85 to 1988-89	143 Million SEK (Rs. 1152.07 lakhs)	67.5 Million SEK (upto September, 1987) (Rs. 1152.07 lakhs)
	(ii) 1985-86 1987-88	27.6 Million SEK (Rs. 471.07 lakhs)	14.4 Million SEK (upto September, 1987) (Rs. 471.07 lakhs)
Norway	1984-87	87.0 Million NOK (Rs. 1412.06 lakhs)	62.0 Million NOK (upto December, 1986) (Rs. 1027.68 lakhs)
Japan	(i) 1986	1.973 Million Yen (Rs. 1598.86 lakhs)	—
	(ii) 1987	1.346 Million Yen (Rs. 1090.77 lakhs)	—

1	2	3	4
US AID	(i) 1984-85	...	Rs. 1039.70 lakhs
(Area Project)	(ii) 1985-86	...	Rs. 952.01 lakhs
	(iii) 1986-87	...	Rs. 80.42 lakhs
DANIDA	(i) 1984-85	...	Rs. 919.64 lakhs
(Area Project)	(ii) 1985-86	—	Rs. 510.43 lakhs
(Denmark)	(iii) 1986-87	...	Rs. 820.61 lakhs
U. K. (DDA)	(i) 1984-85	—	£ 2.5 Million (Rs. 500 lakhs)
	(ii) 1985-86	—	£ 2.6 Million (Rs. 520 lakhs)
	(iii) 1986-87	...	£ 0.1 Million (Rs. 0.20 lakhs)

**Conversion of Bangalore Mysore rail line**

**822. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress achieved so far with regard to the completion of conversion of metre gauge railway into broad gauge between Bangalore and Mysore; and

(b) by what time this conversion work is likely to be completed ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) Present progress of the work is 16%.

(b) Completion of this work will depend on availability of resources in the coming year.

**Recognition to Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada (A.P.)**

**824. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has not yet recognised the Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) and (b). The College has not yet been recognised, as it does not fulfil the minimum requirements by way of staff, accommodation clinical facilities, equipment, laboratories, library etc. as prescribed by the Medical Council of India.

**Selection Procedure of Members of Censor Board**

**825. SHRI MANIK REDDY :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure of selection/nominating the members to the Censor Board and their duration of the term; and

(b) the number of Censor Boards functioning in the country ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) For the purpose of sanctioning films for public exhibition, Section 3(1) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952), empowers the Central Government to constitute a Board, called the Board of Film Certification, which shall consist of a Chairman and not less than

twelve and not more than twentyfive other members, appointed by the Central Government. Under rule 3 of the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983, a member of the Board, including Chairman, shall hold office during the pleasure of the Central Government. The Chairman shall hold office for a period of 3 years but shall continue to hold office until his successor is appointed, while every other member shall hold office for a period not exceeding 3 years. Pending the appointment of a successor to the Chairman, another person may be appointed to act as Chairman for a period not exceeding one year. A retiring member or a member whose term of office has expired by efflux of time shall be eligible for reappointment.

(b) There is only one Censor Board functioning in the country. It is designated as the Central Board of Film Certification. It has its headquarters at Bombay. However, the Board has six Regional offices, located at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Trivandrum.

#### Archaeological Survey in Kerala

826. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the last excavation done by Archaeological Survey of India in Kerala and the details thereof;

(b) whether it is proposed to conduct any other excavations in Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) The last excavation done by the Archaeological Survey of India in Kerala was in the Fort Cochin area during 1986-87. The excavation operations have brought to light an underground passage with fourway brick built tunneled passage. The east-west oriented passage has flight of steps at its western end and a narrow water tract in the centre.

(b) and (c). A proposal for excavation at megalithic site at Cherumangadu, dist. Trichur, Kerala during 1987-88 has been received.

(d) Question does not arise.

#### [Translation]

#### Environmental clearance of development projects

827. SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the state-wise number of developmental projects pending his Ministry's clearance as on date;

(b) the time limit by which these projects will be cleared; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for the speedy clearance of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) A total of sixty eight projects for forestry and 134 projects for environmental clearance are pending. State-wise distribution is given in the statement below.

(b) and (c). The Ministry of Environment and Forests have streamlined its procedure in such a way that it takes a maximum of three months to decide a case if complete environmental and forestry details are received. Expedited clearance depends on timely furnishing of full and requisite details by the projects authorities to the Ministry.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Forestry clearance	Environmental clearance
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	—
3.	Assam	7	1
4.	Bihar	2	18

1	2	3	4
5. Gujarat	2	9	
6. Haryana	—	2	
7. Himachal Pradesh	6	—	
8. Jammu & Kashmir	—	2	
9. Karnataka	3	2	
10. Kerala	2	5	
11. Madhya Pradesh	7	27	
12. Maharashtra	8	11	
13. Manipur	—	1	
14. Mizoram	—	1	
15. Orissa	8	8	
16. Punjab	—	1	
17. Rajasthan	1	5	
18. Sikkim	1	—	
19. Tamil Nadu	8	1	
20. Uttar Pradesh	3	14	
21. West Bengal	—	11	
22. Andaman & Nicobar	6	1	
	—	—	
Total	68	134	
	—	—	

## [English]

Kendriya Vidyalaya at Haldia,  
West Bengal

828. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Haldia, West Bengal;

(b) whether any site has been selected for the said Vidyalaya; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

## Decontrol of price of Vitamin

829. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether deficiency of Vitamin A is the main cause of blindness;

(b) if so, whether preparations based on Vitamin A are very costly;

(c) whether his Ministry has recommended for price decontrol of Vitamin A; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Proprietary preparations of Vit. A are sold at different prices. The Vit. A Solution procured by the Government costs about 45 paise per dose and is supplied free to the children under 5 years in the country through vast Health infrastructure.

(c) and (d). All Vitamin bulk drugs along with their single ingredient products are exempt from price control under Drugs Control Price Order, 1987.

## [Translation]

## Rehabilitation of widows

830. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to start a national programme for the rehabilitation of widows after Deorala Sati incident;

(b) if so, the main features of the national programme and the details of the expenditure likely to be incurred on this programme during the current financial year

and the number of widows likely to be benefited by the rehabilitation programme by the next year; and

(c) the State-wise details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :**

(a) There is no proposal to start a specific national programme for the rehabilitation of widows. The Department does however fund socio-economic programmes and supportive services for destitute women including widows which could help their rehabilitation.

(b) and (c). Do not arise,

*[English]*

#### Organ transplant operations

**831. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of shocking malpractice in Organ transplant operations in the country and procuring live organs from poor donors for a small sum of money and then selling those organs to recipients to staggering price; and

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

**THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) and (b). The Government is aware of the alleged trafficking in kidneys in some parts of the country. The Government is in consultation with the State Government contemplating the enactment of a comprehensive legislation for use of tissues and organs of deceased persons and its donation for therapeutic purposes and this will minimise the trafficking in human organs.

#### Screening of unsavoury films

**832. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is considering the issue of the screening of unsavoury films through NRI imports all over the country;

(b) if so, which agency is responsible for passing such films involving violence and sex; and

(c) whether any joint coordinating body is proposed to go through the existing imported films and remove such of those films which are unsuitable for public morale?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) and (b) All films, whether Indian or foreign, are presented to the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for issue of certificate for public exhibition. These are examined by the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952), and the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983, and keeping in view the guidelines issued by the Central Government for examination of films for certification. These guidelines require the CBFC to, *inter-alia*, ensure that : (i) anti-social activities, such as violence, are not glorified or justified; (ii) modus operandi of criminals or other visuals or words likely to incite commission of any offence are not depicted; (iii) pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror are not shown; and, (iv) human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity and depravity.

The Board ensures that objectionable material within the meaning of the guidelines is deleted from a film before it is certified for public exhibition

(c) No, Sir.

## [Translation]

## Allotment of forest land

**833. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Harijans and Adivasis use the land of Forest Department in Madhya Pradesh for farming purpose;

(b) whether it has been decided to allot this land on lease basis to them keeping in view the plight of these poor people; and

(c) if so, by what time ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) The use of forest land for farming purpose by any-body including Harijans and Adivasis is not permitted as a policy. Some forest lands are however in use by Adivasis in forest villages since long.

(b) and (c). No proposal has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh to allot such land on lease basis.

## [English]

Setting up nickel extracting plant  
in Orissa

**834. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a Nickel extraction plant at Sukinda in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in the setting up of the plant; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of the above proposal ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

## [Translation]

## Ganganagar-Bikaner National Highway No. 15

**835. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ganganagar-Bikaner National No. 15 needs frequent repairs owing to its particular importance and is required to be properly maintained;

(b) if so, whether this highway is receiving necessary attention of Government;

(c) if not, the reasons for not giving due attention in terms of financial allocation; and

(d) whether required funds would be made available for its proper maintenance ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) and (b). The Bikaner-Ganganagar Section of NH. 15 in Rajasthan is being maintained in traffic worthy condition.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

## [English]

## World Bank Aid for Ganga Action Plan

**836. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank has promised aid for Ganga Action Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this aid would involve import of river cleaning or other technologies; and

(d) whether such imports would be detrimental to our industries which can supply similar technologies ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND**

**FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) An agreement has been concluded between the Government of India and the World Bank providing for World Bank assistance to the U. P. Urban Development Project of which Ganga Action Plan is a component.

(b) The total cost of U. P. Urban Development Project including contingencies is estimated to be Rs. 283.27 crores. Out of this, the cost of the Ganga Action Plan component is estimated to be Rs. 57.77 crores for the following items :

- (i) Technical assistance and training.
- (ii) Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants in a few locations.
- (iii) Procurement of equipments for mechanical cleaning of sewers and automatic monitoring of river water quality. The World Bank assistance will cover full cost of imports, if any, and about 5 per cent of the cost of goods and services to be indigenously procured. The total amount of assistance is expected to be about Rs. 32 crores.

(c) and (d). As per the procedures laid down and agreed to, goods and services will be procured through global tenders. Member-countries of the World Bank including India will be eligible to furnish tenders. The need for imports will depend on the evaluation of tenders in each case. Besides, Indian parties will also be entitled to price preference in keeping with the procurement procedures. The need for and the extent of imports, if any, will, therefore, depend on the evaluation of tender in each case.

#### Pollution in Bombay

**837. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Central Committee has been set up to go into the question of environmental pollution in Chembur of Bombay; and

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee and its composition ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference are :

- (i) To review the status of air and water pollution by industrial units in Chembur;
- (ii) To review the status of pollution control measures already adopted by the industrial units operating in Chembur and the additional measures planned by them for execution; and
- (iii) To make recommendations regarding the projects, including those of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., for their continuation, closure, or diversification/ dispersal of products taking into consideration their impact on environment.

The Committee is composed of the following members :

- 1. Shri R.K. Garg
- 2. Prof. M.M. Sharma
- 3. Shri S.K. Patil
- 4. Shri Sbyem Chainani
- 5. Shri Y.L. Rajwade
- 6. Dr. S Maudgal

#### Narmada Sagar Project

**838. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there will be a large scale damage to the forests due to the Narmada Sagar multi-purpose Project;

(b) whether Union Government had asked the Madhya Pradesh Government to give details of equivalent non-forest land identified for compensatory plantation;

(c) how many hectares of forest land is likely to be involved in this project;

(d) whether Union Government had given conditional clearance for this Project; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) The Narmada Sagar multipurpose Project will involve the loss of 41,111.97 hectares of forests.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Narmada Sagar Project involves 41,111.97 hectares of forests area.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Clearance has been given based on a detailed assessment of all aspects including loss of forests. Conditions have been stipulated with a view to compensate for the loss of forests, to avoid sufferings to the oustees and to minimise the damage to forests and environment.

**Howrah-Amra-Chapadanga-Shleyakbala Project**

**839. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far to complete the Howrah-Amra-Chapadanga-Shleyakbala rail line project; and

(b) the reasons for the delay in the completion of this project, if any ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) and (b). 24 km. from Santragachi to Bargachia was opened in 1984. Work on the remaining portion could not be taken up due to constraint of resources.

**Doubling of railway tracks**

**840. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to double some of the railway tracks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the task is likely to be completed and the tracks opened to traffic ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) The Railways have been taking up doubling of critical single line sections according to needs of traffic and availability of resources.

(b) Details of approved doubling projects are given in the Railway Budget (Pink Book) 1987-88.

(c) Doubling of about 280 km. of rail lines is expected to be commissioned in 1987-88. Completion of other ongoing doublings will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

**Project for manufacture of copper T and disposable syringes**

**841. SHRI A. CHARLES :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Messers Hindustan Latex, Trivandrum has submitted a project for the manufacture of copper T 200 and disposable syringes;

(b) if so, the cost of the project;

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present; and

(d) whether the State Government has provided necessary land for setting up this project ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND**

**FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Pre-feasibility report proposing to set up Plants to manufacture disposable syringes and Cu. T have been received from H.L.L., Trivandrum. The Company has proposed to set up a Plant with the capacity to manufacture 30 Million pcs. of disposable syringes per annum at a cost of Rs 6 crores. The Company has also proposed to set up a Plan for the manufacture of Cu. T-200 with a capacity of two million pcs. per annum. According to the Feasibility report submitted by the Company the total cost of this Project will be Rs. 2.87 crores approximately.

(c) The proposals are under consideration in consultation with the Planning Commission.

(d) The State Government has been requested to provide suitable location for setting up production facilities of disposable syringes and Cu. T. No reply has been received from the State Government so far.

**Addition of fluoride to drinking water milk, toothpaste and common salt**

**842. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :  
SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI :  
DR. V. VENKATESH :**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the addition of fluoride to drinking water, milk, toothpaste and common salt is leading to 'serious health problems' in developing countries;

(b) if so, whether developing countries have been totally misled by some of the developed countries that are promoting fluoride addition for prevention of dental; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to rectify the situation ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) No authentic data as to

whether addition of fluoride to drinking water, milk, toothpaste and common salt is leading to serious health problems are available. However, the available literature on use of various methods of fluoridisation of water, milk, salt and toothpaste as means to prevent dental caries has been reviewed by WHO in their publications.

(b) The topical application of fluoride is beneficial even in endemic areas. In areas where fluoride level in drinking water is above 1.5 ppm, defluoridation methods are recommended. The study on fluoride mapping is being initiated by the Indian Council of Medical Research to know fluoride levels in various areas in the country, since fluoride content is highly variable in water from different sources.

(c) The topical application of fluoride is being evaluated for its efficacy in primary prevention of dental caries and gingival diseases in school children and the community through the existing health infrastructure and school teachers in an on-going ICMR Task Force Project at Post Graduate Institute, Chandigarh.

**Purchase of "Electronic lung function machine" for Safdarjang Hospital**

**843. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :  
DR. B. L. SHAILESH :**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Safdarjang Hospital Delhi has purchased an 'Electronic lung function machine', although there was no trained personnel to handle it and a high level Screening Committee had categorically rejected the proposal to purchase it;

(b) if so, the reasons for rejection and later the compulsions to purchase it;

(c) whether two Operation Tables worth lakhs of rupees have also been purchased which had not measured up to the required specifications and also whether a Treadmill for use in heart tests, costing several lakhs of rupees is lying unused; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) The Hospital has purchased an 'Electronic lung function Machine' and there are trained personnel to handle it. The Screening Committee had not rejected the proposal to purchase it.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To operation tables were purchased, with required specifications, through D.G.S. & D. Treadmill was not purchased.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### Utilisation of unused forest land

**844. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : DR. CHINTA MOHAN :**

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether large area of forest land is lying unused;

(b) if so, whether any suggestions have been received by Union Government from the State Governments for its proper utilisation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to announce a national policy in this regard; and

(e) if so, by what time ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) No, Sir. However, some forest land has degraded due to biotic pressure.

(b) and (c). The Union Government have been receiving proposals from the State Government for allowing private industries, institutions and individual farmers to raise plantations of forest lands for production of raw materials for industries, either on a lease basis or as a joint-sector programme with the State Forest Department State Forest Development Corporation.

The Government of India, as a policy do not propose to permit any such plantations on forest lands by industries either by themselves or as joint sector programme. The State Governments have been advised to promote arrangements by which small and marginal farmers can produce raw materials for industries on degraded lands available with them.

(d) No separate policy is required.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### Development of Railways in Kerala

**845. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far regarding construction of railway lines and allied projects in Kerala; and

(b) the steps being taken to expedite the development of railways in the State ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) The progress of approved New Line Projects and Road over/under bridges in Kerala is as under :

<i>New Lines</i>	<i>% Progress</i>
1. Ernakulam-Alleppey	30
2. Alleppey-Kayankulam	3
3. Trichur-Guruvayur	...

<i>Road over/under Bridges at/near</i>	<i>Progress of Rail- ways portion</i>
1. Thavakkara Road Cannanore	100
2. Vallathol Nagar	100
3. Francis Road, Calicut	60
4. Kuttipuram Yard	45
5. Wadakancheri	Tender being invited.
6. Punkummum (Trichur)	Plan under finalisation
7. Tellicherry	Plan/Estimate awaited from State P.W.D.

(b) Funds are being allotted for Railway Projects within the overall resources allocated for Railway Plans.

#### Allotment of forest land

846. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government had taken a decision to allot certain forest land in Kerala to the settlers for a certain period;

(b) if so, the total land earmarked for allotment; and

(c) by what time the allotment is likely to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). The Government of India had agreed in principle to regularise occupation of forest lands in Kerala which had taken place prior to 1.1.1977. In the absence of complete details exact area could not be decided.

(c) In view of the stay order granted by the Kerala High Court against assignment of forest land and also lack of complete details, it is not possible to specify the time limit by which the requisite permission for diversion of forest lands under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 can be decided upon.

#### Accident centres

847. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has the highest death rate due to multiple injuries caused by accidents more particularly for lack of proper transportation and effective treatment in the absence of standard orthopaedic implants; and,

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up centralised modern accident centres for speedy transportation and effective treatment of accident victims in in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) India has a high rate of mortality and morbidity due to polytrauma caused by high velocity accidents due to traffic accidents, injuries on farms due to mechanisation and increased industrialisation. Lack of proper transportation and immediate shifting of victims increases mortality and morbidity.

(b) A Centralised Accident and Trauma Service for the city of Delhi has already been planned and its setting up is being implemented under the aegies of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

#### Polluted rivers of Andhra Pradesh

849. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the rivers in Andhra Pradesh which are being polluted;

(b) the lavel of pollution existing in each river; and

(c) the steps proposed to remove pollution from these rivers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND

**FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) The names of the rivers are : Krishna, Godavari, Tungabhadra, Peddavagu, Kinnerasani, Pennar, Musi, Meghadrigedda, Neeva and Hundri.

(b) The level of pollution existing in Andhra Pradesh rivers which are being monitored in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) (mg/l), total coliform (MPN/100 ml) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) (mg/l) is as follows :

River	Sampling Location	BOD (mg/l)	Total Coliform (MPN/100 ml)	Do (mg/l)
Krishna	Vijayawada	3.0—4.0	95—1475	7.3—7.9
	Gadwal	3.3—3.9	2100—2460	7.4—8.2
Godavari	Mancherial	3.35—4.1	19—236	7.3—7.8
	Polavaram	2.84—3.7	8—25	7.0—7.35
Tungabhadra	Mantralaya	4.0—4.2		
	Kurnool	3.2—4.4		
	Kurnool downstream point of Rayalaseema Paper Mill	3.3—5.6		
Peddavagu	At confluence with Nagarjuna Sagar Dam Canal	3.5—4.0		
Pennar	Nellore	2.8—5.2	11—39	
	Siddavatam	3.2—3.58	22—82	7.46—7.78
Musi	Ghatkeshwar Confluence point	3.2—5.8		

The detailed water quality characteristics of other rivers are not being monitored.

(c) The steps taken include the following :

(a) Standards for effluents have been laid down.

(b) Regular water quality monitoring in the rivers is being carried out.

(c) The industries have been given a time bound programme to set up effluent treatment plants.

(d) Legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(e) Siting of new industries is kept under review.

#### Filaria affected persons in Maharashtra

**850. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 30 April, 1987 to Starred Question No. 846 regarding spread of filaria in Maharashtra and state :

(a) the number of filaria affected persons cured in Maharashtra and the number of those still suffering from it alongwith the number of those who have died of it;

(b) the amount spent by Government on providing medical facilities there and the amount out of it spent on doctors and on medicines separately;

(c) whether Government had launched any drive eliminate mosquitoes completely from there; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):** (a) According to the information received from Government of Maharashtra, 51651 (42442 Microfilaria carriers and 9129 diseased) and 23205 ('9 25 Microfilaria carriers and 4180 diseased) filaria affected cases have been detected in Maharashtra State during 1986-87 and 1987-88 (April to September) respectively.

42572 and 20217 filaria cases have been treated during 1986-87 and 1987-88 respectively 400 and 572 Hydrocele operations were done in 1985-86 and 1986-87 respectively.

No death due to filariasis has been reported in these years from NFCP Units in the State.

(b) During 1987-87, an amount of Rs. 191.6<sup>c</sup> lakhs has been spent by the State Government on NFCP as operational cost including salaries of doctors and staff and Rs. 43.10 lakhs on material and equipment including medicines. The Central Government have also supplied larvicides and drugs worth Rs. 28.10 lakhs under the Programme to the State Government during 1986-87.

(c) and (d). The main activity under National Filaria Control Programme is through anti-malaria measures which includes : (i) by minor engineering works such as dewatering, desilting, filling and canalisation; (ii) by spraying of stagnant water surface with Malaria and Baytex and (iii) biological methods by introduction of larvivorous fish in tanks and wells.

#### Yeleru Reservoir Project

**851. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMFNT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have not given clearance to Yeleru Reservoir Project which is to supply water to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant ,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Union Government would reconsider and accord clearance for Yeleru Reservoir Project Scheme which is very vital to the Steel Plant, expected to go into production in 1988-89 ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yeleru Reservoir Project has been rejected from environmental angle due to non-furnishing of requisite environmental data and Action Plans by the project authorities even after repeated requests.

(c) Reconsideration of the project would be possible if full environmental data is furnished.

#### Losses suffered by VISL

**852. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :**

**SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :**

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire equity of the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd. has been wiped out and losses have eaten into the capital of the company;

(b) whether Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd. is jointly owned by the State Government of Karnataka and Union Government; and

(c) what was the authorised capital of the company on April, 1986 ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Company is jointly owned by State Government of Karnataka and Steel Authority of India Limited.

(c) Rs. 75.00 crores as on April, 1986.

## [Translation]

## Cut in expenditure on functions

**853. SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken by his Ministry to effect a cut in the expenditure to be incurred on various functions, etc., keeping in view the present country-wide drought situation; and

(b) if so, the amount likely to be saved as a result thereof and the details of the functions likely to be affected as a result of this cut ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) The Ministry of Finance has issued instructions to all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India of the austerity measures to be implemented by all Ministries and Departments in the context of the drought situation in the country. According to these instructions, all Festivals, Fairs and Exhibitions for which firm commitments have not been made by 31st August, 1987, should be postponed till the end of the current year. Even where firm commitments have been made, the proposed expenditure should be carefully scrutinised and all inessential and ostentatious items should be cut out. These instructions have been brought to the notice of all concerned in this Ministry including autonomous bodies funded by this Ministry.

(b) Provision for expenditure on Festivals, Fairs and Exhibitions is not made in the budget separately for each function except in the case of major Festivals such as the Festival of India in USSR and the Festival of USSR in India. It is, therefore, difficult to quantify the total saving that is likely to accrue as a result of implementation of the austerity measures.

So far as the Festivals of India in other countries and Return Festivals of these countries in India are concerned, the saving likely to be effected as a result of the adoption of the austerity measure aggregate Rs. 8.05 crores *vide* details given below :

S. No.	Festival	Amount of saving (Rs. in crores)
1.	Festival of India in USSR	0.50
2.	Soviet Festival in India	6.65
3.	Japan Month in India	0.50
4.	Festival of India in Japan	0.40
		8.05
		—

## [English]

## Toxic and dangerous drugs

**854. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Drugs found toxic and dangerous during the last three years; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) and (b). Information regarding the withdrawal of certain drugs by some countries from their markets is received by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare mainly through World Health Organisation. During the last three years, W.H.O. have reported the Withdrawal of 9 drugs by certain countries on grounds of toxicity and serious adverse reactions. *None* of these 9 drugs have been approved for marketing in the country.

The names of these are Molsidamine, Nomifensine, Suprofen, Dantralone Sodium, Bromisoval, Isoxicam, Cianidanol, Indalpine and Suloctidil.

## Steps to streamline standard of medical education

**855. CHOWDHRY AKHTAR HASAN :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Medical Council of India is being vested with sweeping powers to coordinate and streamline the standards of medical education in the country; and

(b) if so, the nature of steps taken in this direction so far ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) and (b). Over a period of time, it was noticed that the Medical Council of India does not enjoy the required powers for bringing into effect proper standards of medical education. The implementation of the existing Indian Medical Council Act brought out certain major infirmities. In order to meet the situation, a Bill has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th August, 1987 to amend the Indian Medical Council Act. The major steps proposed in the Bill are as follows :

- (1) Prior permission of the Medical Council of India would be required for establishment of new medical colleges, increase of seats in the existing medical colleges or opening of new courses of study, etc. A graduated penalty has been contemplated in case of contravention of the provisions relating to the above.
- (2) A new section is being introduced for prohibition of collection of capitation fee etc. by any medical college and also provision of penalty for contravening this section.
- (3) The primary medical qualifications indicating the minimum medical qualification required for a person to practise medicine has been defined and indicated in the Schedules.
- (4) Branch Medical Councils are being opened for keeping up-to-date record of Indian Medical Register. Periodical renewal of registration is also being provided.
- (5) Ethics-cum-Disciplinary Committee is being established to deal with

cases of violation of prescribed standards of professional conduct and etiquette, etc.

(6) The objectives of the Medical Council of India have been defined in a new section.

**Central Road Transport Development Finance Corporation**

**856. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Transport Development Council has recently recommended the setting up of a Central Road Transport Development Finance Corporation to serve as a specialised financing body for the road transport industry;

(b) whether the working group has worked out the details for the proposed Corporation; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the proposal and the decision of Government thereon ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The basic idea behind the proposal of a Central Road Transport Development Finance Corporation has been to have a specialized institution to assist State Road Transport Undertakings by loan finance to augment transport services. The Working Group, entrusted with the task of identifying possible additional channels of resources, had reported its findings to the Transport Development Council that practical possibilities of raisings finances from sources other than the existing ones—namely LIC/IDBI loans and Central/State Capital Contributions are rather remote. The Council has therefore recommended setting up the Corporation on the basis of pooling of existing resources, also considering possibility of higher levels of allocations from such sources.

**White Paper on Public Sector  
Undertakings**

**857. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the White Paper on Public Sector steel plants has not so far been completed;

(b) if so, whether draft proposals in this regard are still being considered and discussed;

(c) if so, what were the reasons for delay in issuing the same; and

(d) by what time the same is likely to be finalised ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) to (d). Government are engaged in reviewing the growth and present situation of the steel industry and mapping out its direction and course of development till the end of the century. A strategy paper containing a long term perspective plan is currently under preparation in the Steel Department which shall be considered by a Group set up by the Planning Commission. No time frame has been fixed in this regard.

**Maintenance of Elephanta Caves**

**859. SHRI KAMAL NATH :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the seven Elephanta Caves which date back to the fifth century are in shambles for want of adequate maintenance;

(b) the total number of the caves which have developed cracks and the action taken by the Archaeological Survey of India to repair them; and

(c) the amount spent annually on maintenance of the caves as compared to the money collected as entry fee to the caves ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATIONAL**

**AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) No. Sir. An overhanging portion of rock above the facade of the unfinished cave no. 3 had fallen in September, 1987.

(b) Cracks and fissures, which form an inherent feature of the rock structure in which the caves are carved out at Elephanta are attended to as and when it is necessary keeping in view the structural stability and needs of the monument. The repair work at Elephanta caves has already been commenced by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) The expenditure incurred on the preservation of the caves and the admission fee collected during the last three years is as below :

Year	Expenditure incurred Rs.	Fees collected Rs.
1984-85	41,016.00	86,706.00
1985-86	19,509.00	1,07,286.00
1986-87	36,187.00	91,347.00

**Capital contribution to Kerala State Road Transport Corporation**

**860. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have given capital contribution to the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation in 1987-88;

(b) if so, the amount released and the percentage of contribution compared to the contribution of the State Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) to (c). The criteria for grant of capital contribution by the Central Government to

the State Road Transport Corporations, including Kerala State Road Transport Corporation for the year 1987-88 are being finalised. Thereafter the funds would be released to these Corporations.

#### Distribution of iron and steel

**861. SHRI SAMBHAIJIRAO KAKADE:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quota allocation and demand registration scheme is being managed by the Development Commissioner, Iron and Steel;

(b) what is the role of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. in this regard;

(c) whether there are any guidelines for distribution of iron and Steel materials;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the work of registration and distribution has been stalled; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Steel Authority of India Limited supplies iron and steel materials to consumers against demand registrations and also in accordance with the priority laid down by the Joint Plant Committee's Guidelines for distribution of iron and steel materials.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Distribution Guidelines give the highest priority for supply of iron and steel materials to sectors which are vitally important to the national economy such as Defence, Railways, Irrigation, Power, EEPC, SSICs etc. They also provide for increased supplies to units situated in Centrally declared backward areas, North Eastern sector and Jammu and Kashmir. According to these guidelines, raw materials entitlements of industrial units are determined by the main producers themselves in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines,

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Conversion of Adilabad-Purna railway link

**862. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made in conversion of Adilabad-Purna railway line from metre-gauge to broad gauge ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** This conversion work is yet to commence.

#### Increase in drug consumption

**863. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a big increase in consumption of drugs particularly Antibiotics during the last decade; and

(b) if so, the measure taken by Government to check the increase in drug consumption ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) With the increase in population and wide spread infections, consumption of drugs particularly anti-biotics has increased.

(b) Judicious use of drugs through medical education is advocated by the Central Health Education Bureau and similar bodies including association like Indian Medical Association.

#### Copper mining in Tamil Nadu

**864. SHRI P. KANNAN :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether copper is being mined in the Chittoor village in Erode Taluk of Periyar District of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if not, the steps being taken to conduct an immediate survey of the area which is very rich in minerals and other raw materials used by various industries ?

**THE MINISTER FOR STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Geological Survey of India has carried out mapping in the area and investigations are being done for identifying deposits of gemstone and platinoid group of minerals.

**Protests against stopping of Mangala Express**

**865. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : SHRI MULLAPPALLY**

**RAMACHANDRAN :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware of the strong protests registered by Members of Parliament, political parties, Chambers of Commerce, Passenger Associations in the Malabar region of Kerala against stopping of the Mangala Express from New Delhi to Mangalore and withdrawal of coaches from Mangalore to Bombay and train timings on Mangalore-Palghat line;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to redress these grievances;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) to (c). Although there have been some protests, the revised pattern of Delhi-Kerala and Bombay-Kerala services is an improvement on the earlier facilities and has been, by and large, appreciated by the people. The number of coaches between Delhi-Mangalore has increased from 45 to 49 and between Bombay-Mangalore from 35 to 37, besides through reservation quotas in either direction.

(d) Does not arise.

**Pay Commission benefits to employees of National Fitness Corporation**

**866. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have noted the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the issue of pay fixation of the National Fitness Corporation employees;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has ordered that the Third Pay Commission benefits should be given to the National Fitness Corporation employees; and

(c) if so, when Government propose to give effect to this order ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :** (a) to (c). On the decentralisation of National Fitness Corps scheme at the Centre, the NDS Instructors working in the States were absorbed in the state services. Whereas the decision to transfer these instructors to the States was taken in 1965, final absorption was completed in the year 1976 as many instructors had filed writ petitions in different courts against the decision of the government. These instructors were not given the benefit of Third Central Pay Commission as according to the Commission, they were under transfer to the State Governments. In the erstwhile NFC organisation, there were following posts of instructors :

- (i) NDS Instructor Jr. Gd. II,
- (ii) NDS Instructor Jr. Gd. I,
- (iii) NDS Instructor Sr. Gd. II,
- (iv) NDS Instructor Sr. Gd. I,
- (v) Supervisors

2. One NDS Instructor Jr. Gd. I had filed a writ petition in the court regarding extension of benefits of revised pay scales as recommended by the Kothari Commission for the teaching staff and Third Central Pay

Commission and the same was decided in favour of the instructor. This case was also upheld by the Supreme Court of India. As the court's decision was in favour of NDS Instructor Jr. Gd. I, necessary orders were issued to the concerned State Governments/ UTs for extending benefits of revised pay scales to all the NDS Instructors Jr. Gd. I. State Governments are taking necessary action to fix the pay of these instructors.

**Compulsory wearing of helmet by two-wheeler riders**

**867. DR. A. K. PATEL :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether wearing of helmet is compulsory for two-wheeler riders in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Lucknow, Bhopal, Jaipur, Nagpur and Baroda;

(b) whether Bombay High Court has given a ruling against compulsory wearing of helmet by the two-wheeler drivers;

(c) whether Traffic Police in Delhi is harassing Scooterists regarding make of the helmet etc. and charging exorbitant fines; and

(d) if so, the amount of fine so imposed during last three years and under what statutory provision ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) As per information received, wearing of helmets by two-wheeler riders is compulsory in Madras. It is not compulsory in the State of Gujarat, cities of Bombay and Bhopal. In Delhi wearing of helmets is compulsory by the two wheeler drivers only.

Information in respect of other cities is being collected.

(b) According to the information a Writ Petition has been filed in Bombay High Court by a Social Institution pleading for issue of direction to the State Government to make rules making it compulsory for riders

of two-wheeler to wear helmets. This Writ Petition has been admitted by the High Court and is yet to come up for hearing.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The Traffic Police are charging from the defaulters only the composition fee in terms of Section 127-B of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. Since September, 1982, the composition fee in respect of such offences is minimum Rs. 50/- and maximum Rs. 100/- for the first offence and minimum Rs. 150/- and maximum Rs. 300/- for the second offence.

**Updating of NCERT Books**

**868. SHRIMATI MEERA KUMAR :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Reserach and Training text books are updated regularly;

(b) if so, the factors which are taken into consideration for updating them; and

(c) the frequency for updating the books ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For each edition/reprint, feed back and comments received are incorporated in the text. To cope with the contemporary developments and national goal of education, contents of new books are invariably updated. Facts and figures related to progress made in different areas and the important events are taken into consideration for updating and also the guidelines provided in the approach papers and framework papers on curricula are the guiding factors which are taken into consideration for updating the contents of textbooks.

(c) The textbooks are updated before every reprint which is generally done every year.

**Setting up of International Institute of Homoeopathy in Calcutta**

**869. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up an International Institute of Homoeopathy in Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Railway link between Jammu and Udhampur**

**870. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to construct the railway link between Jammu and Udhampur; and

(b) if so, by which time this project is likely to be completed ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The completion of this project will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

**National policy on wasteland development**

**871. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised a national policy on wasteland development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, when the policy is likely to be finalised ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is Government's policy to develop as much of wastelands in the country as possible rapidly to increase forest cover and also to upgrade the degraded land so that its productivity increases. Such rapid development of wastelands is to be achieved by not merely governmental effort but by ensuring massive people's participation and creating people's shake in planting trees and bushes and in maintaining them. Nurseries are also to be encouraged as much as possible in a decentralised manner in people's field in the form of Kisan nurseries so that plantation material is available to the people within easy reach. To generate and expand people's awareness on a large scale voluntary agencies are also to be mobilised in the programme. Inter-cropping and farm forestry are also to be encouraged to enable the farming community in general to produce as much as possible of raw materials required for industries. Social forestry is to play a large role in the anti-poverty programme of government in view of the high employment potential of nursery racing and tree planting activities in the rural areas.

(c) Does not arise.

**News item captioned "Fish eating reduces risk of heart attack"**

**872. SHRIMATI N. P. JHANSI LAKSHMI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 24 October, 1987 under the caption "Fish eating reduces risk of heard attack"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and findings thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) Yes. Sir, The Government is aware of the news item.

(b) Epidemiological and interventional studies indicate that fish consumption may lower the morbidity and mortality arising from the Coronary artery disease. This is borne out by low death rate from Coronary artery disease among the eskimos and among inhabitants in Okinawa island in Japan where the average fish consumption is high.

*[Translation]*

**Employment to BALCO trainees**

**873. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA** : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether trainees of the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, Korba have not been given employment; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR)** : (a) and (b). Under the Apprentices Act 1961, and Rules made thereunder, the Regional Apprenticeship Advisor fixes the number of apprentices to be inducted in various trades. As per terms and conditions of induction, the apprentices, on their successful completion of apprenticeship, have been absorbed by BALCO to the extent vacancies meant for direct recruitment were available.

*[English]*

**Drinking water facilities in compartments of long distance trains**

**874. SHRI P. A. ANTONY** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether drinking water facility in the compartments of long distance trains like the Kerala Express have been stopped;

(b) whether Government are aware of the difficulties of passengers due to lack of drinking water in compartments; and

(c) whether Railway would resume drinking water supply in the compartments of such trains ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA)** : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Request from "Sarswati College for Girls, Charkhi Dadri" for grants**

**875. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA** : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Apeejay Sarswati College for Girls, Charkhi Dadri (Haryana) has applied for grant for sports development;

(b) if so, when the college applied for the grants;

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning the grants; and

(d) the time by which the grants will be issued ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA)** : (a) The University Grants Commission, through which this Department's Scheme of National Sports Organisation is implemented for creation of sports facilities in the Colleges/ Universities, has informed us that no proposal for sports development has been received by them from Apeejay Sarswati College for Girls, Charkhi Dadri (Haryana).

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**Foreign exchange for World Cup Cricket**

**876. SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA** : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign exchange sanctioned and likely to be spent for holding the World Cup Cricket tournament in India;

(b) the expenditure drawn from public exchequer for holding the said tournament; and

(c) the amount collected for scarcity relief from the said tournament?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :**  
 (a) to (c). Foreign Exchange of £ 1.6 million was approved for the holding of World Cup Cricket tournament. Other informations are being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House early.

**Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

**877. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA-MURTHY:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the latest estimated cost for completing the construction of the first phase of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) the amount spent so far and the amount yet to be spent;

(c) the amount spent during the last three years separately;

(d) when is the first phase scheduled to be completed; and

(e) the details of the progress achieved so far and the anticipated progress to be achieved by 1988?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) Since the project is being implemented in two overlapping phases, it is not possible to furnish cost estimate for Phase-1 separately. The cost estimate for the whole project, based on first quarter 1986 prices, is Rs. 6281.32 crores.

(b) Amount spent upto 31.10.1987 : Rs. 3466.70 crores.  
 Balance amount yet to be spent : Rs. 2814.62 crores

(c)	Year	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
	1984-85	590.51
	1985-86	789.04
	1986-87	698.24

(d) December, 1988.

(e) The progress as on 31.10.1987, in terms of percentage fulfilment of project schedules in different areas, is given below :

Item	Percentage fulfilment of Project Schedule
Civil Engineering Drawings	102.0
Structural Design Drawings	103.7
Concreting	100.1
Structural Fabrication	97.5
Structural erection	96.8
Equipment ordering	102.3
Equipment erection	77.9
Refractory ordering	94.7
Refractory erection	89.2

As regards anticipated progress it is expected that Phase-I of the project will be commissioned as per schedule, i.e., by December, 1988.

**Idle DTC buses without repairs**

**878. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of DTC buses which are standing for want of tyres and tubes in depots and since when and the reasons for not providing tyres and tubes; and

(b) the number of buses which are standing for want of repairs and since when and the reasons for not putting them on road on time?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) As on

2.11.1987, 14 buses are held up for want of tyres and tubes, which were in short supply. The duration of detention of these buses in depots is as under :

Upto 3 days	:	6 buses
Upto 4-7 days	:	5 ..
Above 7 days	:	3 ..

(b) As on 2.11.1987, 305 buses are held up for routine repairs and maintenance etc.

The duration of their detention is as under :

Upto 3 days	:	144 buses
Upto 4-7 days	:	45 ..
Above 7 days	:	116 ..

#### Working of the Archaeological Survey of India

879. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether many of the vital projects of the Archaeological Survey of India are either at a standstill or have been inordinately delayed and that the ASI is without a Director General for quite sometime;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the working of the ASI has been critically examined by Government to know the deficiencies; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and what measures are contemplated by Government to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) It is not true that many of the vital projects of Archaeological Survey of India have either come to standstill or are being inordinately delayed. The work of Director General is

being looked after by a Joint Secretary and the matter relating to regular Director-General is being processed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). In July, 1985, Indian Institute of Public Administration was requested to undertake a consultancy assignment for examining the existing organisational structures, administrative set up, staffing patterns in respect of the Archaeological Survey of India with which they have yet to proceed.

#### Industrial Pollution

880. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to instal modern scientific devices to control pollution in the regions where thickly concentrated industrial zones are located;

(b) the estimated amount earmarked for the purpose statewise;

(c) the details of functioning of the above devices and the results achieved so far; and

(d) the time limit framed for installation of such devices.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Installation of modern scientific devices to control pollution is done by the industries themselves.

(b) The Government does not provide funds for installing the devices and the industrial units have to bear the cost;

(c) Functioning of such devices installed by industrial units is monitored by the industry concerned. The results are known through the studies of ambient air and water quality by Central and State Pollution Control Boards; and

(d) Time frame is given to individual industries on case to case basis.

**Performance of State Road Transport Corporations**

882. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the unsatisfactory performance of State Road Transport Corporations during the first two years of the Seventh Plan, as has been admitted in the 1986-87 Economic Survey; and

(b) the measures Union Government propose to suggest to State Governments to bring about improvement in the performance of the State Road Transport Corporations with a view not only to wipe out the anticipated loss of Rs. Rs.1434 crores during the Seventh Plan but also to raise additional revenue of Rs. 2200 crores after allowing for cost over-runs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) The fares charged by SRTCs are approved by the concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and these have, by and large, not kept pace with the increases in cost of operations. Social obligations cast on SRTCs, namely, operation of services on uneconomic routes and in remote and hilly areas, concessions in fares to students, freedom fighters and physically handicapped persons etc. contribute to further losses.

(b) The State Governments/U.T. Administrations have been advised to review and improve the performance of their SRTCs with reference to specified physical and financial performance indicators. Their performance is also being reviewed periodically by the Central Government.

**Efficacy of new Cancer drug developed by Australian National University, Canberra**

883. SHRI PRATAP RAO B. BHOSALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH

AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some doctors of Australian National University, Canberra have developed a new drug for immediate treatment of cancer;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to study the efficacy of this new drug;

(c) whether research is going on in the country also to develop some effective treatment of this dreaded disease; and

(d) if so, the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to newspaper report the drug is only in laboratory trial stage.

(c) and (d) . Testing the flora and fauna for new drugs is going on at the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, under the INDO-US Cancer Programme.

**Kendriya Vidyalayas in Orissa**

884. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the programme for setting up of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Orissa during 1987-88;

(b) the progress made in this regard; and

(c) the difficulties, if any, in the implementation of the programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c). Three Kendriya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned at Baripada, Bondamunda and Jharsuguda in Orissa to be opened during 1987-88. For opening of these schools the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has issued the

necessary instructions to the concerned authorities.

#### Import of coking coal

**885. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the gradual increase in import of coking coal, vital raw material for steel industry; and

(b) what is the price of imported coal at the site of Indian steel plants ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) The main reasons for increase in imports of coking coal are :

(i) The need to increase the production of hot metal;

(ii) Higher ash content and lower coking properties of indigenous coking coal;

(iii) The technological requirements of achieving an optimum coal blend and improvement in productivity indices; and

(iv) Need to reduce the coke rate and to decrease the energy consumption per unit of production.

(b) The average landed price of imported coal at the SAIL Plants during the period April to August, 1987 was around Rs. 1100 per tonne.

#### Import of fabricated bogies

**886. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have decided to import 100 more fabricated bogies for electric locomotives in view of the acute shortage being faced by Railway production units; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) and (b). A Global Tender for import of 100 Nos. of fabricated bogies for electric locomotives with technology transfer has been floated. The tender is due for opening on 18.12.87.

This is primarily with a view to upgrade the capabilities of electric locomotives being manufactured at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works.

#### Opening of New Kendriya Vidyalayas

**887. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 262 on 13 August, 1987 regarding shortage of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Outer Delhi and State :

(a) whether the decision to open new Kendriya Vidyalayas in 1987-88 has been taken;

(b) if so, the names of the places State-wise at which the new Kendriya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned and opened; and

(c) the Kendriya Vidyalayas sanctioned but not opened ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving the names of the places (State-wise) at which, Kendriya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned during 1987-88 is given below. Out of these, Kendriya Vidyalayas at Lakhisarai (Bihar), Jayant Colliery, Distt. Sidhi (Madhya Pradesh), SGPGI, Lucknow, ITI Mankapur, Distt. Gonda (UP), ITI, Rai Bareilly, Dibyapur, Distt. Etawah (U.P.), No. II Salt Lake, Calcutta and the Kendriya Vidyalaya, Moscow have already been opened. In respect of the remaining places,

necessary instructions have been issued for opening the schools.

(c) Three Kendriya Vidyalayas at III, Naini, Allahabad; SSB, Srinagar, Garhwal; NHPC, Tanakpur, Baubassa were sanctioned but could not be opened.

#### Statement

*State-wise list of Kendriya Vidyalayas sanctioned and opened/being opened during 1987-88*

#### Andhra Pradesh

1. Satyanarayanpuram (Vijayawada)
2. Tirupati
3. Bowenpally, Secunderabad

#### Assam

1. New Bongaigaon
2. Lakhapani (Dibrugarh)

#### Bihar

1. Tatanagar
2. Khagoal, Danapur
3. Sonpur
4. Lakh Sarai

#### Gujarat

1. Viramgaon
2. Sabarmati

#### Haryana

1. Nahara (Sonepat)
2. Pabeluwas (Bhiwani)
3. Raghunathpur (Mahenderagarh)
4. Chandimandir Cantt.
5. Ambala Cantt.

#### Jammu and Kashmir

1. AFS Awantipur, Distt. Pulwama
2. Dhamana Distt. Jammu
3. Kupwara Distt.

#### Madhya Pradesh

1. Satna

2. Mandsaur

3. G. C. F. Jabalpur

4. Jaynnt Colliery, Distt. Sidhi

#### Maharashtra

1. ISP Nasik Road

2. IAT Girinagar, Pune

3. Chatah Camp, Manikhurd

#### Orissa

1. Jharsguda

2. Bondamunda

3. Baripada

#### Punjab

1. Hussainpur, Distt. Kapurthala

2. Bhatinda Cantt.

3. Dappar

4. Patiala

#### Rajasthan

1. Johner, Distt. Jaipur

2. Baner (Jodhpur)

3. Army Jodhpur

#### Tamil Nadu

1. Mandapam Camp

#### Uttar Pradesh

1. Jhansi

2. Moradabad

3. Izat Nagar (Bareilly)

4. SGPGI Lucknow

5. III Mankapur Distt. Ghonda

6. III Rai Bareily

7. Dibyapnr Distt Etawah

#### West Bengal

1. Alipurduar Junction

2. No. II Salt Lake, Calcutta

#### Delhi

1. Vikaspuri

#### U.S.S.R.

1. Moscow

Total : 48 Kendriya Vidyalayas

### Lumbini Project of Nepal

888. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has made any contribution to the construction of UN Lumbini Project in Nepal, which seeks to develop the birth place of Lord Buddha;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether actual work of construction on the project earmarked for India has been taken in hand; and

(c) if so, the likely time by which the project would be completed and a brief outline of the UN Lumbini Development Project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has contributed towards the construction of a Museum under the Lumbini Development Project in Nepal. The First instalment of Rs. 50 lakhs was paid in the year 1984-85. The second and third instalments of Rs. 50 lakhs each have been paid in the years 1985-86 and 1987-88. As per the report last received, the work of construction of Museum was to commence in October, 87.

(c) The construction of the Museum building is expected to be completed by the middle of 1989. A statement containing the brief outline of the Lumbini Development Project is given below.

#### Statement

##### *Brief outline of the Lumbini Development Project*

Well known as the birthplace of Budha, Lumbini is located in Tarai region of Nepal, and is being considered to be the most sacred pilgrimage centre by the Buddhists.

2. In the course of his visit to Nepal in 1976, Mr. U. Thant Secretary General of the UNO, suggested to His Majesty's Government of Nepal that Lumbini, the birthplace of Budha should be developed as an international centre of religious learning, cultural activities and tourism. Accordingly, International Committee for the development of Lumbini was formed in February, 1970 in New York, initially with thirteen member States—Afghanistan, Burma, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kampuchia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapur, Sri Lanka and Thailand, the permanent representative of Nepal to the UNO acting as Chairman. The UNO also published in 1979 a brochure on Lumbini, birthplace of Buddha.

3. Since the formation of the International Lumbini Committee a Master Plan had been prepared and several countries have made monetary contributions. In view of Lumbini's importance in the Buddhist world it was felt that India should also contribute substantially for the development of the place. Under the Lumbini Development Project, a number of programmes for Lumbini and its environments including construction of a Museum, auditorium, gardens, bridges, canals etc. and several utilitarian buildings were proposed. A national committee set up by the Government of India decided that India should finance the scheme for the construction of a Museum building under the Lumbini Development Programme.

4. Accordingly an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2 crores was to be met by India. Three instalments of Rs. 50 lakhs each were paid to the Lumbini Development Trust through the Ministry of External Affairs during the years 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1987-88.

#### Regional centres of Indira Gandhi Open University

889. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi National Open University has decided to open any regional centres during the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, the names of the places State-wise where such centres have been sanctioned and opened;

(c) if not, the likely date by which these would be sanctioned and opened;

(d) the likely date by which all States/Union Territories will have at least one such centre; and

(e) whether any priority would be given to bill States/regions like Himachal Pradesh where the means of communication are not so wide spread and easily available and for which areas the Indira Gandhi National Open University has a special relevance ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) to (d). According to the IGNOU Act, the University can establish a number of Study Centres for advising, counselling, and rendering other support services to students. Regional Centres are set up to coordinate and supervise the work of a number of Study Centres. The University so far has set up 70 Study Centres and 4 Regional Centres in different States. A statement indicating the list of the Study Centres, State-wise, is given below. The Regional Centres are located at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad and Lucknow. The University plans to increase the number of these Centres gradually depending upon the number of students enrolled in its programmes at different places.

(e) As indicated in the statement, three Study Centres have been set up in Himachal Pradesh. A proposal to set up a Regional Centre at Shimla is also under the consideration of the University,

#### Statement

*Indira Gandhi National Open University  
List of Study Centres*

S.No.	Name of the State/U.T.	Location of the Study Centre
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Hyderabad 2. Tirupati

1	2	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3. Vijayawada
3.	Assam	4. Guntur
4.	Bihar	1. Itanagar
5.	Chandigarh	1. Gauhati
6.	Delhi	1. Patna
7.	Goa	2. Jamsbedpur
8.	Gujarat	3. Dhanbad
9.	Haryana	4. Muzaffarpur
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5. Chandigarh
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1. Delhi (5 centres)
12.	Karnataka	1. Margoa
13.	Kerala	1. Ahmedabad
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2. Vadodara
15.	Maharashtra	3. Rajkot
16.	Manipur	1. Kurukshetra
17.	Meghalaya	2. Sonepat
18.	Nagaland	3. Panipat
		1. Shimla
		2. Mandi
		3. Solan
		1. Jammu Tawi
		1. Bangalore
		2. Mangalore
		3. Dharwar
		1. Trivandrum
		1. Bhopal
		2. Jabalpur
		3. Durg
		4. Gwalior
		5. Bilaspur
		6. Indore
		7. Sagar
		8. Rewa
		1. Bombay
		2. Pune
		1. Imphal
		1. Shillong
		1. Kohima

## 19. Orissa

1. Bhubaneswar
2. Cuttack
3. Rourkela
4. Berhampur
5. Angul
6. Balasore
7. Bolangir

## 20. Punjab

1. Jallandhar

## 21. Rajasthan

1. Jaipur
2. Udaipur
3. Kota
4. Jodhpur

## 22. Tamil Nadu

1. Madras
2. Coimbatore

## 23. Uttar Pradesh

1. Lucknow
2. Agra
3. Allahabad
4. Bareilly
5. Dehradun
6. Kanpur
7. Modinagar
8. Varanasi
9. Gorakhpur
10. Sultanpur

## 24. West Bengal

1. Calcutta
- (2 Centres)

**Selection of students for Navodaya Vidyalayas**

890. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether care is taken to see that the selection of students is made from the rural areas and that the Navodaya Vidyalayas are also opened in such areas and not at or near cities, towns or district headquarters;

(b) if so, the nature of steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the likely date by which all districts of the country would be covered ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages that these Vidyalayas are primarily for children from rural areas and at least 75% of the seats are to be filled by candidates selected from rural areas only.

The location of the Navodaya Vidyalayas is decided on the basis of offers of 30 acres of suitable land free of cost and availability of adequate temporary buildings and on the recommendations of the Inspection Team constituted for the purpose. Suitable instructions have been given to the Inspection Teams regarding location of Vidyalayas in rural areas. The Chairman, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and Minister of Human Resource Development has addressed the Chief Ministers of States/Administrators of Union Territories stressing the need for the establishment of Navodaya Vidyalayas in rural and backward areas.

(c) All the districts in the country are likely to be covered by the end of 7th Five Year Plan.

**Introduction of Passenger Train between Dhanbad and Bardhaman**

891. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a passenger train from Dhanbad to Bardhaman after Rajdhani Express leaves Dhanbad;

(b) whether Government are aware that in the absence of a connecting train, people have to wait at Dhanbad for long-distance trains which are running late most of the times; and

(c) if so, the time by which such a train is likely to be introduced ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI**

**MADHAVRAO SCINDIA** : (a) and (b). 90 Gomoh-Bardhaman Passenger leaving Dhanbad at 08.12 hrs. follows 102 Rajdbani Express.

(c) Does not arise.

**Local Trains on Howrah-Borgachia Section**

**892. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the local trains on Howrah-Borgachia section;

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

(c) the number of trains running on the above section ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA)** : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 4 pairs.

*[Translation]*

**Fake DTC Bus Passes**

**893. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT** : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a gang engaged in printing fake D.T.C. bus passes has been unearthed;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard;

(c) whether officers or employees of D.T.C. have also been found involved in it; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them so far ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT)** : Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter has been handed over to Police for investigations.

(c) At present preliminary investigations do not reveal any such complicity.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Tamluk-Digha Railway Project**

**894. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY** : **SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA** :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earmarked for Tamluk-Digha Project for the financial year, 1987-88; and

(b) the details of the project ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA)** : (a) Rs. 3 crores.

(b) The length of the proposed line is 87 km. It is estimated to cost Rs. 75 crores.

**Roads in Asansol-Dhanbad Complex**

**895. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the roadways passing through railway tunnels in Asansol-Dhanbad industrial complex are in bad shape; and

(b) if so, whether the Railways have taken any steps to maintain the sections of the roadways lying within the railway tunnels for improvement ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA)** : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There are seven road under bridges between Asansol and Dhanbad. The responsibility of the maintenance of the road surface lies with the Railway Administration

in 4 cases and with the State Government for the balance 3.

The road surface at all these under bridges is generally satisfactory except for one which the Railway is finding difficult to maintain, on account of leaking pipe line owned and maintained by the State Government. The matter is being pursued with the concerned State authorities.

**Halt at Asansol Court and Chatapathar**

**896. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to sanction halt for the passenger trains on the Asansol-Adra section at Asansol Court and another at Chatapathar on Eastern Railway main line near Asansol;

(b) if so, when the same is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVROA SCINDIA) :** (a) At present there is no proposal to open halt stations at these places.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposal for opening of a passenger halt at Asansol Court between Burnpur and Asansol stations has been examined but not found operationally feasible.

As regards opening of a passenger halt at Chatapathar, no such proposal was examined in the recent past.

**Mining and Environment**

**897. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the environmental situation in the mining areas in the country;

(b) if it is not satisfactory, in what respects; and

(c) whether Government have any action plan to improve the situation ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) and (b). The environmental situation in the mining areas in the country is unsatisfactory in respect of the following parameters :

- (i) Air quality;
- (ii) Water quality;
- (iii) Land use and land reclamation; and
- (iv) Rehabilitation of affected population.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government have made it obligatory for all new mining projects to submit Environmental Management Plans to ensure that the mining operations are carried out in harmony with the environment and ecology of the area.

**Steps to Implement Operation Blackboard Scheme**

**898. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the perspectives of the Operation Blackboard Scheme;

(b) the measures taken for its proper implementation;

(c) the number of institutions, students benefited as a result of implementation; and

(d) the total amount spent so far for implementation of the scheme and the percentage of the total fund allocated for education during the period ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND**

**CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) to (d). The Scheme of Operation Blackboard aims to bring about substantial improvement in facilities in primary schools run by Government, Local Bodies, Panchayat Raj and recognised aided institutions. It has three inter-dependant components namely, (i) provision of atleast two reasonably large rooms that are usable in all weather with a deep verandah along with separate toilet facilities for boys and girls; (ii) provision of atleast two teachers, as far as possible one of them a woman, in every primary school and (iii) provision of essential teaching and learning material including blackboards, maps, charts, a small library, toys and games and some equipment for work experience. Funds for construction of school buildings will be provided from NREP/RLEGP programmes. Funds for other two components will be provided by Ministry of Human Resource Development. It is proposed to implement the scheme of Operation Blackboard in a phased manner beginning with 20 per cent of blocks and municipal areas in 1987-88, 30 per cent in 1988-89 and 50 per cent in 1989-90, so that by 1990, all primary schools are given these facilities.

A special survey has been conducted to ascertain existing facilities as well as deficiency of various items in all primary schools in the blocks and municipal areas selected for this year. Blocks and municipal areas have been selected by the States mainly keeping in mind the criteria of remoteness, low literacy rates and the need to selected blocks in every district. The State Level Empowered Committees have been set up to consider and sanction the requirement of funds.

On receipt of the recommendations of this Committee 100 per cent Central grant will be released to the States/UTs Rs. 100 crores have been earmarked for providing assistance during 1987-88. Since the recommendations of the State Level Empowered Committees are still awaited no amount has been released so far.

Text-books as per new education policy

**899. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the teaching in schools in most of the States as per syllabus under the new education policy has started but text-books are not available to the students as per the new syllabus and the studies of the students are being adversely affected;

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

(c) the steps being taken to avoid inconvenience to students ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) As per information furnished by the NCERT, all the new text-books for classes I, III and VI under the New Education Policy to be provided to the students of Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country by NCERT during the school session 1987-88, have already been made available in the market. As regards introduction of new text-books under the National Education Policy in the States, they may introduce these books only for the academic year 1988-89. However it is the responsibility of the State Text-book Agencies concerned to make available the text-books for schools in the States concerned.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Primary health centres

**900. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the number of primary health centres functioning in each State as on 31 March, 1987 ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** A statement showing the Statewise number of Primary Health Centres functioning as on 31st March, 1987 is given below :

Statement		
Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Primary Health Centres functioning as on 31-3-1987
1.	Andhra Pradesh	997
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12
3.	Assam	328
4.	Bihar	1201
5.	Goa	13
6.	Gujarat	457
7.	Haryana	274
8.	Himachal Pradesh	146
9.	J. & K.	137
10.	Karnataka	502
11.	Kerala	423
12.	Madhya Pradesh	926
13.	Maharashtra	1534
14.	Manipur	40
15.	Meghalaya	47
16.	Mizoram	50
17.	Nagaland	53
18.	Orissa	694
19.	Punjab	1746
20.	Rajasthan	598
21.	Sikkim	20
22.	Tamil Nadu	698
23.	Tripura	39
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2041
25.	West Bengal	1181
26.	A. & N. Islands	10
27.	Chandigarh	5
28.	D. & N. Haveli	5
29.	Delhi	8
30.	Lakshadweep	7
31.	Pondicherry	45
Total		14237

\*Figures are provisional

**Prevention of copyright piracy**

**901. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN :** Will the Minister of

**HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) has made any new proposals for the effective protection of the rights of authors and for the prevention of copyright piracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Forest Research Institutes in India**

**902. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Forest Research Institutes that have been set up in different parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to set up some more Forest Research Institutes in the country;

(c) if so, the locations thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to upgrade the existing Forest Research Institutes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) There is a Forest Research Institute at Dehradun under the Government of India. Kerala and Madhya Pradesh also have state run Forest Research Institutes at Peechi and Jabalpur respectively.

(b) and (c). Government have decided to set up Forest Research Institutes at Bangalore, Coimbatore, Jabalpur, Jorbat, and Jodhpur.

(d) and (e). The Regional Forest Research Centres at Bangalore, Coimbatore and Jabalpur will be upgraded as follows :

- (i) Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bangalore
- (ii) Institute of Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore
- (iii) Institute of Northern Peninsular Deciduous Forests, Jabalpur.

These Institutes will conduct national level research in areas of wood science and technology, genetics and tree breeding, and peninsular deciduous forests respectively in addition to looking after regional research needs in forestry.

**Spread of main diseases in Bhopal due to Gas Tragedy**

**903. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the main diseases which have spread in Bhopal due to Bhopal Gas Tragedy;
- (b) the number of persons affected by those diseases;
- (c) what steps are being taken to treat them;
- (d) the details of Central assistance provided so far; and
- (e) whether any foreign assistance has been obtained for the purpose ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) The Central Government have provided Rs. 55.00 crores as medium term loan to the Madhya Pradesh Government.

(e) No foreign assistance has been received by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. However, the Indian Red Cross Society have received contributions from agencies abroad amounting to Rs. 5,54,70,521.74 as under :

League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Rs. 39,86,551.39
American Red Cross	Rs. 5,09,09,813.00
Others	Rs. 5,74,157.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 5,54,70,521.74</b>

**Vacant posts In SAIL plants**

**904. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in different steel plants under Steel Authority of India Limited plant-wise details thereof;

(b) since when these posts are lying vacant; and

(c) when these posts will be filled up and the steps taken to fill up all the vacant posts, if any, so far ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) to (c). Manpower studies in different steel plants have revealed that there is surplus manpower in different areas of the steel plants. These studies are still continuing in SAIL. In these circumstances, there are no vacancies in the steel plants on an overall basis. However, whenever vacancies due to turnover or new requirements occur from time to time, these are filled up generally by promotion or redeployment, and recourse to outside recruitment is taken only for filling up key posts which cannot be manned from within.

**Allocation for railway lines in West Bengal**

**905. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

**SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :**

**SHRI MANIK SANYAL :**

(a) the total amount of allocation earmarked for construction of railway lines in West Bengal for the financial year, 1987-88;

(b) the break-up of this amount for each railway line and the progress made thereof;

(c) the number and details of surveys conducted in West Bengal for laying new railway lines, with the results thereof; and

(d) the steps taken for laying these railway lines with the reasons for delay if any ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) and (b). The allocation for the New Rail lines, under construction in West Bengal, for 1987-88 is as under :

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of Project</i>	<i>Allocation in 1987-88 (Rs. crores)</i>
1.	Lakshmikantapur-Namkhana	1.00
2.	Tamluk-Digha	3.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4.00</b>

Construction work on these projects has commenced.

Construction of following New Lines is also approved but for these, funds could not be allotted in 1987-88 due to constraint of resources :

1. *Howrah-Amra/Champadanga New Line*  
(Santragachi-Bargachia section (24 km.) opened to traffic in 1984.)
2. *Eklakhi-Balurghat New Line*
3. *Howrah-Sheakhala New Line*

(c) and (d). During the last five years, a re-appraisal survey for Bankura-Mejhia BG link was carried out. The cost of construction of the 38 km. line estimated as Rs. 14.15 crores at 1983 price level. The

project was found to be unremunerative and could not be considered for construction.

**Passenger amenities on railway stations between Sealdah and Dankuni**

**906. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide drinking water, electric lights and fans, sheds, over-bridges etc. on all railway stations between Sealdah and Dankuni;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and names of stations on this line which have been provided with these facilities; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide these facilities on the remaining stations ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) Yes, Sir. The amenities at the stations are provided as per norms laid down.

(b) There are 7 stations in between Sealdah and Dankuni, viz., Bidhannagar Road, Dumdum Jn., Baranagar Road, Dakshineswar, Balighat, Bali Halt and Rajchandrapur Halt. Provision of water coolers has been sanctioned for Dumdum Jn. and Baranagar Road. Proposal to provide two tubewells at Bidhannagar Road and one tubewell at Baranagar Road has been included in the Railway's Works Programme for 1988-89. The works will be taken up for execution after sanction by the competent authority.

(c) The facilities available at the 7 stations referred to in reply to part (b) are given below in the statement.

(d) These facilities have been provided at these stations as required. Consistent with the growth of traffic these facilities will be improved on a programmed basis.

Statement		
S. No.	Name of Station	Facilities available
1.	Bidhannagar Road	Tubewell Water Cooler Foot-over-bridge Platform sheds Fans & Lights
2.	Dumdum Jn.	Water taps Water Cooler Foot-over-bridge Platform sheds Fans & Lights
3.	Baranagar Road	Water taps Platform sheds Fans & Lights
4.	Dakshineshwar	Water taps Water Coolers Platform sheds Fans & Lights
5.	Bali Ghat	Water taps Platform sheds Lights
6.	Bali Halt	Drinking water Lights
7.	Rajchandrapur Halt	Tubewells Lights

#### Effects of drought on health

907. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have studied the effects of drought on health due to malnutrition;

(b) if so, the details of the study made and the conclusions arrived at;

(c) the steps being taken to face the situation in the outbreak of epidemics, if any; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b). The Indian Council of Medical Research has constituted a Committee to study the health and malnutrition status of drought affected population. As recommended by this Committee, it has been proposed to carry out surveys in affected areas to assess the effects of drought on health and nutrition by National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad; Regional Medical Research Centre, Jabalpur and Desert Medical Research Centre, Jodhpur. The National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad has carried out a preliminary survey in one of the Mandals of Mehaboob Nagar district of Andhra Pradesh. The results revealed that the percentage of pre-school children with severe degree of body weight deficit (less than 6 per cent standard) was 29 per cent. The food surveys revealed that energy intake were marginally lower than the recommended values. Non-specific outbreaks of epidemics were also reported.

(c) and (d). Necessary steps have been taken to disinfect drinking water sources to immunise and to provide special nutrition to high risk groups. Arrangements to supply cereal through various employment generation programmes and through existing fair price shops has also been made.

#### Homoeopathic medicines allowed for import

908. SHRI SIDHA LAL MURMU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring out a list of those homoeopathic medicines which are allowed for import in the country; and

(b) the details of the medicines imported and their cost by various Indian and foreign drug companies separately in India during the years 1985, 1986 and upto September, 1987 ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) No, Sir. There is no provision under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 or the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to maintain such a list.

(b) The information to the extent available with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation under the Directorate General of Health Services for total import of homoeopathic medicines is given as under :

Year	Cost of medicine imported
1984-85	Rs. 98,86,876
1985-86	Rs. 1,09,83,242
1986-87	Rs. 2,43,91,677

Statistical information is not maintained calender year-wise.

**Action against industries polluting Ganga water**

**909. SHRI R. P. DAS :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken against the industries that have already been identified as gross pollutor discharging thousands of kilolitres of effluents daily into the Ganga; and

(b) the reaction of these industries thereto ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z R. ANSARI) :** (a) and (b). An Expert Committee has indentified 68 industrial units in U.P., Bihar and West Bengal as gross pollutors based on the quantity of Waste Water discharged (1000 kilolitres per day or more) and its characteristics As on 31st July, 1987, the position in regard to these 68 industries is as follows :

(i) 24 units have set up effluent treatment plants.

(ii) effluent treatment plants are under construction in 11 units.

(iii) 16 units have taken action to prepare schemes for setting up of treatment plants or have called tenders for award of work.

(iv) 5 units are reported to be closed for other reasons. State Pollution Control Boards have initiated legal action in the case of remaining 12 units, who have not taken action for setting up of treatment plants. In addition notices to show cause why they should not be closed down, have been issued under Sec. 3 of the Environment Protection Act to 9 units.

**Second Hooghly Bridge**

**910. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of work completed on the Second Hooghly Bridge;

(b) the amount of loan released so far by the Union Government towards this project;

(c) the present estimated cost for completion of this bridge;

(d) whether Government of West Bengal has asked for fund for completion of the job; and

(e) if so, the amount asked for and the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) The progress of work, as on 30th September 1987, as received from State Government of West Bengal, is as under :

Section-I (Calcutta side approach) : 88.5%

Section-II (Howrah side approach) : 56.3%

Section-III (Main Bridge) : 66%

(b) Rs. 149.3761 crores.

(c) Rs. 250 crores.

(d) and (e). Funds are released to the State Government as and when required by them.

*[Translation]*

**Use of yellow colour in food items**

**911. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been pointed out in the book "Poisons in our Food" published by the Publication Division of the Government of India that yellow colour used in food items is causing dreadful diseases among people;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action against the traders using colour in food items; and

(c) if so, the number of traders punished in this connection and the details in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) Metanil Yellow, a prohibited colour, under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 is harmful.

(b) and (c). The Government of India has requested State Governments/Union Territories to check the use of coaltar food colours and specially unpermitted coaltar dyes in food product and draw samples of coloured foods from various sources under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and launch prosecution in the courts.

As per the information the State Governments have drawn samples of coloured foods, out of which 11 samples were found to contain unpermitted coaltar dyes during the last 3 months. Prosecution in all the cases have been launched in the court of Law.

*[English]*

**Conference of state Social Welfare Advisory Board on Sati**

**912. DR. G. S. RAJHANS :**  
**SHRI LALITESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI :**

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

(a) whether during the Conference of the State Social Welfare Advisory Boards held at New Delhi recently, it has been emphasized that the events like 'Sati' should not occur again;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Conference; and

(c) the steps taken by Union Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :** (a) During the Conference of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board, held on 22 and 23 September, 1987 at New Delhi, the participants expressed anguish over the incident of Sati and passed a resolution condemning it and emphasising that such evil practices should not be allowed to recur.

(b) 'Sati' was not an agenda item.

(c) The Government is examining the possibility of bringing a Central Legislation to prevent Sati in order to prevent recurrence of such incidents in any States and Union Territories.

**International Hindi University in Karnataka**

**913. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:**  
**SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY :**

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

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to open an International Hindi University in Karnataka State;

(b) if so, when the proposed University will be set up and will start functioning;

(c) the purpose for setting up such University; and

(d) to what extent the use of Hindi in foreign countries is likely to be boosted ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHJ) :** (a) and (b). There is no proposal under consideration of this Ministry to open an International Hindi University in Karnataka State. However, a proposal to establish Vishwa Hindi Vidyapeeth, an International Hindi University, received from Rashtrobhasha Prachar Samiti, Wardha, is under consideration of a sub-Committee constituted for the purpose. Since the proposal is still under consideration of the Sub-Committee which has yet to submit its report, it is not possible to indicate exactly the place where and the date when the proposed University will be set up and will start functioning.

(c) The idea behind the proposal for setting of such University is mainly to promote and propagate Hindi as link language, national language and international language; to organise teaching, training and research in Hindi language and literature, to develop Hindi language and literature as competent vehicles of Indian philosophy, culture, science etc. to develop Hindi as a link between diverse cultural systems of India and of other countries; to conduct research in different related areas; to act as a clearing house of information related to Hindi studies; to award degrees/ diplomas and also to promote excellence in Hindi and related language areas.

(d) To achieve the object of the proposed University, the use of Hindi in the foreign countries may principally be extended in the fields of study, teaching and research relating to Hindi language and literature, and other areas of Indian Culture.

#### Polluted Rivers of Andhra Pradesh

**914. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :**  
**SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :**  
**SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH**  
**MALIK :**

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :**

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been considerable increase in the pollution level of the rivers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to minimise the pollution of rivers in the State ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) and (b). No Sir. Pollution due to industrial effluents has been reduced considerably while pollution due to municipal wastes continues to be nearly the same. Most of the industries have installed effluent treatment plants while municipalities are unable to provide the treatment facilities for sullage and sewage due to financial constraints.

- (c) (1) Industries have been directed to put up the effluent treatment plants. Most of the industries have installed or are in the process of installation of treatment plants.
- (2) Municipalities are putting up partial or full treatment plants based on their financial resources.
- (3) Legal action is taken against the defaulting units under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and section 133 of Criminal Procedure Code.
- (4) Fiscal incentives are given for setting up effluent treatment plants.

**Tardy Progress in Population Control Programmes**

915. **SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :**  
**SHRI M RAGHUMA REDDY :**  
**SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-**  
**SHEKARA MURTHY :**  
**SHRI BANWARI LAL**  
**PUROHIT :**  
**SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH**  
**MALIK :**  
**CHAUDHARY RAM PRAKASH:**  
**SHRIMATI BASAVA-**  
**RAJESWARI :**  
**SHRI BALWANT SINGH**  
**RAMOOWALIA :**  
**DR CHINTA MOHAN :**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 13 October, 1987 wherein it has been stated that the progress in population control programmes in India appears tardy and slow compared to the achievements of the most of the Asian and Pacific countries;

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

(c) the corrective measures taken or proposed in the regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government is concerned about population growth rate not coming down rapidly enough. Family Planning has been included in the Twenty-Points Programme representing an agenda of action for the nation. The progress in Family Welfare Programme is continuously monitored and States that lag in performance are immediately addressed to. The need for the effective implementation of the Family Welfare Programme has been last reiterated on 3-11-1987 in the quarterly review meeting with all the State Health Secretaries. In addition to this, the other measures taken by the Government include enhancing

community participation by setting up of popular committee of State, District and Block levels, providing assistance to grass-root level voluntary organisations, adopting improved communication approaches by launching special communication campaigns for identified target groups, improving technical training to medical and para-medical personnel, intensifying population education, enhancing child survival rates through Universal Immunisation Programme and developing multi-sectoral linkages between the Family Welfare and other socio-economic developmental programmes.

**Afforestation Programme**

916. **SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :**  
**SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :**  
**SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH**  
**MALIK :**

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated amount spent by each State Government on afforestation programme during the current year;

(b) whether afforestation programme has not made any progress and if so, the names of the States where this programme had failed or not upto the mark;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether Government have taken steps to make this programme successful ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) Statewise estimated availability of funds on afforestation Programme during the current year are given in the Statement below.

(b) and (c). During 1985-86 and 1986-87, 1.5 m. ha. and 1.76 m. ha. of land was afforested in the country. The names of the States/UT's which did not achieve the targets for tree planting under the 20-Point Programme are as under :

1985-86 — Assam (99%), Gujarat (98%), Haryana (99%), Orissa (90%).

1986-87 — Andhra Pradesh (96%), Karnataka (93%), Maharashtra (99%), Manipur (93%), Orissa (97%), Tamil Nadu (83%), Tripura (82%). Dandra and Nagar Haveli (70%), Goa, Daman & Diu (96%), Meghalaya (42%).

The State Governments have not been able to achieve the targets because of the difficulties in energising people's participation and inadequate infrastructure in the field.

(d) Yes, Sir. A National Wastelands Development Board was set up in 1985 as a nodal agency to formulate consistant and co-ordinated policies for massive afforestation with special emphasis on fuelwood and fodder and the involvement of people in the afforestation of wastelands. The Board is promoting the development of wastelands through all possible agencies like State Governments, non-government organisations, Voluntary Agencies and the public at large including the landless.

#### Statement

##### Funds for Afforestation (1987-88)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	Allocation*	
		1	2
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3022.70	3
2.	Assam	1784.50	
3.	Bihar	3281.00	
4.	Gujarat	2859.25	
5.	Haryana	1460.80	
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1919.50	
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	970.25	
8.	Karnataka	2085.00	
9.	Kerala	1812.75	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4238.25	
11.	Maharashtra	3663.55	
12.	Manipur	306.50	

1	2	3
13. Meghalaya	670.75	
14. Nagaland	519.00	
15. Orissa	2416.45	
16. Punjab	851.00	
17. Rajasthan	2741.75	
18. Sikkim	228.25	
19. Tamil Nadu	3143.25	
20. Tripura	434.50	
21. Uttar Pradesh	6191.00	
22. West Bengal	2228.20	
23. A & N Islands	143.50	
24. Arunachal Pradesh	438.00	
25. Chandigarh	24.35	
26. Delhi	113.80	
27. Dandra & Nagar Haveli	68.25	
28. Goa, Daman & Diu	139.65	
29. Lakshadweep	4.75	
30. Mizoram	527.50	
31. Pondicherry	38.50	
Total	48326.50	

\*Includes the allocation of NWDB, Rural Development Department and State budget allocations.

#### Quality of Road Building

917. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :  
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :  
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH  
MALIK :  
SHRI BANWARI LAL  
PUROHIT :  
SHRI BALWANT SINGH  
RAMOOWALIA :  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the institutional arrangement to ensure the utilisation of the results of road research carried out by the Central Road Research Institute to raise the standard of maintenance and upkeep of the roads in the country;

(b) whether proper quality control norms and procedures for roads have been prescribed by any central agency to be followed all over the country; and

(c) if not, the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) Utilisation of the results of road research carried out by the Central Road Research Institute and other Research Laboratories in the country are ensured in the following two ways :

- (i) by creating users' awareness of the results of road research through discussion in open forum at the Annual Sessions of the Indian Roads Congress, the Annual National Get Together organised by the Central Road Research Institute, and other similar technical forums; and
- (ii) through Central Assessment Committee of this Ministry which recommends large scale adoption of new techniques developed from research and provides financial cover for any risk of failure.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Commercial Production of Aluminium Alloy Metal Matrix**

**918. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether aluminium alloy metal matrix composites have a good market potential;

(b) whether Government have entrusted the task to National Aluminium Company to explore the possibilities of commercial production of aluminium alloy metal matrix composites; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the National Aluminium Company Limited in that direction ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) to (c). Metal Matrix Composites including those of aluminium alloys are highly efficient structural materials with applications in areas where performance is the critical requirement and economics is secondary. This is a developmental area with potentiality for growth in the future. NALCO proposes to explore the possibilities in its future R & D activities.

**Mini Steel Plant for Orissa**

**919. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Orissa Mining Corporation has requested his Ministry to grant a letter of intent for the establishment of a Mini Steel plant;

(b) whether the letter of intent has been granted;

(c) if so, the site selected for the location of the Mini Steel plant; and

(d) its estimated cost, employment generation potentialities and expected time of commercial production ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

**Central aid to Kerala for national games**

**920. PROF. K. V. THOMAS :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of central aid given to Kerala to conduct national games; and

(b) the central aid given to Indoor Stadium at Cochin ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS &**

**SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :** (a) and (b). Government of India has so far sanctioned to the Govt. of Kerala grants amounting to Rs. 2 crores for the construction of stadia and creation of other sports infrastructure related to holding of the 2nd National Games. This includes grants amounting to Rs. 40 lakhs for the Indoor Stadium at Cochin. However, no amount has so far been sanctioned to the Govt. of Kerala for the actual conduct of the 2nd National Games.

**Assistance for Ernakulam-Vypeen bridge in Kerala**

**921. PROF. K. V. THOMAS :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide Central assistance for construction of Ernakulam-Vypeen bridge in Kerala;

(b) whether Government of Kerala has given any proposal for the construction of this bridge; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) to (c) : Proposal for financial assistance for preparation of Master Plan for development of Cochin back waters including construction of roads and bridges has been received from Government of Kerala. The same is under consideration.

**Agitation by university and college teachers**

**922. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA :**

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

(a) whether university and college teachers' agitation has been resolved;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement and the extent to which teaching in different colleges under Central Universities and campuses has been resumed;

(c) if not, the details of the outstanding demands of the teachers; and

(d) the details of further steps taken to resolve the same and the progress made so far ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some modifications/clarifications in the scheme of revision of pay scales announced in June, 1987 were made on September 4, 1987, following consultations with representatives of All India Federation of University & College Teachers' Organisations (AIFUCTO). These involved merger of the two grades of Readers, provision for promotion of Lecturers to the post of Readers, and advance increments to the new entrants holding research degree with corresponding benefits in career advancement. On the basis of these modifications/clarifications, the AIFUCTO called off the strike on 4.9.87. Teaching was fully resumed in all the Central Universities by the middle of September, 1987 except in the Colleges of Delhi University where it was resumed only with effect from 26.10.1987.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

**Confirmed cases of AIDS**

**923. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : SHRI LALITESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI :**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in India who have been found so far to be victims of AIDS and how many have been subjected to AIDS test;

(b) on what basis the suspected cases are identified for being subjected to AIDS test; and

(c) the details of the confirmed cases, the treatment given to them and how the victims have responded to the treatment ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) 15 (Fifteen) full blown cases of AIDS have so far been reported in India and 56960 persons amongst the high risk groups have been screened for AIDS infection upto 15-10-87 of which 145 have been confirmed to have AIDS infection.

(b) Certain sections of the society such as foreigners, people suffering from sexually transmitted diseases, drug addicts, prostitutes etc. belonging to the high risk category, are subjected to AIDS test.

(c) Details of the 15 cases are as under :

Indian Nationals — 9 (including one female)

Non-resident Indian

from U.S.A.	—	1
Foreigners	—	5

Out of the 9 Indian Nationals, all had succumbed to the disease except one who is presently under treatment. The non-resident Indian has gone back to U.S.A. Out of the 5 foreigners, 3 have gone back to their countries, 1 died and the remaining one is under deportation.

As no specific treatments are available, the cases are treated with supportive and symptomatic therapy with appropriate chemotherapeutics agents and antibiotics.

**Committee on Maritime Law and Admiralty Jurisdiction**

**924. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry have set up any committee to study Maritime Law and Admiralty Jurisdiction in the country;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the recommendations thereof;

(e) whether the Committee has submitted any draft legislation on the subject; and

(f) if so, the essential features of the draft legislation ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee were as follows :

(1) To study the various aspects concerning Admiralty Jurisdiction including the advances made in other countries and international conventions adopted on this Jurisdiction.

(2) To recommend what up-to-date consolidated Maritime Legislation could be introduced supported by a report explaining the statements, objects and reasons; and

(3) To make specific suggestions to establish separate Admiralty Jurisdiction/Admiralty Courts/Tribunals for the purpose of more effectively dealing with Admiralty and Maritime Disputes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main suggestions of the Committee are as follows :

(1) The Admiralty Courts should be independent in their functioning.

(2) The status of these Courts should be equal to that of High Courts.

(3) Establishment of 2 such Courts each on the West and the East Coasts of India.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Committee has submitted the drafts of Admiralty Act of India and the Admiralty Courts Act.

(f) Under the draft, the Admiralty Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any question or claim regarding ownership of a ship, claims regarding damages, claims of loss of life or personal injury, property and salvage thereof, claims arising out of any Agreement between the parties of the shipping industry etc.

#### Assistance to Goa University

925. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the newly established Goa University has approached the University Grants Commission for grants, or any other form of assistance;

(b) if so, the nature of assistance sought for by the University from the University Grants Commission;

(c) the details of the assistance so far given; and

(d) the number of requests/applications for grants, aid or assistance of the Goa University, pending with University Grants Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Goa University has sought financial assistance from the University Grants Commission for implementation of various academic programmes.

(c) The Goa University has been declared fit by the U.G.C. to receive Central assistance subject to the condition that any grant for institutional development will be provided only after information regarding

the filling up of vacant teaching positions and implementation of certain recommendations made by the Commission on various academic and other matters is made available by the University to the Commission. The University has not yet provided this information. Meanwhile, the Commission has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 10,000/- to the University to meet the expenditure on the Golden Jubilee Year Session of the Indian History Congress.

(d) The proposals made by the University for assistance which are pending with the Commission are :

(i) Purchase of equipment for Computer Application and M. Sc. (Computer Technology) course and appointment of staff.

(ii) Establishment of a Latin American Studies Centre under Area Study Programme.

(iii) Organisation of a symposium on "Aspects of the Sociology of Management".

(iv) Purchase of an X-ray diffractometer for research.

#### National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons in Goa

926. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons Scheme is being implemented in Goa;

(b) the number of applications received under the scheme in the State of Goa and the number disposed of; and

(c) the nature of assistance provided if any, so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) to

(c). The Government of Goa has been requested to furnish information which is still awaited.

**Staff and Rolling Stock in Railways**

**927. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway rakes (all classes, including EMU coaches) on the railways during the year 1987;

(b) the number of wagons, steam locos, diesel locos and electric locos respectively, for the said year respectively;

(c) the number of employees in carriage departments (including carriage shops), wagon shops and depots respectively on railways for the years 1977 and 1987; and

(d) the number of employees connected with steam locos, diesel locos and electric locos (including shops) respectively for the said years ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Pay Commission benefits to IIT employees**

**928. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of the Indian Institute of Technology are yet to receive the full benefits of recommendations of the Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that officers and teachers of the Indian Institutes of Technology have also not yet received any benefit of the Pay Commission recommendation;

(d) whether Government announced in the last meeting of the Indian Institute of Technology Council that the employees, teachers and officers of the Indian Institutes of Technology would soon get all benefits of the Pay Commission; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not giving the benefits to them so far ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) to (e). The issue of implementation of Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations to the Group B, C, D employees and revision of Pay Scales of Faculty and Group A officers in IITs was discussed in the meeting of the IIT Council held on 19th June, 1987. The approval of the Government of India for full implementation of the Fourth Pay Commission recommendations to the Group B, C, D employees and payment of an ad-hoc amount of 20 per cent of the basic pay to the teachers and other Group A officers in IITs has already been communicated to the IITs. The revision of Pay scales of teachers depends upon the recommendation of the Dogra Committee the report of which is under examination.

**Four Laning of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Section of National Highway No. 5**

**929. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in four laning of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section of National Highway No. 5; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) and (b). Three estimates amounting to Rs. 150 lakhs for four laning of km. 22.82 to 24.60 and km. 2.49 to 3.515 have been sanctioned.

The work in km. 22.82 to 24.60 has been completed upto 70 per cent. For km. 2.49 to 3.515, the earth work and cul-

verts have been completed upto 75 per cent whereas the pavement work which has been sanctioned in March, 1987 is being taken up shortly.

**Proposal to set up Ammonium Nitrate Plant in Orissa**

**930. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India has a proposal to set up ammonium nitrate plant at Rourkela in Orissa;

(b) if so, the capacity of the plant and the expected time of its commercial production; and

(c) the details of the proposal of SAIL in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) No, Sir. However, the Steel Authority of India are considering supply of ammonium nitrate melt, an intermediate product of the existing Fertilizer Plant, to any interested reliable entrepreneur who could set up a prilled ammonium nitrate facility at Rourkela

(b) and (c). Since no party has been selected for this, and no details have been worked out, no date for its commercial production can be indicated at this stage.

**Social Forestry Programme**

**931. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have launched Social Forestry Programme in the country with the aid of International organisations and World Bank; and

(b) if so, the details of these projects and assistance obtained from International organisations and World Bank for implementing them ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 14 externally aided social forestry projects under implementation in the States of : Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The details of these projects are given in the Statement below.

## Statement

*Social Forestry Programme*

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Period	Donor Agency	Total outlay (Rs. M)	External assistance (US \$ M)	Cumulative Expenditure upto 1986- 87 (Rs. M)	Cumulative external aid disbursed (US \$ M) upto 8/87	Total physical target (ha.)	Cumulative physical achievement upto 1986-87 (ha.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	U. P. Social Forestry Project Phase-II	5 years 1985-86 to 1989-90	World Bank/ USAID	1611.60	88.30	336.32	1,61,950	86,401	
2.	Gujarat Social Forestry Project Phase-II	-do-	-do-	1296.50	92.30	344.80	35.29	3,13,400	90,134
3.	Rajasthan Social Forestry Project	-do-	-do-	391.90	25.20	82.39		1,20,800	6,300.5
4.	Himachal Pradesh Social Forestry Project	-do-	-do-	572.93	36.60	150.60		1,22,833	322,844
5.	Haryana Social Forestry Project	5 years 1982-83 to 1986-87 (extended upto March, '88)	World Bank/ DANIDA	331.20 +75.00	16.90	241.90	11.86	67,000 +15,655	61,213.5
6.	J & K Social Forestry Project	-do-	-do-	237.12 +71.50	13.80	212.53	8.24	44,000 +12,300	32,299.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7. Karnataka Social Forestry Project	5 years 1983-84 to 1987-88	World Bank/ DDA	552.20	50.00	299.54	13.53	1,49,500	25,108 ha. + 3,565 Km.	
8. Kerala Social Forestry Project	6 years 1984-85 to 1989-90	World Bank	599.20	31.80	172.95	7.97	85,300	41,058.5	
9. West Bengal Social Forestry Project	6 years 1981-82 to 1986-87 (extended upto March, '88)	World Bank	348.55 +142.80	29.01	274.47	17.06	93,000 +24,150	1,00,333	
10. Bihar Social Forestry Project	6 years 1981-86 to 1990-91	SIDA	538.70 Million for first 3 years	80 SEK SEK M.	84.74 SEK M.	42.83 +7.05 M.	1,57,950 ha. SDL	8,248 ha. + 20.65 M. SDL	
11. Orissa Social Forestry Project	5 years 1983-84 to 1987-88	-do-	281.70	135 SEK Million	130.90	53.50 SEK M.	58,000 ha. + 51 M.	28,278 ha. + 18.70 M. SDL	
12. Tamil Nadu Social Forestry Project	5 years 1981-82 to 1985-86 (extended upto 3/88)	-do-	591.38	263 SEK Million (upto 12/85)	378.35	169.91 SEK M.	1,42,405 ha. + 7925 Km. + 170.33 M. SDL	1,09,147 ha. + 7488 Km. + 96.38 M. SDL	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13. Andhra Pradesh Social Forestry Project*	5 years	CIDA	456.04	44.00	165.39	10.13	44,635 ha.	13,047 ha.	
1983-84 to 1987-88		C \$ M.			C \$ M.	+ 15590.4 Km.	+ 1726 Km.		
						+ 225.75 M.	+ 91.3 M.		
						SDL	SDL		
14. Maharashtra Social Forestry Project	8 years	USAID	564.00	30.00	322.91	15.63	81,010 ha.	59,672 ha.	
1982-83 to 1989-90		US \$ M.			US \$ M.		US \$ M.		
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>8662.29</b>	<b>413.90</b>	<b>3207.81</b>	<b>109.68</b>	<b>16,833,898 ha.</b>	<b>6,88,084.4 ha.</b>	
			US \$ M	US \$ M	US \$ M	+ 23515.4 Km.	+ 12779 Km.		
			+ 478 SEK M.		+ 266.24	+ 467.58 M.	+ 227.03 M.		
			+ 44.00		SEK M.	SDL	SDL		
			C \$ M		+ 10.13	C \$ M	C \$ M		

\*Physical and Financial Targets revised for extension of project period up to 1989-90.

### Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant

932. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3868 on 20 August, 1987 regarding strategy for modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant and state :

(a) whether the modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant also includes a wheel axle plant;

(b) if so, give the plan for modernisation of the said plant;

(c) if not, the reasons why it has not been included and whether equipments and processes employed in the said Plant require modernisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The modernisation of the Wheel and Axle Plant at Durgapur Steel Plant includes the modifications and overhauling of the hydraulic system of Wheel Forging Press, modernisation of Wheel Finishing Equipment and automatic testing facilities for wheels and axles.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

### Loss due to export of steel

933. SHRI AMAL DATTA :  
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5773 on 6 April, 1987 regarding loss to SAIL by export of steel plates and state :

(a) the variable cost of steel;

(b) what has been the total loss arising out of export of steel on comparison of export prices with domestic prices; and

(c) the details of export to various countries alongwith the names of consignees of such consignments ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) It would not be in the commercial interest of SAIL to divulge details regarding its cost of production.

(b) The information is furnished below :

Year	Difference between export realisation and domestic price (Rs./crores)
1984-85	0.71
1985-86	Nil
1986-87	13.75

There was no export of plates in 1985-86.

(c) It will not be in the commercial interest of SAIL to divulge this information.

### Delay in setting up captive power plants

934. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5772 on 6 April, 1987 regarding captive power plants and state :

(a) the reasons for delay in construction of captive power plants, names of turnkey contractors for each of the unit, the initial and revised value of each unit and the capacity of each unit;

(b) by what methods the turnkey contractors were engaged and what steps have been taken against the contractors for delay; and

(c) whether approximate loss of saleable steel has been worked out ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) The information is given below :

Plant and Capacity	Principal Contractor	Original sanctioned cost (Rs. in crores)	Now anticipated cost (Rs. in crores)
<b>Bokaro Captive Power Plant (3 x 60 MW)</b>	M/s. Elektrum of Poland (except civil works)	75.94	154.15
<b>Durgapur Captive Power Plant (2 x 60 MW)</b>	M/s. Elektrum of Poland (except civil and structural works)	54.91	124.52
<b>Rourkela Captive Power Plant (2 x 60 MW)</b>	M/s. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (except civil works)	79.92	209.60

The delay in completion of all the captive power plants was occurred mainly due to delays in supply of equipment and poor rate of equipment erection by the main contractors. Delays were further compounded due to fires in the storage yard of Durgapur Captive Power Plant and the Control Room of Bokaro Captive Power Plant.

(b) The main contractors for all the three captive power plants were engaged after inviting global tenders. Action against the main contractors or other defaulting agencies will be decided as per the contractual provisions.

(c) No, Sir. The loss of production of Saleable Steel on account of delays in completion of Captive Power Plants has not been separately computed

**Acceptance of family planning norms by certain communities**

**935. DR. G. S. RAJHANS :**  
SHRI LALITESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a survey conducted by Government it has been revealed that the acceptance of the family planning norms among certain communities in the country is relatively much lower than the national level of acceptance; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to adopt a novel strategy for these communities to bring their level of acceptance of family planning norms at par with the national level ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Family Welfare Programme is being promoted on a voluntary basis among all sections of the population. Efforts are made to enlist support to the Programme, of opinion leaders from various walks of life, including the religious leaders, through the press, inter-personal communication, orientation training camps, and involvement of voluntary organisations.

**Legislation to prevent spread of AIDS**

**936. DR. G. S. RAJHANS :**  
SHRI LALITESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to enact a legislation to take stringent measures to prevent spread of AIDS in the country; and

(b) if so, when the proposed legislation is likely to be enacted ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) and (b). Enactment of legislation to prevent spread of AIDS in the country is a complex issue involving number of Departments/Agencies both at the Central and State levels and experts. The final decision can be taken only after careful examination of administrative, organisational, legal, social, ethical and related issues.

**Stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Gaya**

**937. DR. G. S. RAJHANS :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether representations have been received by Government to provide stoppage of the Rajdhani Express at Gaya; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF, THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Stoppages of Rajdhani Expresses have been provided for operational requirements only.

**Railway link between Gulbarga and Bidar**

**938. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to link Gulbarga and Bidar by railway line; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) The two stations are already connected by rail via Wadi and Vikarabad.

**Restoration of Lakshminarasimha Statue at Hampi**

**939. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount so far spent for the restoration of monolithic Lakshminarasimha Statue at Hampi, Karnataka;

(b) whether the work has now been stopped;

(c) if so, whether an expert team has been constituted by Government;

(d) whether the "expert" team visited

(e) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to immediately start the work ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) Total amount spent : Rs. 6,67,863/-

(b) Yes at present.

(c) to (e). The Expert Committee visited the site and has submitted its Report which is being examined by Government. Action will be taken after the examination of the Expert Committee Report and all aspects of the matter.

**Platforms at Kalyan railway station**

**940. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kalyan Home Platform work is delayed for a long time; if so, when it is to be completed and when the advantage of this platform will be made available for Kalyan trains;

(b) what is its estimated cost;

(c) whether platform No. 6 will be connected to the Kalyan Home Platform by overhead bridge; if so, when; and

(d) whether there is a demand as deposit work from Kalyan Corporation to extend the said overhead bridge to the original overhead bridge near platform number 1 and then to extend the same beyond municipal road upto S. T. stand; if so, what is the action taken?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) Construction of this platform has been under consideration for some time. It is now planned to be completed and made available for use in 1988.

(b) Rs. 9 lakhs approximately.

(c) Yes, Sir, in 1988-89.

(d) No request has been received so far from Kalyan Corporation to take up the proposed scheme as a 'Deposit Work' at their cost.

**Introduction of Mail trains between Pune/ Nasik and Bombay V.T.**

**941. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no Mail train from Pune after 5 p.m. and Nasik after 6 p.m. to Bombay V.T.;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to introduce Mail trains between Pune/Nasik and Bombay V.T.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Admission of students from Lakshadweep in universities of Kerala**

**942. SHRI P. M. SAYEED :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala State has intimated that it was not in a position to provide seats to Lakshadweep students in their Universities/Institutions for higher studies as they were themselves hard pressed for want of such seats for students from Kerala State itself; and

(b) if so, the alternative arrangements which Government propose to make to overcome this acute problem of students coming from the Union Territory of Lakshadweep in view of the fact that they belong to Scheduled Tribe and come from economically weaker section of the society?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) No such intimation has been received either by the Central Government or the University Grants Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

**New ship for Lakshadweep islands**

**943. SHRI P. M. SAYEED :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated action to replace MV Aminideeve by purchasing a ship for cruising between Lakshadweep islands and between islands and mainland;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified such a ship and officials have gone for its inspection;

(c) if so, the details of their inspection report including the cost of the ship;

(d) whether Lakshadweep Administration has been co-opted in the matter; and

(e) the time by which the ship is likely to be commissioned?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) (a) :** Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. has identified three vessels. The actual selection will be made only after physical inspection of the vessels by a joint technical team comprising SCI's representatives and the representative of the Lakshadweep Administration.

(e) The ship is expected to be commissioned in 1988-89.

**Vacancies in Health and Family Welfare Department of Lakshadweep**

944. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of posts lying vacant in the Health and Family Welfare Department of Lakshadweep;

(b) if so, the number of such vacant posts category-wise;

(c) since when these vacancies occurred; and

(d) the time by which Government propose to fill up the vacancies in order to mitigate the sufferings of the island people ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

(d) Out of 33 vacant posts, 18 posts have been created recently and action has been initiated to fill up the posts.

13 medical/clinical posts borne on the strength of Central Health Service are being filled up through UPSC/deputation of defence personnel.

The remaining non-medical/para-medical posts have not been filled up due to non-availability of qualified local candidates. The U.T. Administration are trying to fill up para-medical/non-medical posts on deputation basis.

**Statement**

S. No.	Category	No. of vacant posts	Date of vacancy
1	2	3	4
<i>Medical/Clinical :</i>			
1.	Director of Medical and H.S.	1	10.8.87
2.	Senior Medical Officer	1	10.2.84
3.	Surgeon	1	5.1.86
4.	Eye Specialist	1	22.3.80
5.	Obstet. and Gynaecologist	1	18.1.82
6.	Anaesthetists	2	19.9.86 and 10.8.87
7.	Pathologist	1	10.8.87
8.	Deputy Director, Medical and H.S.	1	1.5.87

1

2

3

4

## 9. Medical Officers Grade II &amp; III

4	27.2.82
	14.5.83
	27.6.84
	30.6.84

## Non-Medical and Para-Medical :

10. Assistant Director (Malaria)	1	30.5.84
11. Health Education Officer	1	30.8.85
12. Administrative Officer	1	10.8.87
13. Radiographer	1	30.7.86
14. Refractionist	1	27.9.82
15. Multi-purpose Worker	1	17.3.82
16. Health Worker	1	17.3.82
17. Senior Pharmacist	1	14.4.87
18. Pharmacists	2	1.7.87 10.8.87
19. Staff Nurses	5	1.7.87 (1) 10.8.87 (4)
20. Theatre Technicians	1	10.8.87
21. U.D. Clerk	1	10.8.87
22. L.D. Clerk	1	29.4.87
23. Watchman	1	10.8.87
24. Sweeper	1	10.8.87
<hr/>		
Total :		33
<hr/>		

## Deaths in government hospitals of Delhi during strike

945. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of patients who died in Government hospitals in Delhi during the recent strike of the doctors;

(b) whether during the strike period, the essential equipment and life saving drugs were kept under lock and were not made available to the senior doctors who did not resort to strike resulting in more deaths;

(c) whether the matter was enquired into and the responsibility fixed; and

(d) if so, the action taken against those

found guilty and if no action was taken, the reasons thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) 90 deaths have been reported by the Government Hospitals during the strike period. These deaths were due to seriousness of disease and not attributable to the strike.

(b) All essential drugs and equipments were available in the wards/emergency.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

#### Takshila Kendriya Vidyalaya in Delhi

**946 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has notified that the degrees of "Takshila Kendriya Vidyalaya", New Delhi, are illegal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any legal action has been taken against the organisers/management of the "Takshila Kendriya Vidyalaya" for making false and illegal claims, through newspapers and otherwise to allure the students;

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

(e) what machinery is available or is proposed to be established to check such fake institutions ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) and (b). The U.G.C. in a press statement for general information of the public, clarified that the Takshila Kendriya Vishwavidyalaya which has been advertising in the newspapers about

the award of degrees/diplomas for various courses is not a university empowered to award degrees.

(c) to (e). According of the provisions of the U.G.C. Act, only a university established under a Central or a State Act, or an institution deemed to be a university under Section 3 of the U.G.C. Act, has the right of conferring or granting degrees and no other person or authority shall confer or grant or hold himself entitled to confer or grant any degree. The U.G.C. has filed a complaint in the court of the Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi, in June 1982 against the Takshila Kendriya Vishwavidyalaya for violation of the above provisions of the U.G.C. Act. The case is still pending.

#### Timber Research and Water Technology Centre

**947. SHRI SIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up a Timber Research and Water Technology Centre near Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, when such Research Centre is to be set up; and

(c) what would be the main function of the Research Centre ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Chromite Mines in Orissa

**948. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of chromite mines in Orissa;

(b) how many of those mines are managed in the private sector and the number of them run by public sector;

(c) whether large number of workers working in Sukinda chromite mines in Orissa have been retrenched; and

(d) if so, their number and the steps taken to provide them some alternate employment?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR):** (a) During the year 1986, 15 mines in Orissa reported production of chromite.

(b) Out of the 15 chromite mines which reported production during 1986, 8 were from public sector and 7 were from private sector.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

**Sriganganagar-Jaipur Express Train and Sriganganagar-Jaipur Track**

**949. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the track between Sriganganagar and Jaipur has been made permanent, if not, when the work for this purpose was started on this route and the reasons for delay in completion of the work;

(b) whether Sriganganagar-Jaipur Express train is hauled by steam engine, if so, the reasons for which this train is not hauled by diesel engine; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Sriganganagar Jaipur Express train is a better profit earning train than all other trains running on Bikaner Northern Division and Jodhpur Northern Division?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):** (a) The track between Sriganganagar and Jaipur is permanent. Repairs and track renewals wherever necessary are carried out from time to time.

(b) There is no immediate prospect of the train being dieselised as the available locos are committed to freight traffic and long distance Mail/Express trains.

(c) Train-wise figures of expenditure, earnings and profitability are not maintained.

*[English]*

**Programmes to raise literacy**

**950. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The details of programmes taken up by Government to raise literacy in the country, particularly in rural and adivasi areas during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period and the achievements so far made;

(b) The break-up of allocation of funds made for each State during the Seventh Five-Year Plan for the purpose;

(c) the names of the States which are lagging behind; and

(d) The special attention being given to those States?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI):** (a) Government of India have accorded high priority to the Adult Education Programme which envisages removal of illiteracy in the age-group 15-35, by its inclusion in the Minimum Needs Programme and Twenty Point Programme since the Sixth Plan. A brief description of the different schemes functioning, at present, is as under:

**Rural Functional Literacy Projects :**

This is a major Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which funds are provided on cent per cent basis in accordance with the approved financial pattern to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

**State Adult Education Programme**

State Governments are also organising Adult Education Programmes under the State Plan, on lines similar to the Rural Functional Literacy Projects, to step up the coverage of Adult illiterates.

**Schemes of Assistance to Voluntary Agencies Working in the Field of Adult Education :**

This is a Central Scheme and under this, the Ministry provides financial assistance to Voluntary Agencies working in the field of Adult Education for Projects of functional literacy and post-literacy, resource development, publications holding of seminars, etc.

**Post-Literacy and Follow up Programme :**

This Centrally Sponsored Scheme was put into operation in 1982-83 with the objective to ensure that the neo-literates who have completed basic literacy course do not relapse into illiteracy.

**Shramik Vidyapeeths :**

The Shramik Vidyapeeths provide integrated non-formal education and training facilities to the workers and their families both in the organised as well as in the unorganised Sectors, mainly in the urban areas.

**Adult Education Programme Aided by University Grants Commission :**

The University Grants Commission is providing financial assistance and support to 98 universities and 2900 colleges in 18 States/Union Territories.

**Mass Programme for Functional Literacy :**

This programme has also been launched to involve NSS/Non-NSS and NCC Cadets to participate in the programme of removal of illiteracy. Literacy kits have been provided to the learners by the Department of Education free of cost.

During 1985-86 to 1987-88 (upto to 30.9.87) 22,3,446 adult illiterates have been enrolled.

(b) No state-wise allocations are made under Central Sector. Funds are released according to the proposals received from State/UT Governments.

(c) According to monitoring reports for the first two years of Seventh Plan, all States/UTs except Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur,

Mizoram, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry have not achieved the stipulated targets. However, during 1985-86, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and during 1986-87, Bihar, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, A & N Islands, Delhi and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have achieved the stipulated targets.

(d) The National Policy on Education 1986 envisages that systematic programme of adult education linked with national goals will be organised and the existing programme reviewed and strengthened. After a thorough review of the existing programme in the field of adult education, the Government have decided to launch National Literacy Mission with a view to providing functional literacy to 30 million persons in 15-35 age-group by 1990 and another 50 million by 1995. The details of the Mission are being worked out.

**Review of National Tuberculosis Eradication Programme**

951. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently undertaken a review of the working of the National Tuberculosis Eradication Programme;

(b) whether the review has established that despite better allocation, the programme has not improved qualitatively or in coverage;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the other major findings of the survey ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) to (d). It has been decided, very recently to take up an evaluation of the National Tuberculosis Control Programme by an independent body and the report of the same is expected to be available within a year.

**Spread of AIDS through mosquitoes**

**952. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :**  
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the AIDS disease can spread through mosquitoes as reported in the press :

(b) if so, whether any conclusive proof about this has been collected; and

(c) the nature of precautions that are being prescribed ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):** (a) and (b). There is no evidence that AIDS is transmitted through mosquito bites. Available epidemiological studies from United States, Europe and Africa also do not suggest that AIDS could be transmitted to humans by insects.

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Government :

1. A Cell has been established in the Directorate General of Health Services to coordinate AIDS Control activity in the country.
2. 35 Surveillance centres have been established in the country to screen high risk group.
3. All these centres have been provided with diagnostic reagents and equipment package have also been provided to most of them.
4. Restrictions have been imposed for import of blood and blood products without AIDS clearance certificate.
5. All the State Health authorities/ hospitals/STD clinics have been alerted to be vigilant.
6. All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood donors.

7. All the State Health authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilisation practices in hospitals and clinics and to use presterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible.

8. Guidelines have been sent to all the State Health authorities for health care personnel.

9. All the mass media channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS, its nature, transmission and prevention.

10. *Foreigners*

I. Any new foreign students being admitted in any of the Indian Institutions are required to undergo AIDS test. Any-body is found positive, is repatriated back to his country.

II. It has been decided to screen for AIDS the foreigners intending to stay for more than one year in India. Members of the diplomatic missions and foreign journalists will however be exempted from the AIDS test at this stage. Any-body found positive, is to be repatriated back to his country.

**Lepers in India**

**953. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :**  
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has 27 per cent of World's lepers;

(b) if so, the State-wise break-up of such affected people and the steps taken to contain their number; and

(c) the Central allocation for the last three years, year-wise for each of these States for prevention of this disease ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) Out of the estimated

12.00 million leprosy cases in the world, India has approximately 4.00 million cases.

(b) State-wise number of leprosy cases on record, under treatment and cases discharged as on June, 1987 is given in Statement-I below. Steps to contain the problem include :

(1) Extending Multidrug treatment to all leprosy cases in 201 endemic districts in a phased manner. At present 48 such districts are under MDT and another 26 have been identified for MDT during 87-88.

(2) 5 low endemic districts have also been covered under MDT. Other

districts will be taken up in a phased manner.

(3) Dapsone refractory cases in other districts are being identified and put under MDT.

(4) Health Education activities have been stepped up.

(5) Voluntary Organisation being encouraged to take up anti-leprosy work.

(c) State-wise central allocation for last 3 years is given in Statement-II below.

#### Statement—I

*Number of Leprosy cases on record, under treatment and discharged by States—1987*

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of cases on record as on June' 87	No. of cases under treat- ment as on June' 87	No. of cases discharged upto June' 87
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	476673	476673	696052
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1454	1454	686
3.	Assam	19362	19001	8148
4.	Bihar	314075	277667	185467
5.	Goa	4926	2309	1340
6.	Gujarat	73595	69291	51465
7.	Haryana	1125	1093	207
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4694	4684	1797
9.	J & K	5862	4962	1306
10.	Karnataka	163414	158804	54142
11.	Kerala	90447	75442	48928
12.	Madhya Pradesh	159549	159541	71963
13.	Maharashtra	355968	355968	274822

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Manipur	6450	4268	2107
15.	Meghalaya	5717	3539	1043
16.	Mizoram	541	508	225
17.	Nagaland	2299	2299	536
18.	Orissa	246870	244510	131520
19.	Punjab	3126	3126	2430
20.	Rajasthan	17529	16085	3166
21.	Sikkim	401	341	97
22.	Tamil Nadu	532590	460899	653970
23.	Tripura	3274	3065	1027
24.	Uttar Pradesh	478006	445814	206121
25.	West Bengal	315025	236720	71425
26.	A & N Islands	1026	993	1035
27.	Chandigarh	64	64	NIL
28.	D & N Haveli	513	426	NIL
29.	Delhi	10027	8843	NIL
30.	Lakshadweep	343	343	93
31.	Pondicherry	7024	4973	3850
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3301969</b>	<b>3043705</b>	<b>2474967</b>

## Statement—II

## National Leprosy Eradication Programme—Budget Allocation Statewise

Sl. No.	States/UTs	1984-86			1986-87			1987-88		
		Cash	Kind	Total	Cash	Kind	Total	Cash	Kind	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. 1.	Andhra Pradesh	132.00	80.00	212.00	137.00	80.00	217.00	150.00	80.00	230.00
2.	Assam	16.00	5.0	21.00	4.00	0.40	4.40	0.50	0.50	1.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.0	0.40	5.40	18.00	5.00	23.00	18.00	5.00	23.00
4.	Bihar	26.00	38.00	64.00	38.00	38.00	76.00	60.00	38.00	98.00
5.	Gujarat	43.00	21.31	64.31	48.00	21.30	69.30	34.00	25.00	59.00
6.	Haryana	2.00	2.00	4.00	2.00	0.30	2.30	3.00	1.00	4.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	5.00	0.75	5.75	4.00	0.74	4.74	3.00	1.00	4.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.50	1.00	3.50	2.50	1.00	3.50	1.50	0.50	2.00
9.	Kerala	11.00	8.00	19.00	10.00	8.00	18.00	30.00	10.00	40.00
10.	Karnataka	40.00	30.00	70.00	40.99	30.00	70.99	40.00	39.00	70.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	50.95	18.00	68.95	40.29	18.00	58.29	55.00	10.00	65.00
12.	Maharashtra	72.00	45.00	117.00	73.00	45.00	118.00	70.00	50.00	120.00
13.	Manipur	5.00	0.50	5.50	5.00	0.50	5.50	1.00	0.50	2.00
14.	Meghalaya	2.50	0.50	3.00	2.50	0.50	3.00	3.00	1.00	4.00
15.	Mizoram	0.90	0.45	1.35	0.90	0.45	1.35	3.00	1.00	4.00
16.	Nagaland	2.50	1.00	3.50	2.50	1.00	3.50	7.00	1.00	8.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
17.	Orissa	46.00	35.00	81.00	40.00	35.00	75.00	65.00	25.00	90.00
18.	Punjab	5.00	0.80	5.80	5.00	0.80	5.80	2.50	0.50	3.00
19.	Rajasthan	27.00	6.00	33.00	18.00	6.00	24.00	20.00	5.00	25.00
20.	Sikkim	4.32	0.20	4.52	4.30	0.20	4.50	10.50	0.50	11.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	77.00	70.00	147.00	81.00	70.00	151.00	110.00	65.00	175.00
22.	Tripura	14.00	1.50	15.50	9.00	1.50	10.50	3.00	1.00	4.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	68.00	55.00	123.00	85.00	55.00	140.00	110.00	40.00	150.00
24.	West Bengal	55.00	45.00	100.00	43.00	45.00	88.00	60.00	30.00	90.00
	Total	712.67	465.41	1178.08	713.98	463.69	1177.67	860.50	421.50	1281.00

II. 25. A & N Island	4.20	0.32	4.52	2.20	0.32	2.52	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00
26. Chandigarh	NIL	0.15	0.15	—	0.15	0.15	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00
27. D & N Haveli	NIL	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00
28. Delhi	12.00	0.45	12.45	2.00	0.45	2.45	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00
29. Goa	1.50	0.32	1.82	1.50	0.32	1.82	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00
30. Lakshadweep	0.15	0.12	0.27	0.15	0.12	0.27	1.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
31. Pondicherry	0.50	2.50	3.00	0.50	2.50	3.00	1.00	8.00	9.00	9.00
	Total	18.35	3.87	22.22	6.35	3.87	10.22	4.50	12.50	18.00

### Soil Erosion

**954. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :**  
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether large scale deforestation in different parts of the country has led to soil erosion as well as increasing siltation of lakes which supply water to metropolitan cities and towns :

(b) if so, whether special plans are made and central assistance provided to take up afforestation in a big way; and

(c) if so, the details of the plans and the central assistance provided ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) Yes, Sir, large scale deforestation in different parts of the country is a major cause of soil erosion and siltation of reservoirs including lakes which supply water to metropolitan cities and towns.

(b) Yes Sir, special afforestation programmes with central assistance have been drawn up for soil conservation.

(c) The details are given in the Statement below.

### Statement

#### *Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Afforestation and Soil Conservation*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Nature of the Scheme	Central assistance (approximately) (Rs. in crores)	Area covered (approximately) (in lakh ha.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Rural Fuelwood Plantations and Afforestation of Eco-sensitive Non-Himalayan Areas.	This is essentially a scheme for creating fuelwood plantations in identified 157 fuelwood deficit Districts in the country, but soil and moisture conservation is one of the components of the scheme. It provides 50% Central assistance to States and 100% to Union Territories.	Rs. 35.56 crores during the Seventh Plan up to date.	1.04 lakh hectares.
2.	Operation Soilwatch	This scheme envisages treatment of identified catchments on micro-watershed basis, with a view to preserve the fragile Himalayan ecosystem. Under the scheme 100% assistance (50% Grant and 50% Loan) is given to 14 States including seven North-East States.	Rs. 56.04 crores	2.68 lakh hectares

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Soil conservation in the catchments of measures including afforestation in the catchment of River Valley Projects (RVP)	Soil and water conservation in the catchment of River Valley Projects.		
4.	Integrated Water shed Management in catchment of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR)	Soil and water conservation measures including afforestation in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.	Rs. 35.00 crores annually of which 15% to 20% is for afforestation	1.3 lakh hectares

#### Afforestation Programme in Karnataka

**955. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Forest Department had received the loan from the world bank for afforestation programme;

(b) whether the first phase of the programme is already completed

(c) if so, by what time the next phase of afforestation programme is to be launched; and

(d) whether due to the delay in providing the loan by the world bank, the second phase of afforestation programme could not be launched in Karnataka ;

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS : (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):** (a) Yes, Sir. World Bank/ODA assisted Social Forestry Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 55.22 crores is in operation in Karnataka State from 1983-84 for a period of 5 years. The external assistance is US 50.0 Million.

(b) The first phase of the project will be completed by 31 March, 1988.

(c) Project proposals for the II Phase has not been received from the State Government.

(d) Question does not arise.

#### Sandalwood Smuggling

**956 SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Forest Department had prepared a scheme to check increasing sandalwood smuggling;

(b) whether incidence of sandalwood smuggling in Karnataka has been highest; and

(c) whether Union Government have directed the State Government to take appropriate measures to curb sandalwood smuggling ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):** (a) and (b). No specific scheme has been prepared by the Karnataka Forest Department to check Sandalwood smuggling. However, adequate protection measures have been adopted by the State Forest Department including creation of a Special Forest Cell in the Police Department which have resulted in detecting a large number of cases of Sandalwood smuggling.

(c) Central Government have advised the State Government on the steps for curbing all illegal removal of forest produce.

#### Survey-cum-Education Programme of Prevention of Food Adulteration

**957. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND

**FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Delhi has started its survey-cum-education programme to create awareness amongst consumers due to increasing menance of food adulteration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the mobile testing laboratory in Delhi has since been stated; and

(d) the number of raids conducted during the last six months and the action taken by the Government against the adulterators ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Survey-cum-Education Programme is utilised to collect information in respect of shops in different areas dealing in food items and also to educate the traders/ shopkeepers about the various requirements under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules, with a view to providing general awareness amongst the traders as well as the consumers about the dangers of food adulteration, its nature and extent of harmful effects it has on health of the consumers as also the quantum of punishment prescribed for the offenders under the Law.

(c) The Mobile Food Laboratory will be in operation in the capital very soon. All necessary equipments and reagents have been purchased.

(d) During the last six months (i.e. April to October, 1987) 354 raids were conducted in different markets of Delhi.

In some cases prosecution has been launched against the adulterators under the Provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. 1954.

**Increase in output of SAIL plants**

**958. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :**  
**SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI :**  
**DR. V. VENKATESH :**

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a distinct improvement in the output of the integrated plants under the Steel Authority of India Ltd during the first quarter of 1987-88 and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) and (b) Output of Saleable steel in the I quarter of 1987-88 as compared to the corresponding quarter last year and the growth are given below :—

Plant	('000 Tonnes)		
	I Quarter 1987-88	I Quarter 1986-87	%Growth 1986-87 (approx)
Bhilai	441	374	18
Durgapur	175	141	24
Rourkela	231	177	30
Bokaro	401	290	38
IISCO	120	114	6
<b>SAIL</b> (rounded off)	<b>1368</b>	<b>1097</b>	<b>25</b>

**Modernisation of Bhilai Steel Plant**

**959. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :**

**SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI :**  
**DR. V. VENKATESH :**

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Soviet experts have suggested modernisation of the Bhilai Steel Plant to yield additional production of one million tonne of Steel;

(b) if so, whether Government have given any thought to the suggestion;

(c) if so, whether steps would be taken for the modernisation of the Bhilai Plant;

(d) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) to (e).

There has not been any such suggestion recently but the Soviets did submit a report Bhilai Technical and Economic Considerations (BTEC)—in March, 1979, which envisaged modernisation of the 2.5 MT stream to yield an additional 1 million tonnes of steel as distinct from the 4 MT expansion programme already under implementation. The report was examined, but the proposal was deferred as priority was required to be given to stabilise production at 4 MT stage after expansion.

**Mehrotra Committee's Recommendation for Librarians And Physical Instructors**

**960. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what are the Mehrotra Committee's recommendations for Librarians and Physical Instructors of various universities and college in the country regarding their pay scales and other facilities;

(b) the details of the decision taken thereon; and

(c) the reaction of teachers organisation thereto ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) The Mehrotra Committee, in part B of its report had recommended the same pattern of pay scales and career advancement for Librarians and DPEs as they had recommended for teachers in Universities and Colleges. The Committee had also recommended that the details concerning recruitment, qualifications, career advancement, etc., should be worked out by an Expert Committee. Accordingly the UGC had appointed an Expert Committee which has since recommended the details of qualification, etc.

(b) The recommendations are under examination and the decision is likely to be taken shortly.

(c) The organisations of Librarians and DPEs have been demanding an early revi-

sion of their pay scales and also the maintenance of parity in pay scales and other facilities between them and the teachers.

**[Translation]**

**Over-bridge at Thawe Railway Station**

**961. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of over-bridge on Thawe Railway Station near Thawe line Bazar main road on Gorakhpur-Siwan metre gauge rail line on North-Eastern railway, traffic remains jammed for 2-3 hours and the train remains there for shunting for many hours; and

(b) if so, the time by which an over-bridge is likely to be constructed there and when the work is likely to be started ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) No proposal has been received from the State Government for the construction of an over bridge near Thawe Railway Station.

**Over-bridge at Sipaya Halt**

**962. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to construct an over-bridge on the railway line opposite Karmaini Mod near by Sipaya Halt Railway Station on Gorakhpur-Siwan metre gauge line on North-Eastern Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that traffic remains jammed for hours together on this Karmaini Mod in the absence of an over-bridge there as a result of which great inconvenience is caused to people; and

(c) the reasons for delay in constructing the over-bridge there and the time by which the work of construction of this over-bridge will be started ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, some hold-up of road traffic does occur whenever the level crossing gates remain closed for passage of trains.

(c) The Railway has not, so far, received any proposal from the State Government for provision of an over-bridge at this location.

**Development of Railway Stations In Northern, North Eastern and Eastern Railway**

**963 SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of platforms/ stations on Northern Railway, North Eastern Railway and Eastern Railway improved and developed since January, 1984 till date, year-wise and the details of expenditure incurred on these stations during this period year-wise;

(b) the number of stations developed on aforesaid railways in Bihar and the number of those stations development of which is under consideration and the number of stations proposed to be developed in the next financial year; and

(c) the number and names of stations in Bihar, which have not been developed/ improved during the last three years and the time by which Government propose to develop those stations ?

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

**Irregularities in Steel Distribution**

**964. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOOWALIA :**  
**DR. CHINTA MOHAN :**  
**SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :**

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item published in the Jansatta dated 5 September, 1987 regarding large scale irregularities in steel distribution;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the matter;

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

(d) if not, the reasons for not making any inquiry into the matter so far ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The matter has been investigated by Steel Authority of India Limited. The allegations have been found to be baseless.

**Increase In Steel Prices**

**965. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOOWALIA :**  
**SHRI KAMAL NATH :**  
**DR. CHINTA MOHAN :**  
**SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :**

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to increase the prices of steel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a suggestion has been given by Government to steel industry to eliminate the losses by increasing the efficiency instead of increasing margin of profit;

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

(e) the loss likely to be suffered by the steel industry (SALL) ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :**  
(a) There is no proposal to revise the steel prices at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Government is closely monitoring the efficiency parameters and the

efforts that are being continuously made in the SALL plants to reduce the cost of production of steel by higher capacity utilisation, improved product mix, increased productivity, introduction of technological innovations including energy saving, improvement in process control, optimisation of captive power generation and improved maintenance and modernisation equipment.

(e) SALL has estimated the loss for 1987-88 to be Rs. 142 crores at the input prices prevailing on 31.3.1987 and on the basis of the production targets for 1987-88.

**Non-Implementation of UGC Pay Scales by Universities**

966. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of universities which have not yet implemented the University Grants Commission pay Scales for the teachers;

(b) whether some States have objected to the implementation of the Scales on the ground of inadequate financial resources;

(c) if so, the details of their objections and their demands; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) The scheme of revision of pay scales was communicated to the State Governments in June, 1987 for implementation with effect from 1.1.1986. As per available information no State Government has so far issued formal orders for the implementation of the scheme.

(b) to (d). No State Government has objected to the implementation of the scheme. However, some of them had suggested that the Central Government might consider provision of 100 per cent assistance to the State Governments for implementation of the scheme during the initial period of five years. They have been informed that it would not be possible for the Central Government to

provide financial assistance beyond 80 per cent of the additional expenditure especially in view of the larger flow of funds from the Centre to the States for education during the current Plan.

**Railway Lines in Kerala**

967. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding allocation of funds for construction of railway lines in Kerala during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) the time schedule, if any, for the completion of these lines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). Funds allocated for construction of new rail lines in Kerala in the first three years of the Seventh Plan are as under :

	<i>Rs. in crores</i>
1. Ernakulam-Alleppey	14.75
2. Alleppey-Kayankulam	10.50
3. Trichur-Guruvayur	1

Funds to be allocated in 1988-89 and 1989-90 for completion of these lines will depend on resources allocated for Railways Annual Plan particularly for New Lines by the Planning Commission in the coming years.

**Ernakulam-Alleppey-Kayamkulam Railway Line**

968. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :  
SHRI SURESH KURUP :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made so far in the construction of the coastal railway line from Ernakulam to Alleppey and Kayamkulam in Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : The progress upto September, 1987 is as under :

Ernakulam-Alleppey line	28%
Alleppey-Kayamkulam	3%

**Pollution from Tanneries**

**969. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether water of the Ganga river is polluted as a result of effluents discharged by tanneries and other factories in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has directed to close down these factories;

(c) if so, whether these tanneries have been closed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the closure of 29 tanneries in Kanpur.

(c) 26 out of the 29 tanneries directed for closure have stopped their operation. One unit was not in operation and two units could not be located.

(d) Does not arise.

**Jurala Project**

**970. SHRI V. SOBHNADREE-SWARA RAO :** Will the minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have recently rejected Jurala Project proposal submitted by Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would reconsider the decision and clear the project ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND**

**FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Jurala Project has been rejected from environmental angle due to non-furnishing of environmental data and action plans.

(c) On the basis of the available environmental data reconsideration of the project is not possible.

**Removal of Illiteracy Amongst 15-35 Age Group Persons**

**971. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :**  
**SHRI S. M. GURADDI :**

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

(a) whether Government have drawn up comprehensive plans to ensure that no person in the 15-35 age-group remained illiterate in the country;

(b) the plans that have been prepared to meet this challenge;

(c) if so, whether any time limit has been fixed for the same; and

(d) what is the total percentage of literacy in the age group of 15-35 and where the highest literacy exists in India ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) to (c). The Government have formulated a comprehensive programme known as "National Literacy Mission" to eradicate illiteracy in the 15-35 age group. Its objective is to impart functional literacy to 80 million illiterate persons in 15-35 age-group-30 million by 1990 and additional 50 million by 1995.

The following strategies will be adopted to achieve the objectives :

(i) Motivation centred programmes will be designed, with special care in regard to their form and content

inputs. The programmes will be linked with skill development and economic activities, health related issues, recreational and cultural activities. Attractive learning/teaching material will be provided. Dedicated and well trained instructors will be deployed. Improved learning atmosphere and good arrangements for continuing education will be ensured.

- (ii) Systematic efforts will be made to secure people's participation through media and communication, creation of local level participatory structures, taking out of Jatthas, training of cadres of youth etc.
- (iii) Involvement of voluntary agencies for spread of the programme, for training and technical resource development, experimentation and innovation etc. will be significantly increased. Diverse methods will be employed for identification of suitable agencies and procedures of financial assistance will be streamlined.
- (iv) Existing programmes will be continued but their quality improved by application of proven Science & Technology inputs, better supervision, suitable training, pedagogical innovations, etc.
- (v) Mass programme of functional literacy will be launched with the help of youth, teachers, housewives employers, workers, etc.
- (vi) Post-literacy and continuing education will be institutionalised through establishment of Jan Shikshan Nilayams. Better use will be made of existing institutional facilities to enlarge the scope of adult education.
- (vii) The structure of technical resource development at the national, state as well as district levels will ensure that material of good quality become widely available.
- (viii) Technology demonstration will be undertaken in 40 districts for

development, transfer and application of techno-pedagogic inputs. The results will be evaluated for application beyond 40 districts.

- (ix) An effective Mission Management System will be established.
- (x) A computerised management information system will be instituted to ensure reliable and steady flow of information needed for improvement in management at all levels.
- (d) According to 1981 census, the literacy rate in India was 36.23 per cent for all age groups. For age group of 15-35 data about literacy was not specifically compiled. However, on projections made it is estimated that literacy in the age-group of 15-35 is about 50 per cent and the highest literacy rate is in Kerala.

**Class IV employees of Nehru Yuval Kendras**

**972. SHRI SURESH KURUP :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether about 500 Class IV employees of Nehru Yuval Kendras in the country are likely to lose their jobs;
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken or taken by Government to protect their service or to provide them with alternative jobs; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and what would be the fate of these employees ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :**

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**[Translation]**

**Conversion of Moradabad-Ramnagar Railway line**

**973. SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will

the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any date has been fixed to complete the gauge conversion work on the remaining part of Moradabad-Ramnagar Railway line; and

(b) if so, the time by which the work on the remaining part will be completed and the amount of expenditure proposed to be incurred for the purpose during this year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). The work is planned to be completed by the end of June, 1988. Rs. 1.56 crores have been provided for expenditure during 1987-88.

#### Winsor forest

974. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from Uttar Pradesh Government for declaring Winsor forest area in Almorah as sanctuary; and

(b) if so, whether views of the local administration of this area have been sought in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STAIE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) No Sir. Under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 the State Government is empowered to declare and establish a Sanctuary.

(b) Does not arise.

#### [English]

#### Hostel for Safdarjung Hospital Nurses

975. CHOWDHRY AKHTAR HASAN : SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the hostel for nurses in the Safdarjung Hospital is lying vacant and if so, since when; and

(b) the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b) The newly constructed building meant as Hostel for Nurses is still to be handed over to the Safdarjung Hospital by the CPWD for want of 'No Objection' Certificate from the N.D.M.C.

#### [Translation]

Employment to persons trained by D.T.C.

976. CHOWDHRY AKHTAR HASAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons imparted training by the Delhi Transport Corporation every year;

(b) the number of those persons who after having been trained by the D.T.C. have not been provided any employment so far;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide employment to such persons; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (d). During the last 3 years, D.T.C imparted training to 5551 persons prior to appointment as Conductors and Drivers. Out of these, 1817 persons trained for appointment as Conductors are awaiting appointment. They will be considered for appointment as soon as vacancies occur.

#### [English]

#### Metro Railways

977. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in regard to the construction of Metro Railway in Calcutta;

(b) when this project is likely to be completed;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct such railway in other big cities also;

(d) if so, the names of those cities which have been selected for this purpose; and

(e) whether the survey work has been started ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) 66.5 per cent (upto 30-9-1987).

(b) By December, 1990 subject to the availability of funds and the State Government handing over physical possession of 13 plots of land immediately.

(c) There is no such approved proposal.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

#### Electrification of Railways Tracks

**978. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : SHRI V. S. VIJAYA-**

**RAGHAVAN :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the total length of rail tracks which have been electrified so far in the country with zone-wise break-up ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** Details of total route Kms (Zone-wise) electrified upto October, 1987, are as under :

	Route Kms.
Central Railway	1142
Eastern Railway	1244
Northern Railway	876
Southern Railway	595
South Central Railway	597
South Eastern Railway	1989
Western Railway	1301
Total	7739

#### Indian vessels hit in the Gulf

**979. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian ships which were hit in the Gulf in the Iran-Iraq war during September and October, 1987;

(b) the total loss suffered by the various Indian Shipping Companies as a result thereof;

(c) whether there were any casualties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH FILOT) :** (a) One ship MT SPIC EMERALD' was hit on 2.10.87.

(b) The estimated loss suffered by the vessel will be known only after vessel is dry docked.

(c) and (d). There was no loss of life or injury to any crew.

#### Visit of Iranian Delegation

**980. DR. B. L. SHAILESH :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iran is believed to have received its interest in Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd. which it abandoned midway seven years ago;

(b) whether any Iranian official level Delegation visited India for holding discussion with the Indian authorities;

(c) if so, what were the issues which figured in the talks; and

(d) what was the Iranian Government's reaction to the disbursement of the balance amount for the project which it had originally committed under a financial agreement ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) Discussions with Iran on the issues arising out of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project have been continuing for the past several years, and another round of discussions in this series was held recently.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Amongst the issues discussed were the Financial Agreement and the Sales & Purchase Contract which were entered into with Iran in 1975. The discussions also covered possible adjustments in the financing arrangements in respect of the loan already given by Iran and the possibility of off-take of iron ore concentrate from Kudremukh.

(d) Certain points in regard to some of the terms and conditions of the Financial Agreement remained unresolved and therefore the possibility of further disbursements being made by Iran at this point of time appears to be remote.

#### Pollution of Bombay Harbour Water

**981. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Bombay harbour water is being polluted due to heavy seepage of oil from the pipelines of Hindustan Petroleum or Bharat Petroleum;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action to identify the source of this leakage so as to plug the leakage;

(c) whether the port authorities of Bombay had submitted any proposal to Government to permit them to purchase pollution control equipment vessel;

(d) if so, the action taken on the proposal ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) The Government is aware that the waters of Bombay Port do get polluted from various sources including ships, industries and oil refineries.

(b) It is difficult to indentify the exact source of pollution.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The technical specifications of the vessel were scrutinized and certain modifications were found necessary. One of the tenderers also increased the price quoted earlier necessitating a fresh evaluation of the price offers.

#### Free Education to girls upto High School

**982. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to consider to impart free education to girls upto high school level throughout the country;

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

(c) the names of the States which have adopted the system of providing free education to girls in their state upto high school level ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) to (c). Education of girls upto class VIII was already free in all the Government, Local Body and aided schools in the country. Government have further made girl's education free upto class XII in all such institutions in the country. A scheme of 'Reimbursement of instituition free charged from girls in classes IX-XII to States/Union Territories' has been in force from 1985-86. Funds for making education free for girls are being reimbursed to States/UTs from whom the proposals are received.

#### Pay scales of Ayurvedic and Allopathic Doctors

**983. DR. SUDHIR ROY :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Ayurvedic practitioners working under Union Government; and

(b) whether their pay scales are equal to Allopathic doctors ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) As per information available, there are 104 Ayurvedic Physicians in various Hospitals/Dispensaries under the Union Government. Out of these, 73 Physicians are working under Central Government Health Scheme and 31 Physicians are working under the Labour Welfare Organisation.

(b) No, Sir. However, the Fourth Pay Commission have recommended that the Degree holders in Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Systems of medicine should have the same pay scales i. e. Rs. 2200-4000 as recommended for M.B.B.S. Doctors under the Central Health Service pattern.

**Allocation and expenditure on Improvement of National Highways**

**984. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have enhanced allocation towards improvement of National Highways;

(b) if so, the allocation made to different States and Union Territories for improvement of various National Highways during 1987-88 State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) The details of the amount spent on the improvement of National Highways during 1986-87 ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During 1986-87, an expenditure of Rs. 277.81 crores has been reported by the State/Union Territory Govts. on the development of National Highways.

**Development Proposals of National Highways in Kerala**

**985. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the proposals for development of National Highways in Kerala which are pending sanction with Union Government; and

(b) the measures being taken to expedite clearance of the proposals ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) and (b). The development of National Highways, which is a central subject, is a continuous process. At present, about 8 estimates pertaining to original works for development for National Highways in Kerala are under various stages of scrutiny.

**Social Forestry Scheme**

**986. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA CHANDRAN :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the area to be covered, the total estimated cost, the sources of funds and the types of trees/plantations to be grown under the new social forestry scheme; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to ensure equal/equitable distribution of benefits of the scheme to all States/Union Territories ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) The details of the area covered under the Afforestation Programme during 1987-88 are :

1. Area proposed to be covered 1.9 million hectares.
2. The total Plan Outlay which includes the funds under the Centrally

sponsored scheme of National Wastelands Development Board and Rural Development Department and the funds provided by the State Government are Rs. 483 Crores indicated in the Annual Plan outlay for 1987-88 for Afforestation Programme.

3. Under the Social Forestry Programme, Fodder, Fuelwood as well as fruit bearing and small timber type of trees are planted.

(b) The Centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented equitably in all the States. The Social Forestry Projects in fourteen States are also receiving external assistance. New Projects for external assistance received from the State Governments are also considered on the basis of their techno-economic feasibility and these are posed from time to time for external assistance.

#### Dharwa-Bhokar Railway Line

988. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost of construction of Dharwa-Pusar-Bhokar railway line; and

(b) when the work is likely to be undertaken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Cost of the project will be estimated on completion of the survey, already in progress.

(b) Decision in regard to the project will be considered on completion of the survey, depending on financial implications of the project and availability of resources.

#### Container Facilities in Cochin Port

989. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for second stage development of container facilities in Cochin Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Asian Development Bank is willing to give financial assistance for this project; and

(d) if so, whether the proposal has been finally cleared by the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal envisages development of facilities for catering to deep draughted gearless vessels, consisting of deepening and strengthening of existing quay wall, extension of container yard, construction of new container freight station, providing railway yard, provision of 2 Nos. quay side gantry cranes, 2 Nos. additional transfer cranes, 19 tractor heads, 16 trailers and 15 Nos. forklifts,

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal is under the consideration of Government.

#### Amendments to Banaras Hindu University Act

990. DR. A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) when Government received the recommendations of the University Grants Commission and the Report of the Committee set up by the Commission to suggest amendments to the Banaras Hindu University Act; and

(b) the important recommendations and main features of the report along with the follow-up action taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) The Report of the Committee set up by the University Grants Commission under the Convenership of Prof. M. V. Mathur to suggest amendments to the Banaras Hindu University Act and the views of the

Commission thereon have been received by the Government on 20th July, and 24th July, 1987, respectively.

(b) The important recommendations of the Committee are as follows :

- (i) The departments should be regrouped into a number of autonomous institutes with adequate academic, administrative and financial powers by suitably bringing together existing faculties/departments/centres. The Central office of the University should only perform the essential coordinating and unifying role.
- (ii) Each institute should be headed by a Director, appointed by the Executive Council on the recommendation of Vice-Chancellor.
- (iii) Each Institute should have a Board of Management presided over by the Vice-Chancellor. This Board should have all responsibilities for Institute's administrative and financial matters.
- (iv) Each institute should have its own Institute Council.
- (v) Institutes should have autonomy linked with accountability as per guidelines laid down by the Executive Council. The autonomy should be not only for academic matters, but also for administrative (including appointments of relevant staff etc.) and financial matters including expenditure against the approved budget by the Executive Council.
- (vi) Admission to under-graduate classes should be restricted to a limited number of meritorious students. Admissions to post-graduate courses and at research level should be made on the basis of an entrance test. The University may, however, reserve 50 per cent of the intake to the graduates of Banaras Hindu University who possess minimum prescribed qualification and qualify in the entrance test.

- (vii) The Faculties and Departments should be re-organised. The Dean of the Faculty may be re-designated as the Chairman and the powers and functions to be exercised by him should be clearly defined. There should be further delegation of powers to the Departments.
- (viii) There should be three Rectors (Pro-Vice-Chancellors). Similarly, there should be more than one post of Registrar.
- (ix) The Court of the University should be deleted.
- (x) A provision should be made that the Visitor shall appoint Review Committees once in every 10 years.
- (xi) The Governor of Uttar Pradesh should be the Chancellor of the University.
- (xii) The Selection Committee for the Vice-Chancellor should be prescribed by the Act (the proposed Committee should consist of one nominee of the Executive Council, the Chairman, University Grants Commission or his nominee, and a nominee of the Visitor).
- (xiii) The Vice-Chancellor should have a five year term with no provision for re-appointment.
- (xiv) The emergency powers of the Vice-Chancellor and his right to get decisions of various bodies reviewed by the Visitor should be on the lines of the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act.
- (xv) A Planning Board should be constituted as the Principal Planning Body of the University.
- (xvi) The composition of the Executive Council should be restricted to 13 members and prescribed by the Act itself.
- (xvii) The composition of the Academic Council should be considerably

reduced and also be prescribed by the Act.

(xviii) There should be a machinery for joint consultation for the teaching as well as the non-teaching staff on the pattern of joint consultative machinery in the Government of India.

(xix) A consultative Committee for students at the Institute level (with faculty Advisors) should be provided for.

The matter is under consideration.

#### Curtailing of Mining of Manganese

991 SHRI YESHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to curtail mining of manganese ore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Payment to Dismissed Staff by DTC

992. SHRIMATI N. P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Delhi Transport Corporation is paying Rs. 20 lakh every year to 300 dismissed staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT : (a) to (c). There is no provision under DTC Rules for payment of wages to any dismissed employee. However, the services of about 150 employees were terminated by the management of DTC in the interest of

service under regulation 9(b) of the DRTA (Conditions of Appointment & Service) Regulations, 1950. The Writ Petitions were filed on behalf of the dismissed employees in the Delhi High Court against orders of termination. The Delhi High Court struck down clause 9(b) of the service Regulations as ultra-vires by its judgement dated 14.5.1986 and awarded payment of full salaries to these employees pending final disposal of the writ petitions. Hence in pursuance of the Court orders the Delhi Transport Corporation have been paying wages to the dismissed employees.

The DTC have filed Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court of India against the judgement of the High Court and the same has been admitted.

#### Use of Ultrasound to Remove Tumours

993. SHRIMATI N. P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 24 October, 1987 wherein it is stated that Austrian scientists have invented a new technique by which ultrasound can be used to remove tumours located below the surface of the brain; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the new item.

(b) The technique referred to it carried out by an equipment known as Cavitron Ultrasonic Surgical Aspirator (CUSA). This is a wellknown technique being used for a decade. It is already in use at five Centres in India viz. G.B. Pant Hospital, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Jaslok Hospital, Bombay and National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, Bangalore.

**Steel Production**

**994. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of pig iron, ingots and saleable steel during the first three quarters of 1987;

(b) the details of production plantwise in both public & private sector;

(c) whether there has been a slackening of demand during the last two quarters and stocks accumulated; and

(d) if so, the present position of accumulated stocks ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) and (b). Plantwise details of production of Pig iron, ingots and saleable steel during first three quarters of 1987 are given below :—

Plant	('000 tonnes)		
	Pig iron for sale	Ingot Steel	Saleable Steel
Bhilai	185.7	1741.6	1629.1
Durgapur	124.6	695.6	622.8
Rourkela	45.3	741.2	834.0
Bokaro	507.0	1730.8	1426.0
IISCO	76.2	393.8	394.7
<b>TOTAL (SAIL)</b>	<b>938.8</b>	<b>5303.0</b>	<b>4906.6</b>
TISCO	—	1719.8	1433.3
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>938.8</b>	<b>7022.8</b>	<b>6339.6</b>

(c) There has been no slackening of demand during the last two quarters. Sale of saleable steel (of main producers) for the period April, 1987 to September, 1987 is higher 4.6 lakhs tonnes as compared with the sales during the corresponding period last year.

The increase in stock of saleable steel and pig iron with the main producers is marginal as compared to the stocks held during the same period last year.

(d) The stock of saleable steel and pig iron held by main producers as on 1.10.1987 is as follows :—

	(Provisional)	('000 tonnes)
Main producers	Saleable Steel	Pig Iron
SAIL	801.0	70.6
IISCO	28.2	7.0
TISCO	109.2	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>938.4</b>	<b>77.6</b>

**Freight Operations Information System**

**995. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been decided to import hardware and software for Freight Operation Information System (FOIS) in the Railways;

(b) if so, the scope of the project, indigenous participation and details thereof;

(c) the details of all those who have offered technology with their country of origin and experience;

(d) whether Government have finally chosen the technology for the system, or at what stage of consideration it is;

(e) whether any Budget allocation has been made and how the Ministry propose to finance the package; and

(f) whether the Department of Electronics had submitted any proposals in this regard and, if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) and (b). The Freight Operations Information System (FOIS) on IR will be an on-line, real-time computer network comprising a Central and many Zonal Systems. Hardware and Software for the Central system are planned to be imported. The Zonal systems are planned to be developed with maximum indigenous effort.

(c) and (d). Canadian and British Rail systems were identified for the Central segment, of which the Canadian system was finally selected.

(e) Yes, Sir. Budget allocations have been made for the Project. The project has also been posed to the World Bank for assistance.

(f) Department of Electronics had suggested a few alternative solutions for implementation of the project. A mutually agreed configuration has since been finalised by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), an organisation entrusted with the task of design, development and implementation of the project.

#### Bombay-Mangalore railway line

**996. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the budget allocation, if any, provided for Bombay-Mangalore railway line in 1987-88;

(b) construction undertaken in 1987-88; and

(c) whether Government are considering to expedite the proposal in the light of recommendations of various committee in the past and acutaly felt need of the people of the region ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) :** (a) to (c).

1. New rail line upto Roha was commissioned in 3/86. For residual work on this new line allotment in 1987-88 is Rs. 57 lakhs.

2. Proposal for Mangalore-Udipi line has been forwarded to Planning Commission for consideration and clearance.

3. Surveys to evaluate the Mangalore-Roha rail line as a whole have been taken up to consider further action, depending on the results of survey and availability of resources.

#### Free Medical Aid to Children

**997. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide free medical aid to children below the age of 5 years in the country;

(b) if so, when the facility will be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) to (c). Free medical aid is being provided to all children in the rural and urban areas through the health infrastructure of the Government.

#### Introduction of an Express Train between Sambalpur and Bhubaneswar

**998. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for introduction of an express train between Sambalpur and Bhubaneswar in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Setting up of University of Medical Sciences at Bangalore**

**999. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to set up a University of Medical Sciences at Bangalore in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the above proposal is to be implemented during the current financial year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Any such proposal involving large financial implications will have to be considered in depth before taking a decision.

**Incentives to the Steel Ingot Manufacturers**

**1000. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has granted some incentives to the Steel ingot manufacturers;

(b) if so, the date from which such incentives have been granted; and

(c) the details of the incentives granted to the steel casting units ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) to (b). Yes, Sir. Liberalised Licensing policy of Government for steel ingot manufacturers introduced in 1983-84 provides for substantial expansion upto a minimum of 100% and 150% of their existing licensing capacity, provided the unit achieved 80% and 110%

production respectively of their licenced capacity during any of the previous 2 years. In addition, since 1986 all such units are permitted to expand to the Minimum Economic capacity of 10 000 tonnes per annum. Further to improve economic viability and give flexibility to the ingot steel manufacturers, they are allowed to freely diversify into production of all grades of carbon and alloy steel since 1983-84.

Besides above, steel ingot manufacturers are allowed to import melting scrap at a concessional rate of custom duty, which is 20% ad valorem since December, 1986.

(c) Steel casting units who were licensed or registered prior to 30th January, 1981, are allowed to diversify into manufacture of steel ingots upto 25% of their licensed capacity. In addition from 21.10.1987 steel casting units which have installed electric Arc Furnace of 15 tonnes capacity and above have been allowed to manufacture steel ingots/billets provided they adopt modern technological measures which include ultra high power furnace with oxy-fuel burners, water-cooled panels, water-cooled roofs, scrap pre heating equipment, equipment for continuous feeding of sponge iron, ladle refining unit etc.

**DTC Objection to Grant of STA Permits to Private Buses**

**1001. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ :** Will the MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private buses with STA permits plying in Delhi on or parallel to DTC routes and since when;

(b) the number of times the DTC took objection to the grant of the permits and the reasons for ignoring the protest of the DTC; and

(c) the total amount of loss suffered by the DTC since January, 1987 to date with reasons thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) Delhi Administration has intimated that 427

buses under STA permits have been plying on Delhi routes, as below :—

<i>Category</i>	<i>No. of buses since when</i>
1. General Category	120 1951
2. Asiad Group	145 1981
3. Unemployed Graduate Scheme	93 1985
4. Ex-servicemen Scheme	51 1985
5. SC/ST	18 1985

(b) DTC, as a public sector Corporation entrusted with the responsibility of providing transport services to commuters in Delhi, has been filing its objections to the grant of permits to private operators, as and when the State Transport Authority has been publicising the facts of applications under the provisions of Section 57 (3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939.

The Delhi Administration have intimated that they had formulated schemes for ameliorating the economic conditions of certain categories of persons like unemployed graduates, SC/ST, ex-servicemen, etc. and also for increasing passenger transport services and considering that the DTC needs to be assisted to enhance the services, the State Transport Authority granted permits, after duly taking into account the objections raised by DTC.

(c) The total working loss (excluding depreciation and interest charges) of DTC for the period from January, 1987 to September, 1987 amounted to Rs. 28.00 crores. Its losses are mainly due to increased cost of operations on account of rapidly rising cost of inputs, in addition to the factors of comparatively low fare-structure and concessional travel passes to students and residents of resettlement colonies.

**[Translation]**

**Proposal to Open New Nehru Yuvak Kendras**

**1002. SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for opening Nehru Yuvak Kendra's during present plan period in every district; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has since established an autonomous organisation called Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan for administration and management of the scheme of Nehru Yuva Kendras. The Sangathan has drawn up a plan for opening new Nehru Yuva Kendras in the years 19. 7-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 so as to cover all the districts of the country under the scheme of Nehru Yuva Kendras.

**[English]**

**"Freedom 40" Organised by the Sports Authority of India**

**1003. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sports Authority of India organised 'Freedom 40'. run;

(b) the objective of this event; and

(c) the expenditure incurred and in what way it was a boost of sports ?

**THE MINIS1ER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :** (a) to (c). The Sports Authority of India assisted the States and Union Territory Administration in organising "Freedom 40" Runs, on the pattern of Sport-Aid Runs, as a part of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of India's independence. Mass participation in these runs will be of help in broadbasing sports consciousness, apart from promoting national integration.

A total of approximately Rs. 5.67 lakhs has been incurred by Sports Authority of India so far on various items/arrangements for these runs.

**Sports Protocol with German Democratic Republic**

**1004. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a sports protocol has been signed with German Democratic Republic; and

(b) if so, the details and modalities thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below :

The Sports Protocol *inter-alia* provides for—(i) Grant of scholarships fellowships for training and further education in G.D.R. in track and field, weight lifting sports sociology, volleyball, wrestling football and general theory and methodologies of training; (ii) Deputation of G.D.R. Sports Science Experts for short durations in the areas of biomechanics, exercise physiology sports traumatology, sports cardiology and functional diagnostics for working in the National Institute of Sport and experts in the area of 'Sports for all' and 'Mass Sports' for working in the Lakshmibai National College of Physical Education; (iii) Sending of G.D.R. Sports Coaches for a period of one year each in apparatus gymnastics (with possibility of extension for one more year), swimming, track and field and judo; (iv) Deputation from India of sports teams in athletics, women's hockey, men's volleyball and gymnastics and possible participation of a G.D.R. football team in the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Football Tournament; (v) Deputation of a G.D.R. fencing adviser for three months; and (vi) Supply of sports films on video cassettes by G.D.R.

2. The various items included in the Protocol will be implemented by mutual consultations and in accordance with the financial terms agreed upon by both the sides.

3. The results achieved in the realisation of this Protocol will be evaluated as well as negotiations on measures of cooperation in the years 1990-91 held in the last quarter of 1989.

**Kendriya Vidyalayas in Andhra Pradesh**

**1005. SHRI V. TULSIRAM :**  
**SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU :**

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

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of Kendriya Vidyalayas in the State of Andhra Pradesh as compared to other States in the country;

(b) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Union Government to open more Kendriya Vidyalayas in the State, if so, when and the locations thereof; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for Kendriya Vidyalayas in Andhra Pradesh during Seventh Plan ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) There are 33 Kendriya Vidyalayas located in Andhra Pradesh. Kendriya Vidyalayas are set up in areas, having a large concentration of transferable Central Government employees to cater to the educational need of their children. As such geographical consideration is not one of the criteria for setting up these schools.

(b) Three Kendriya Vidyalayas at Vijayawada (Satnarayanapuram), Tirupati and Bowanpally (Secunderabad) have been sanctioned to be opened in 1987-88.

(c) The expenditure on Kendriya Vidyalayas is met from out of the grant released to the Kendriya Vidyalayas Sangathan from the non-plan budget of the Government of India. Accordingly, the question of allocation for Kendriya Vidyalayas during the Seventh Plan did not arise.

## [Translation]

## Appointment of Lady Teachers

**1006. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have introduced a scheme of giving 80 per cent financial assistance for the appointment of lady teachers for the universalisation of primary education;

(b) if so, the number of lady teachers for the appointment of which Union Government propose to provide financial assistance to Madhya Pradesh under the aforesaid scheme during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether it is a fact that lady teachers do not stay in rural areas due to the non-provision of housing facilities there; and

(d) if so, whether funds are being granted to Government of Madhya Pradesh to make a provision of houses for lady teachers in the rural area ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) and (b). For increasing the enrolment of girls, a centrally sponsored scheme of financial assistance to 9 educationally backward States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for appointment of women teachers in primary schools on 80:20 Centre State sharing basis was implemented from 1983-84 to 1986-87.

Financial assistance for appointment of teachers preferably women, is being continued for the remaining years of the Seventh Plan under Operation Blackboard, with 100% assistance. The number of teachers to be appointed would be calculated yearly by Madhya Pradesh and would cover the requirement of single teacher primary schools in that state.

(c) Government is aware of the problem of housing for teachers, especially lady teachers.

(d) No, Sir.

## Rural Electrification Programme

**1007. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-clearance of projects from environment angle has caused great delay in implementation of Rural Electrification Programme; and

(b) if so, the remedial action taken in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) and (b). No, Sir.

All development projects including hydel and thermal power are decided within 3 months of furnishing complete environmental details. No specific project on Rural Electrification has so far been referred to this Ministry for environmental approval.

## [English]

## Compensation for Land Acquired for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

**1008 SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA-MURTHY :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of displaced persons whose land was acquired and who were provided with jobs in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant so far and how many more persons are likely to be absorbed in the current and the next financial years;

(b) whether the rate of compensation per acre of dry and wet land since acquired for the steel plant has now been increased or intended to be increased and if so, to what extent and when;

(c) whether Government have agreed to withdraw the appeal pending before the Court as suggested by the Andhra Pradesh Government by giving suitable directives to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant authorities; and

(d) whether the compensation is now intended to be at market rate as per the decision of the High Court ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) :** (a) By 30. 9. 87, 223<sup>1</sup> displaced persons, whose land was acquired, have been provided with jobs in Visakhapatnam Steel Project. Further

employment will depend upon the requirements of the project and availability of suitable candidates amongst displaced persons.

(b) The central Government has approved enhanced rates of compensation as indicated below :

Category of land	Earlier rate	Enhanced rate
Dry land	Rs. 1050—Rs. 1270 per acre	Rs. 17,000/- per acre
Wet land	Rs. 1890—Rs. 2500 per acre	Rs. 20,000/- per acre
Village site	Rs. 2.7—Rs. 4 per sq. Yd.	Rs. 6/- per sq. Yd

(c) The withdrawal of appeal pending in the Supreme Court will depend upon the progress in settlement of compensation claims through the Lok Adalats.

(d) The revised rates of compensation are based on recommendation by the Andhra Pradesh Government after negotiations with the displaced persons.

**Shortcoming in Display 'Tryst with Destiny'**

**1009. SHRI MOHD MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Archives of India's theme of its current display "Tryst with Destiny", the story of India's freedom struggle has not evoked much public response because various important events during the freedom struggle are missing from the display;

(b) if so, whether Government have critically examined the display to remove the shortcomings, if any, to evoke public response; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND**

**CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) and (b). In the exhibition entitled 'Tryst with Destiny', documents and photographs on a wide spectrum of our freedom struggle have been mounted. It covers a period of about 200 years and displays significant and important documents of major events and personalities of this glorious period. However the exhibition does not claim to be exhaustive to cover all the events or people. Public response to it has been encouraging. The exhibition has been visited by a large cross section of people including scholars, historians, journalists, students and eminent public men.

(c) Does not arise.

**Central Sector Forests**

**1010. SHRI MANIK REDDY :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the names of forests under Central Sector, State-wise ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** There are no such forests.

**New Railway Lines**

**1011. SHRI RANJIT SINGH**

**GAEKWAD :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the proposals for construction of new railway lines, likely to be considered at the time of mid-term review of Seventh Plan;
- (b) the estimated amount required to be spent for the purpose; and
- (c) the funds required for the proposals of construction of new lines in the Western Railway ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :** (a) to (c). At the time of mid-term review, the allocation of funds for construction of new lines is being examined alongwith the allocations under all the other plan heads. The proposals have not been finalised as yet.

**Computerised Monitor to Help Stop Smoking**

**1012. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether American Health Foundation, New York has developed some computerised monitor to help the smokers to stop smoking; and
- (b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to study this technology ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) and (b). The Ministry of Health is not aware of any such development.

**Provision of Ambulance Vans to Delhi Hospitals**

**1013. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether several ambulances have been provided to various Central Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of vans provided to each such hospital;

(c) whether vans are fitted with medical equipments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the charges being taken from patients in case these ambulance vans are provided in dire casualties ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir 22 ambulances are available with the three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi viz. (1) Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital—10, (2) Safdarjang Hospital—9, (3) Lady Hardinge Medical College & Smt S. K. Hospital—3.

(c) and (d). Certain medical equipments such as Oxygen Cylinder, First Aid Box, Stretcher, Defibrillator, Drugs etc. are fitted in the ambulances to meet the emergent requirement of the patients.

(e) No charges are required to be paid in dire casualties and disasters.

**Purchase of Nizam's Jewels by Government**

**1014 DR. T. KALPANA DEVI :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to buy certain collections of jewels belonging to erstwhile Nizam of Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details of jewels proposed to be bought and the cost involved in each jewel;

(c) the specific purpose for buying these jewels; and

(d) the arrangement which have been made for safety and riskfree availability of these jewels in the National Museum ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND**

**CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) to (d). The proposal of acquisition of Nizam's jewels is under adjudication in the Court of Law. Further action in the matter will be taken in the light of judgment of the Court.

**Inclusion of Occupational Diseases in total Health Programme**

**1015. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have drawn up Total Health Programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether arrangements have been made for treatment of occupational diseases in Total Health Programme;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following on-going health programmes have been drawn up and are being implemented :—

1. National Malaria Eradication Programme.
2. National Leprosy Eradication Programme.
3. National T. B. Control Programme.
4. National Filaria Control Programme.
5. Diarrhoeal Diseases Control Programme.
6. National Programme for Prevention of Visual Impairment and Control of Blindness.
7. National Goitre Control Programme.
8. Sexually Transmitted Diseases Control Programme.

9. Expanded Programme on Immunization.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) As per the present arrangement, the occupational diseases are being treated alongwith other general diseases.

(e) The Directorate General of Health Services under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare do not have any specialised institution to treat occupational diseases. However, under the Ministry of Labour, there are a few Institutions/Organisations like E. S. I. C., Mining Hospital and institutional hospitals which take up such cases. The National Institute of Occupational Health (ICMR) at Ahmedabad has planned feasibility study to deliver occupational health care through primary health centre to serve as a model.

(f) The question does not arise.

**Sale of Poisonous Wheat Flour in Kashmir**

**1016. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that poisonous wheat flour is on sale in Kashmir Valley;
- (b) whether the entire stock of wheat flour has been seized or its sale banned; and
- (c) whether Union Government have given any directions to the State Government in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) and (b). It is not a fact that poisonous wheat flour is on sale in Kashmir valley. However, some stock suspected to be adulterated wheat in local mills have been seized by the State Authorities and appropriate action is being taken under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

(c) No, Sir, there are already provisions under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act to seize the stock suspected to be

adulterated and to take penal action for selling adulterated food stuffs.

**New DTC Bus Routes**

**1017. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation has introduced several new routes since January 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the existing routes do not have sufficient buses to cater the over-crowding;

(d) whether buses on the existing routes are not maintaining frequency as per instructions and are regularly missing trips causing over crowding on each trip; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps proposed ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Twenty new bus routes have been introduced since January 1987 by D.T.C. as per details given in the statement given below.

(c) to (e). Loading surveys are carried out by DTC from time to time and in case of inadequacy of service and operational deficiency, the services are augmented and deficiencies removed as far as possible. The measures to improve efficiency in the DTC are taken on a continuous basis. Some of the measures adopted are replacement of over-aged buses, development of infrastructural facilities like depots and terminals, prescription of norms and targets for various performance parameters, refresher training of crew, mobile squads to check behaviour, speedy repair and maintenance of fleet etc.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Route No.	Date of introduction	Description
1	2	3	4
1.	435	01.01.87	Sukhdev Vihar to New Delhi Rly. Stn.
2.	471	15.06.87	Greater Kailash to Super Bazar.
3.	462	24.09.87	Saket to Red Fort.
4.	LTD.	25.10.87	Sangam Cinema to Super Bazar.
5.	961	11.01.87	Narela to Nangloi.
6.	945	18.04.87	Keshav Puram to Safdarjung Terminal.
7.	103	12.09.87	Narela to Railway Station.
8.	999 (—)/(+)	18.10.87	Avantika Rohini-Avantika Rohini.
9.	349	30.03.87	Mayur Vihar-II to Kendriya Trml.
10.	248	10.04.87	Jobri Pur Village to Mori Gate Trml.
11.	363	16.09.87	Noida Sector-6 to Maurice Nagar.
12.	251	26.09.87	Dilshad Garden to Mori Gate Trml.
13.	356	26.09.87	Sukh Vihar to Mori Gate Terminal.
14.	263	12.10.87	Jawahar Nagar to I.S.B.T.
15.	365	01.11.87	Shalimar Park to Maurice Nagar.
16.	588	01.10.87	Tilak Nagar to J.L. Nehru Stadium.
17.	783	05.10.87	Najaf Garh to S. Bhagat Singh Trml.
18.	735	28.10.87	Madhu Vihar to Safdarjung Trml.
19.	724	28.10.87	Uttam Nagar Trml. to Nebru Place Trml.
20.	793	02.11.87	Vikas Puri H. Blk. to Ambedkar Stadium

**Pollution causing units in Orissa**

**1018. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government are aware that public sector units in Orissa have not taken adequate pollution control measures;
- (b) if so, the names of the such units;
- (c) whether Sponge Iron Plant, Palashpanga and Bileipada public sector units are some of the polluting industrial units;
- (d) if so, the action initiated against these units; and
- (e) the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The public sector units which have not taken adequate pollution control measures are : 1. Rourkela Steel Plant, 2. Fertiliser Plant (SAIL), Rourkela, 3. Aska Cooperative Sugar and Distillery units, 4. Bargarh Cooperative Sugar Industries, 5 Talecher Thermal Power Station, 6. Heera Cement, Bargarh, 7. Fertiliser Corporation of India Ltd., Talcher, 8. East Coast Breweries and Distillery, Paradeep, 9. Orissa Textile Mills Ltd., Chaudwar, 10. Cooperative Sugar Industries Ltd., Nayagarh, 11. Orissa Sponge Iron, Palaspanga, 12. IPI-Tata Sponge Iron, Bileipada, 13. IPI Steel limited, Denkanal and 14. IPI SP Cement, Sundargarh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The industries have been directed by the State Pollution Control Board to comply with the pollution control measures on a time-bound basis.

**Electrification of Mysore-Bangalore route**

**1019. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a proposal to electrify the railway route between Mysore and Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the estimated cost and the time by which the work is likely to be completed ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Setting up of Regional Institute for Indian System of Medicine for Southern States**

**1020. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has suggested to set up a regional Institute for the Indian systems of medicine for the Southern States to serve as a research centre; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) and (b) No proposal of the Government of Karnataka for setting up a Regional Institute for Indian System of Medicine for the Southern States to serve as a research centre has been received. However, a proposal of the Government of Karnataka for establishment of a Special Research Unit "All India Institute of Indian Medicine Research Centre" at Bangalore was received recently. No such scheme is approved in Seventh Five Year Plan so it will not be possible to establish such an Institute.

**Satyamangalam-Chamrajanagar railway line**

**1021. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the time by which the construction work of Satyamangalam-Chamrajanagar railway line would start ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** Construction of Satyamangalam-Chamrajanagar railway line is not proposed at present.

**Doubling and Electrification of Bangalore-Jolarpettai Section**

**1022. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand for electrification and doubling of the railway line between Bangalore and Jolarpettai;

(b) the amount allocated during the current year for this purpose; and

(c) by what time doubling and electrification of this route is likely to be completed ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For electrification, Rs. 50 lakhs is provided. For residual expenses of Krishnarajapuram-Whitefield doubling, Rs. 5 Lakhs is provided.

(c) No target for electrification of the Jolarpettai-Bangalore section has been fixed so far. Doubling of remaining single line section between Whitefield and Kuppam has not yet been programmed. (The critical sections between Jolarpettai and Kuppam and between Whitefield and Bangalore have been doubled already).

**Academic restructuring of Indian institute of advanced studies**

**1023. DR. B. L. SHAILESH :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expert Committee under the chairmanship of prof. Krishna Kriplani had gone into the question of academic restructuring of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla and suggested some broad areas of research;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of its recommendations and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what other steps Government propose to take to make this Institute more effective and a centre of learning and specialisation in various disciplines ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) to (c). The Kriplani Committee had recommended that the Institute should be a residential centre for free and creative inquiry into fundamental themes and problems of life and thought. The Committee also suggested certain areas of study and research in the initial stages. These included Comparative Indian Literature (including ancient, medieval, modern, folk and tribal); Comparative Studies in Philosophy and Religion; Development of World thought; Education, Culture and Aesthetics; Fundamental concepts and problems of Logic and Mathematics; Fundamental concepts and problems of Natural Sciences; Indian Civilisation in the context of Asian neighbours; problems of contemporary India in the context of national integration and nation-building; and Social, Political and Economic Philosophy.

The Committee had also made recommendations for the reorganisation and restructuring of the Institute. These recommendations have been accepted and are being implemented. The Society and its Governing Body have been reconstituted. The terms and conditions of appointment of the Fellows have been revised. The Institute has been functioning on the lines recommended by the Committee since 1944-55.

**Posts of scientists for ad-hoc projects of Indian Council of Medical Research**

**1024. SHRI MANIK REDDY :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) at Delhi does not sanction the Scientists' Posts for its ad-hoc projects above the level of Research Officer;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this practice of Indian Council of Medical Research is in accord with the practice obtaining in Ministries/Departments and other organisations of Government of India ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) to (c). The Council normally does not provide scientific posts above the level of Research Officer for its ad-hoc research projects which are sanctioned after technical scrutiny of the research proposals received by the Council for financial assistance. These projects are of short duration of 3-5 years. For such projects, the Council provides Research Associates, Sr. Research Fellows, Jr. Research Fellows, on fixed stipend. This is keeping in view the practice followed in CSIR.

In addition, the Council is also supporting research projects under its Task Forces programmes (which are often multicentric in nature) in selected priority areas. There are a few Advanced Centres of Research also in which scientific posts of the level of Research Officer and sometimes Sr. Research Officers are provided in cases needing such posts for the proposed research work. The requirement is assessed by the Council in each case by the concerned Expert Group.

**Research studies regarding nutrition by National Institute of Nutrition**

**1025. SHRI MANIK REDDY :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) how many research studies in the area of nutrition particular reference to Tribals in India have been conducted by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad during the last three years;

(b) what are their findings; and

(c) what action of programmes have been formulated on the basis of the above findings ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** (a) The National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, conducted studies on the tribals of Madhya Pradesh. Tribals living in 3 districts namely Jhabua, Bastar and Surguja were surveyed for their socio-economic, health and nutritional status.

(b) The important findings are as follows :

about 1/3rd of population the conventional health facilities of Primary Health Centres and other centres including Ayurvedic and other systems were available within 5 km of the habitat. Utilisation of these services were relatively better in the district of Surguja and Jhabua (50 per cent) than Bastar (8 per cent). Surguja has the highest rate of sterilisation with 76 per cent as compared to 9.5 per cent in Jhabua and 3.1 per cent in Bastar. Prevalence of Malaria was more in Jhabua as compared to other districts. Overt cases of PEM namely kwashiorkor and marasmus, Vitamin A deficiency-Bitot spots and Angular stomatitis were conspicuous by their low prevalence. Goitre was highly endemic in Surguja (23.9 per cent). Prevalence of refractory error, cataract in older age group and corneal opacity in these groups was more in Bastar.

**Growth Studies :** Males and females of all ages from the 3 tribal areas were shorter and lighter than the well-to-do Indian counter parts. Severe growth retardation by weight for age (Gome classification) was 10 per cent in Jhabua and Bastar which is comparable to that in rural Madhya Pradesh. In Surguja it was much less (6.5 per cent). Certain demographic and socio-economic parameters like family size, illiteracy, migration and income suggested that Surguja was better compared to that of Jhabua and Bastar. Between Jhabua and Bastar, Bastar has poor socio-economic condition. Dietary pattern suggested that rice is a staple in Jhabua. The intake of most of the foods was less than recommended daily allowance (RDA) especially in Jhabua and Bastar. The intake of most of the nutrients was also less than the RDA in Jhabua and Bastar. The position of Surguja was relatively better than Jhabua and Bastar in this respect. Its results indicated that among the 3 tribal areas surveyed, Surguja had smaller family size, more nuclear families and less dependent population and tended to reflect a better demographic picture compared to other 2 areas. However, higher level job income and literacy being relatively better socio-economic conditions in Surguja are better than that of Bastar and Jhabua. Food consumption status in general appears better in Surguja compared to that of Bastar and

Jhabua. The reflection of this favourable condition is seeing better nourished pre-school children in Surguja where the percentage of 'wasted' and 'stunted' children were lower and those of 'normal' children higher as compared to Bastar and Jhabua. Compared to rural areas of M.P. (NNMB 75-79) only the children of Surguja were better.

(c) The survey recommendations have been formulated and forwarded to the Government of M.P. for necessary action :

**Recommendations :**

1. Improving the outreach through a strategy of having one trained PHC worker for 300-500 population as against 1 for 1000 population in India or elsewhere.
2. Should include treatment of medical problems in the on-going national health and nutritional programmes.
3. Appropriate support to the PHC worker at the periphery by the functioning of the PHC by providing middle level worker for staff of 4-5 health workers for continuous on the job training of the Primary Health Worker by the middle level workers.
4. Involvement of traditional heelers and traditional institutions, gokuls and Ashram schools in the health and nutritional programmes.
5. Distribution of iodised salt in Surguja and other endemic areas.
6. Institution of ICDS, MCH services for 500 population as against Anganwadi for 750-1000 in other areas.
7. Provision of school health services and mobile ophthalmic services to remote areas.

**Child abuse**

1026. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that child abuse is rising in the country according to the United Nations Children Education Fund; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to minimise child abuse in the country by Government ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :**

(a) In the Conference Report 'Children First' on the SAARC Conference on South Asian Children held in New Delhi on 27-29 October 1986 (which is not a document of the United Nations Children's Fund), a reference has been made to increasing child abuse in the countries of the region. There is also a reference in the UNICEF Annual Report 1987 to the rising incidence of child abuse in the developing world. These references are not focused on India as such.

(b) One form of child abuse that is increasing is the incidence of children at work. Several steps have been taken to deal with the problems of child labour as shown below :

- (i) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act was passed in December 1986 to prohibit the employment of children below 14 years in certain specified occupations and processes and to regulate the employment of children in other permitted employments.
- (ii) The National Child Labour Policy was formulated in August 1987, with the object of bringing certain facilities to children who are removed from work and children who work in permitted employments. These facilities could be in the shape of non-formal education, health care, vocational training, recreation facilities, and raising of the income of the families of child workers through poverty amelioration programme.
- (iii) Voluntary organisations in different parts of the country are given

financial assistance for taking up projects to benefit child workers.

The Government of India has also enacted the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 to check other forms of child abuse. The Act provides for punishment for offences in respect of juveniles like employment of juveniles for begging, giving intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances to juveniles and cruelty or exploitation of juveniles.

*[Translation]*

**Clearance of road project**

**1027. SHRI HARISH RAWAT** : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 95 per cent work on the Kathpuriya-Chhina-Seraghat motor road in Almora District of Uttar Pradesh had been completed before Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Union Ministry are not giving permission to cut trees from the remaining part of the sanctioned motor road pursuant to the said Act; and

(c) if so, the justification therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to remove resentment prevailing among the local people as a result of withholding necessary clearance ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI)** : (a) No, Sir. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 came into force on 25.10.1980 while the work on Kathpuriya-Chhina-Seraghat motor road in Almora District commenced in January 1982. The work was sanctioned subsequently on 11.3.1983 by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c). In view of the violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, the Government of Uttar Pradesh have been requested on 2nd March 1984 to intimate the action proposed to be taken in this case and steps taken to avoid recurrence of such violations of the Act. The proposal could not be decided upon for want of a

reply. The State Government is being reminded so as to expedite decision on the proposal.

*[English]*

**Proposals for improvement of Khakatraj and Khambataki Ghats on Pune-Kolhapur route**

**1028. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE** : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain proposals for improvement of Khakatraj Ghat and Khambataki Ghat on Pune-Kolhapur route have been received by Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether traffic rate on these Ghats has increased manifold;

(d) if so, the details of present traffic data;

(e) whether sanction to the proposal has been accorded;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT)** : (a) and (b). Only a preliminary proposal for improvement to 'Khambataki Ghat' on Pune-Kolhapur Section amounting to Rs. 6.34 crores envisaging widening to 4-lanes has been received.

(c) and (d). There is an increase in the traffic to the extent of 9 per cent on these Ghats between 1979 and 1985 which is considered normal.

(e) to (g). As this work is not included in the Seventh Five Year Plan, there is no proposal to sanction this work at present.

**Allocation to Regional Cancer Centre at Trivandrum**

**1029. SHRI SURESH KURUP** : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY

WELFARE be pleased to state : the allocation made by Union Government to the Regional Cancer Centre at Trivandrum and the actual amount utilised by it ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :** An allocation of Rs. 110.00 lakhs has been made to be given as Grant-in-aid to the Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum, during the Seventh Plan period. Out of this Rs. 25.00 lakhs has been released each year during 1985-86 and 1986-87. In addition an amount of Rs. 12.00 lakhs has been released to this Centre during 1986-87 for setting up of a Cobalt Therapy Unit.

The entire amount except the amount released for setting up of a Cobalt Therapy Unit has been utilised by the Centre.

#### Denudation of forests

**1030. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether over-use of forest wealth both due to intended and unintended reasons all over the country has led to rapid depletion of forest cover; and

(b) the State-wise forest cover over the last three years ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Extent of forest cover has not been assessed during the last three years. However, the Forest Survey of India is currently engaged in continuous monitoring of the forest cover in country on a two-year cycle.

#### Education among minorities

**1031. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :**

**DR. V. VENKATESH :**

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

(a) whether Government have taken any measures recently to implement the Prime Minister's directives in removing the educational, including technical education backwardness, among the minorities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Schemes in the field of education taken up in pursuance of Prime Minister's 15-Point Directives are : opening of community polytechnics in minority concentration areas, coaching classes for preparing students from educationally backward minorities for competitive examinations and training of teachers, managers/principals from minority managed educational institutions. The States have been asked to provide adequate schooling facilities in minority concentration areas, give emphasis on girls' education, provide vocational/technical education, encourage voluntary effort in adult and early childhood education, introduce science and mathematics in traditional schools, prepare guidelines for recognition of minority institutions and introduce schemes of scholarship and remedial coaching.

#### Protection of Indian Ships in the Gulf Area

**1032. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :**

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether since the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war several Indian ships have become its victim in the Gulf Area;

(b) if so, the number of ships destroyed or damaged and the estimated loss as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have protested to the countries concerned in this regard;

(d) the steps taken to protect the Indian ships threatened in the Gulf area; and

(e) whether any step would be taken to coordinate efforts with various other nations to protect shipping in the Gulf ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of Indian Ships totally destroyed is 7 and partially damaged is 5.

Estimates of damage in respect of 10 ships amount to Rs. 8.9 crores. Estimates in respect of remaining 2 ships and the damage to cargo and other allied matters are not available.

(c) No formal protest has been made so far as the formal identity of the attackers has not been established.

(d) and (e). No arrangement exist to enlist protection for shipping in the Gulf. The shipowners have been asked to keep away from war zone. Government are supporting all efforts to bring about an end to the Iran-Iraq war, to reduce tension in the region and to ensure freedom of navigation in the international waters of the Gulf.

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12.00 hrs.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, it is very serious. Whenever any important person is involved in this House, a clear opportunity is given to see that there is no misunderstanding.

MR. SPEAKER : What is that about ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The other day, the Home Minister made a slanderous attack on the president of Janata Party, Mr. Chandrasekhar. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. Listen to me.

(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Listen to me, Prof. Sir.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Please Allow me an opportunity either to move a privilege or make a statement under direction 115

MR. SPEAKER : You give it to me and I will see it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have given it to you. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Professor Sabeb, you go on putting forth your own point. You have given the notice.

[*English*]

I have already initiated action on it, absolutely. That is what I wanted to tell you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You have initiated action. Is it disciplinary action ?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, exactly as you can say, because I have written to him to give me the explanation.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : I countered the Home Minister, Mr. Buta Singh at that very time. I told him — (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing doing. No point of order. Not allowed.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Now the Government has taken a decision for out of court settlement . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I have told you.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He should tell the House. We have given call-attention notice.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : It is a very important issue.

(*Interruptions*)

\*Not recorded.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA** (Basirhat) : When they are going to make out of court settlement, it will deprive those people of adequate compensation. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY** (Katwa) : Are you going to allow a discussion ?

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA** : They will get nothing. We have given a notice.

**DR. DATTA SAMANT** : I have given a notice.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**MR. SPEAKER** : I have nothing to say to you.

[*Translation*]

Why do you interrupt ? I am telling him. If you people allow me to hear, then I should say something.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**MR. SPEAKER** : I have already written to them to provide me the information. And between that time, I have also talked to you and also talked to the Minister. I am getting the information. If you are not satisfied, I will allow call-attention on it.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA** : The information should be given to the House, not only to you.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY** : It is coming in the press.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA** : It is a public matter. It is three years since the tragedy took place but not a single pie has been given to anybody.

**MR. SPEAKER** : Mr. Gupta; you are a seasoned man. I have to satisfy myself whether this requires admission or not. That is why, I get the information and then I will see.

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA** : Who is responsible ? Who will be responsible if out of court settlement takes place ?

(*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER** : Have you got any point of order ?

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI** (Guwahati) : You have listened to him. You please listen to me for a minute.

**MR. SPEAKER** : I have listened to him and have ruled that there is no point of order. Have you got any point of order ?

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI** : A very serious situation has arisen on the Assam-Nagaland border on the question of polling booths —

**MR. SPEAKER** : I have already written for that.

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI** : Why don't you listen to me ?

**MR. SPEAKER** : Not like this.

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI** : The Election Commission has made an announcement yesterday. (*Interruptions*) It is an extremely serious matter. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER** : I have already written to them.

(*Interruptions*)

Papers to be Laid.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications under Major Port Trusts Act and Annual Report of and Review on Shipping Development Fund Committee, New Delhi for 1985-86 and a Statement re : delay in laying the latter papers

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA)** : On behalf of Shri Rajesh Pilot, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English version) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 :

- (i) G. S. R. 677(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 1987 approving the Cochin Port Employees (Temporary Service) Second Amendment Regulations, 1987.
- (ii) G. S. R. 700(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th August, 1987 approving the Calcutta Port Trust Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Regulations, 1987.
- (iii) G. S. R. 753(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 1987 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Leave Travel Concession) Amendment Regulations, 1987.
- (iv) G. S. R. 807(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1987 approving the Cochin Port Employees (Grant of advances for building of Houses etc.) Amendment Regulations 1987.

[Placed in Library. See. No.LT—4957/87]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shipping Development Fund Committee, New Delhi for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts.

- (1) Statement No. XIV—Thirteenth Session, 1983.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT—4960/87]
- (2) Statement No. XVIII—Second Session, 1985.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT—4961/87]
- (3) Statement No. XIII - Third Session, 1985.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT—4962/87]
- (4) Statement No. XIV—Fourth Session, 1985.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT—4963/87]
- (5) Statement No. XI—Fifth Session, 1986.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT—4964/87]

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Shipping Development Fund Committee, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86.

(3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at, (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See. No. LT—4958/87]

**Notification Order Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act.**

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) :** On behalf of Shrimati Margaret Alva I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Rules, 1987 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 822 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 1987 under sub-section (3) of section 10 of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—4959/87]

**Statement showing action taken by Government on various assurances promises and undertakings given by Ministers during sessions**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) :** I beg to lay on the Table the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Lok Sabha :

Seventh Lok Sabha

Eighth Lok Sabha

(6) Statement No. VIII—Sixth Session, 1986.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT—4965/87]

(7) Statement No. VI—Seventh Session, 1986.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT—4966/87]

(8) Statement No. V—Eighth Session, 1987.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT—4967/87]

(9) Statement No. I—Second Part of Eighth Session, 1987.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT—4968/87]

Eighth Lok Sabha

12.05 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

*Twenty-ninth Report*[*English*]

**SHRI RAM RATTAN RAM** (Hajipur) : I beg to present the Twenty-Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Civil Aviation—Reservations for, and employment of, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Air India.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI V. TULSIRAM** (Nagarkurnool) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to tell you something about Rajasthan.

**MR. SPEAKER** : There is no such thing.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI V. TULSIRAM** : I want to refer to a matter of great distress.

*(Interruptions)\**[*English*]

**MR. SPEAKER** : Not allowed. I am not allowing him.

*(Interruptions)\**

**MR. SPEAKER** : Shri Mullappally Ramachandran.

*(Interruptions)*[*Translation*]

**MR. SPEAKER** : Rules are there and

these should take their own course. Government is there and it should work. It is not for you to do. It is for them to take action against him.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI V. TULSIRAM** : Here the question of the country is involved; directions should be issued.

**MR. SPEAKER** : Then I will have to get your entire Government dismissed. It is for them to do.

**SHRI V. TULSIRAM** : Directions should be given to them.

**MR. SPEAKER** : Directions are already there. What for the laws have been made.

[*English*]

They are there to take action against law-breaking and they must take action. So simple it is. They are elected representatives of the people.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI V. TULSIRAM** : I do agree, Sir.

[*English*]

**MR. SPEAKER** : Please do not waste my time now.

[*Translation*]

I have already asked them in writing. I had forwarded to them your letter the same day. I do not take much time.

[*English*]

Matters under Rule 377.

Shri Mullappally Ramachandran.

\*Not recorded.

12.07 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Demand for amending the Cinematograph Act to ensure production of quality films.

[*English*]

**SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN** (Cannanore) : Since India is the biggest producer of films in the world, the question of certification and censorship of films assumes greater importance.

Being a powerful medium, the impact of films on society is far-reaching. Here in India, a sizeable section of the population look upon films as the chief mode of entertainment. Hence, serious efforts must be made to ensure production and exhibition of quality films. Unfortunately, most of our films do not remain sensitive to values and standards of society.

Interpolations in films by greedy industrialists, distributors and others are a serious menace.

Exhibition of vulgar posters and displaying obscene and indecent advertisement boards also pollute the minds of people especially the youth. No doubt, exhibition of films is a State subject—but the remedy for the above malady lies in the introduction of suitable amendments and strict implementation of the penal provisions in the Cinematograph Act.

Hence I urge upon the Government to bring about necessary amendments in the Cinematograph Act and ensure their speedy implementation.

12.08 hrs.

[*Shri SHARAD DIGHE in the chair*]

[*Translation*]

(ii) Demand for formulation of schemes for conservation of Chambal river water for irrigation and power generation.

**SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL** (Kota) : The people of Rajasthan are very keen to get their share from the Inter-State Hydro-

Power Projects and make proper utilisation of the same. Due to continued drought in Rajasthan the people there want to utilise every drop of water properly. The Government of India should formulate a master plan in respect of Chambal river in Rajasthan, because at present 40 million cubic feet of water of Rajasthan goes waste into the river Yamuna. At present power is being generated at 1 places from Chambal water and 7,000 cusec water is being utilised for irrigation purposes in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and the rest goes waste into the river without being put to any use. This water can be utilised by formulating lift irrigation and drinking water schemes by constructing anicuts. Lakhs of acres of land can be irrigated by formulating hydro-power and major irrigation schemes. We can also generate several megawatts of cheap electricity. Lakhs of acres of land can be irrigated after making it suitable for growing forests by undertaking soil conservation in the Chambal river. I, therefore, request that keeping in view the financial position of the Government of Rajasthan the Government of India may please take over the schemes related to irrigation and generation of power from Chambal water and start the work soon.

[*English*]

(iii) Demand for repairs to the railway track damaged by recent floods in Mithila region of Bihar.

**DR. G. S. RAJHANS** (Jhanjharpur) : There is no denying the fact that the Railways are trying hard to repair the rail tracks of North Bihar, particularly of Mithila region, which have been badly damaged during recent floods. At one time, trains had started running between Derbanga and Jhanjharpur. The flood ravaged people of Mithila have expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister and Railway Minister for taking personal interest in redressing their grievances and difficulties. People were overjoyed to see the restoration of railways. But, unfortunately a flash-flood in Kamla a few days ago has again damaged the rail track near Jhanjharpur disrupting the rail traffic completely. This has resulted in untold miseries to the local people. It is, therefore, requested that the Railways should reconstruct the railway track in Mithila region on a war-footing.

**(iv) Need for issuing directions to all State Governments for nationalising passenger road transport.**

**SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK** (Panaji) : Sir, it has been seen that despite the fact that 40 years have passed after our Independence, passenger road transport, which is and ought to be the basic responsibility of the Government, has been left in the hands of private individuals and companies in several States. In fact, in the frame-work of socialistic pattern of society that we have adopted, we have broadly laid down the spheres of activities for the State and for private sector. Where basically service is the motto, profit aspect coming only next to it, it will be absurd to expect service from individuals and companies having business stakes in transport, to serve the people in a manner the Government would do. As a result, in the States where passenger road transport is in private hands, routes in the rural areas are neglected on grounds of their being uneconomic. In a State Like Goa where along with private bus operators there also ply Government Corporation buses, private operators do not apply for uneconomic routes. Therefore, the State Government who cannot shirk the responsibility of service to the people, has to ask their corporation to apply for plying passenger buses on the said routes.

I, therefore, request that Central Government should give directions to all the State Governments to nationalise passenger road transport and, also give necessary financial assistance in needy cases like that of Goa for the purpose.

**(v) Demand for sufficient funds for early completion of the Jankhpura-Bansabani Railway line in Orissa.**

**SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY** (Puri) : Sir, Jankhpura Bansabani rail line is under implementation. The first phase is completed. But there has been no allocation of funds for the second phase. Jankhpura-Bansabani rail line will promote the industrial and commercial growth of the State. It passes through the industrial and mining belt of Orissa, and this rail line will also promote the growth of Paradeep Port. The State Government of Orissa have undertaken to acquire the land at their own cost and it has been done.

The Railway Ministry is running short of resources but the on-going projects in a backward State like Orissa need to be given priority. I am therefore urging upon the Government to provide adequate required funds for implementation of the aforesaid project and completion according to the schedule time.

*[Translation]*

**(vi) Demand for steps to solve the problems faced by handloom weavers adversely affected by the New Textile Policy.**

**SHRI MADAN PANDEY** (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards the following matter of public importance under rule 377.

12.13 hrs.

**[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]**

Uttar Pradesh especially the area comprising Gorakhpur and its nearby places, is an important centre of weavers. Lakhs of weavers there are facing unemployment and starvation due to faulty implementation of the new textile policy, unprecedented increase in the prices of yarn, fall in the demand and prices of handloom cloth and the competition between handloom and powerloom units. If effective steps are not taken by the Central Government and the State Government immediately to solve this problem, lakhs of families of weavers will have to face an unprecedented crisis.

I would, therefore, like to suggest that this problem may please be given serious consideration in the House immediately and the weavers be given relief by Government by taking immediate effective steps in this regard.

**(vii) Demand for directing the Electronics Corporation of India to take up production of Colour TVs, VCRs and VCPs at its Tirupati Andhra Pradesh unit.**

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN** (Tirupati) : Sir, Tirupati is the most backward area which comes under Rayalasema of Andhra Pradesh where people are below poverty-line without any source of employment.

Keeping this in view, M/s. Electronics Corporation of India Ltd started in 1982 manufacturing of TV sets at Tirupati and the production reached to Rs. 2.5 crores by 1984.

At the time of starting this unit in 1982, the Government promised to start VCR, VCP and colour TV units in Tirupati with a capital of Rs. 100 crores.

But, so far, nothing has moved in this direction. I request the Government of India to start production of colour TV, VCR, VCP units in Tirupati immediately.

(viii) **Demand for withdrawal of notifications which have done away with the concessions of excise duty given to small scale units.**

**SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER** (Bangalore South) : Sir, the Government of India, by a series of excise notifications on 22-9-1987, withdrew the concessions given to the Small Scale Units. Already a large number of SSI units have become sick and consequent on the withdrawal of concessional rate of excise duty to SSI Units supplying goods to trade-name and brand-name manufacturers including Public Sector Undertakings, still more number of SSI units are going to become sick. The nationalised banks have given a huge sum to these Small Scale units as loan and if these units become sick, the nationalised banks will have to write off crores of rupees as bad debts.

In the interest of encouraging small scale units, it is necessary to immediately withdraw the recent notifications taking away the concessions given to SSI units.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Now we take up Item No. 6 Statutory Resolution :

Shri C. Madhav Reddy —Not present;

Shri Syed Shahabuddin —Not present;

Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan —Not present.

Now I go to Item No. 7.

12.15 hrs.

### AUROVILLE (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO)** : I beg to move\* :

"That the Bill further to amend the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1980 be taken into consideration."

As a background for the consideration of this Bill, I should like to mention a few points which are directly relevant to the understanding of the situation in Auroville and the reasons why we are seeking the extension of the period of the Act for a further period of one year beyond 9th November, 1987.

As is well known, Auroville was founded on the 28th February, 1968 on the basis of a Charter which declares that it is the place of perpetual education, that it is dedicated to material and spiritual researches, and that its aim is to realise human unity. In India, we have held the ideal of the entire world as one family, and the aims and objectives envisaged for Auroville by Sri Aurobindo and The Mother are in full conformity with that ideal.

From 1958 to 1973, Auroville grew rapidly, and it was becoming more and more self-organised and self-sustaining. UNESCO passed three Resolutions urging the people and Member-States to promote the growth of Auroville. Things, however, changed after The Mother left Her body in 1973. The next three years were marked by various conflicts and, therefore, we had some trouble in running Auroville as wanted to. It was not possible to run Auroville as it was intended by The Mother. In the context of conflicts as also of complaints in regard to financial irregularities, the Central Government constituted in 1976 under the Chairmanship of the then Lt Governor of Pondicherry, a Committee which gave a report in 1977 indicating a number of financial irregularities, improprieties. The Committee recommended

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

that the Government, among other course of action, could take over the management of Auroville for a temporary period. In 1980, this recommendation was given effect to, and under provisions of Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1980, the management of Auroville was vested in the Central Government in 1980 for a period of five years. However, the Act had been challenged in the Calcutta High Court and later in the Supreme Court. The litigation took quite a long time and, therefore, only in 1982 or in 1983, the Committee could function. Now the present position, in short, is that the conflicts that have been there are resolved. We are trying out very best. I am trying also my very best to talk to everyone concerned so that the management of Auroville becomes the business of Auroville people plus those who mean well for the development of Auroville. This is what we really want to do. We would like to get out of the management of Government of India as quickly as possible. I am quite sure now, in fact, I am much more confident than before, that things are shaping well. I have been talking to all concerned. Even today, I received a letter from Pondicherry from a very important member of the Sri Aurobindo Society saying that they would certainly cooperate in whatever efforts I make. I am happy to say that this is a matter of, maybe, a few weeks or months. Even it will not take one year although we have taken extension of one year under this amendment. So, this is a simple thing which is needed for the good management of Auroville as it was envisaged by The Mother to be an international centre where people come, where people meditate and study. There are lots of things that are going in Auroville. After the committee took over, lots of improvements have been made. I would not like to give a long list; but the development has been quite impressive. The Council found that a good deal of development has taken place in the Auroville in recent years. During this visit we visited the place and we initiated efforts to arrive at a consensus in consultation with the parties concerned — that is what I was just referring to.

In view of this I would like the House to pass this Bill and give us one more year's time to settle all matters outstanding and to see that the management of Auroville is placed on a sound footing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1980 be taken into consideration."

SHRI VIJAYA KUMAR RAJU (Narasapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Many aspects have been mentioned by the Hon. Minister regarding the Auroville. I would also like to say a few words in this regard.

The setting up of an international cultural township was a part of the vision of Shri Aurobindo and the Mother. This township was inaugurated by the Mother in 1968 and it was named as Auroville. Many nations participated in the inaugural ceremony.

The Government of India and the UNESCO welcomed the setting up of this township. At the instruction of the Government, the UNESCO invited members of Government and non-Government organisations to participate in the development of the international township. This was intended to bring together values of different cultures and civilisations in a harmonious environment. Shri Aurobindo Society was the channel to get the funds from outside and Central and State Government. This society is different from Shri Aurobindo Ashram or Auroville.

After the Mother left this world in 1973, there were complaints of misutilisation of funds. The then Lt. Governor of Pondicherry set up a committee under the chairmanship of Shri Kulkarni in 1976 to inquire into these things. Ultimately with this background, the management was taken over by the Government in 1980 by an Act for a limited period of five years.

Then the society challenged this Act in the Calcutta High Court and later in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the Act in November 1982. Afterwards efforts were being made to place the management on a sound footing. This Act was amended in August 1985 for a further period of two years beyond 9th November 1985.

The Auroville International Advisory Council held its sixth meeting at Auroville in August 1986 and initiated efforts to arrive at a consensus in consultation with the parties concerned. It is felt that some more time would be needed. So, the management of Auroville should be carried on as per the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act which expires on the 9th November 1987. In view of this the President promulgated on the 28th October 1987, when the Parliament was not in session, the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Amendment Ordinance 1987 for a further a period of one year. This Bill seeks to replace the above mentioned ordinance.

With these words I conclude.

**PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur):** Sir, I rise to support the Bill introduced by the Hon. Minister for Human Resources Development for the extension of the existing Act by another one year.

Sir, as the Minister has rightly explained the Government has no intention of staying permanently as the agency to manage the Auroville affairs. It is only in order to set things right and to help the realisation of the dream which the Mother had for building an international centre dedicated to material and spiritual unity and welfare crossing the barriers of caste, creed and country and in order to view the humanity and all animate life as one single entity.

Sir, as is clear from the aims and objects which have been made clear in the Bill itself the Supreme Court decision upholding the Act as valid came as late as 1982 and though the Government has taken over the management in 1980 it was only towards the end of 1982 that the Government was able to devote any attention to the affairs of the Auroville project. Therefore, a little more time is needed and I welcome the Minister's statement that the whole thing can be resolved much earlier than expected and, as such, the Parliament is being asked to give extension for one year. The Minister hopes that Government will be able to arrive at a permanent settlement within less than a year. It is a welcome assurance and everybody hopes that the vision that the Mother had and the aspiration which Shri Aurobindo had would ultimately be realised in the dream city of Auroville which is an international project by any

standards and which can be regarded as a ray of hope for the whole mankind. Indeed for the future it will bring a dawn of new consciousness which transcends all kinds of pettiness, rancour, anger, malice and greed, as is evident from the percept of spiritual life, which is being followed in Auroville.

Sir, Aurobindo had a unique vision. Whereas some seers of the past had denigrated the material life in order to promote the spiritual aspirations there were others in India and abroad who had just eulogised the material aspects of life and condemned the spiritual and religious aspects and described religion as opium. Therefore, the attempt to synthesise the two aspects—the material and the spiritual—is the only hope for mankind for the future. The production of an excellent book by the citizens of Auroville known as 'The aim of life' with selections from the richest extracts from the various religious scriptures like Isho Upanishad, Dhammapada, the Bible, Socrates and others is a unique collection with paintings and diagrams that offer some glimpses of the vision not in its entirety but some glimpses which anybody who wants to have it for himself can have it by going through the pages of the book.

Sir, as has been rightly said by the Hon. Minister it is a centre for continuing education but not education in the sense of restricted academic use of the word. It is education for life, education for living and I would just like to quote what kind of vision is sought to be offered from the Preface of this book. It gives an indication of what type of work is supposed to be carried on there. I quote :

"There are states and states of consciousness, there are profundities and widenesses, there are heights over heights to discover them one has to enlarge and explore ever-widening possibilities of psychological experiences. In the depth of being we may begin to integrate the threads and complexities of what we are and can become. It is there, perhaps, rather in books or preachings that we may begin to perceive and live what precisely is our aim of life.

"Free from dogmas and fixed beliefs, in the purity of experience, we may hope to discover the answer to the all-

important question : What am I to do ? What role do I have to play in the vast and mysterious universe ? What is the best and the highest goal that I should aim to realise ?"

The citizens of Auroville, drawn from all nations of the world, drawn from all strata of Society, drawn from all ages, speaking different languages, having different cultural habits, have come together to realise this object of Auroville—the dream-city of the future. I remember that Madam Indira Gandhi had once observed that nothing should be done by anybody, any society, any management or even the Government to interfere, which is vision of the future, in its realisation in Auroville. So, Auroville is a project and the Government has rightly stepped in to promote that very object which the Mother had in view. There are some material activities also being carried on. Some trees are also planted. I have personally visited Auroville about 3-4 years back and have been impressed by the work that is being done there. Some 1,500 persons have been employed in various activities. Some attention is also being paid to the paintings and other things which are so essential in material and ascetic life. But the main focus is on the combination and evolution of a spiritual effort that will envelop and embrace the whole of mankind.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House and would like it to join in eulogising this project and in avoiding all pettiness on all sides. Efforts of the Aurobindo Society to drag the whole thing into litigation rather than evolving a compromise for this purpose are not to be appreciated by anybody. When spirituality itself becomes a subject of litigation, it is as if some calamity has befallen this world of ours. So, let us realise the main aim, that is, the realisation of a dream for the future. Let us not do anything that soils it. Let us not do anything which spoils it.

Sir, the Government of India deserves all praise for entering into some sort of an effort for taking over the affairs of the Auroville project which has run into difficulties after the passing away of the Mother. I hope that Minister's assurance to this House that it will be possible to find a permanent solution to the management and also that

he had received a letter from one of the important members of the Aurobindo Society offering cooperation for this purpose, would be welcome steps. I hope the assurance would be fulfilled. Before long the affairs of the Auroville Project could be managed by the people who are actually living there and who are themselves engaged in the task of evolving a system which is for the betterment of humanity. Let us have hope and faith in them. Let us trust that those who are trying to evolve a pattern for the entire mankind for entire cosmos, are also able to find a permanent solution with their own efforts through cooperation, love and harmony for the management of the project. Let the Aurobindo Society also avoid bickerings and bitterness of the future and advance this step in the direction which is pointed out by the Hon'ble Minister Shri Narasimha Rao. With these words, Sir, I support the Bill.

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan) : Sir, I welcome the Bill because it seeks to extend the period by another year. The Act was originally passed in 1980. Then it was said that it would take maximum five years to complete the task. But because of litigation, because of cases in the Supreme Court and High Court, the Government could not act before 1982. In 1985, this Act was again extended for two years. Now, the Government is seeking to extend the period of take-over by another year. This Auroville project was started amidst much pomp and publicity. UNESCO sponsored the project in 1965. In 1958, the UNESCO called its Member States and other non-Governmental agencies to participate in the project. In 1970 also they gave the same directives. But what happened ? We find that Auroville turned into smugglers den. Its funds were embezzled and all sort of spies made a beeline for the Auroville Project. The Aurobindo Society which was in charge of the project received huge funds from different State Governments and Central Government. They also received funds from different international agencies but they simply mismanaged the affairs. There was frictional squabble and consequently it became a project of ill-repute. The people of Pondicherry were simply sick of this project of Auroville.

Therefore, it was very good that the Government took over the management and

we believe in the assurance given by the Minister that within a year they would be able to normalise the situation because it is desirable that the people of Auroville themselves should manage the affairs. But Sir when Auroville started, it was proclaimed that it would be a confluence of all the cultures of the world; it would be a city of constant youth which would never age; it would be a city of peace where people from all parts of the world could come and live in peace and they would follow the ideals of Shri Aurobindo and other great civilisations. But I think that all these are mere Utopias because in the 19th century, many European thinkers like Mr. Robert Owen, Mr. Charles Fourier and Mr. Saint Simon tried to build up such societies. They also tried to start some communes where people would lead a more honest life; where they will be assured work shelter, etc. But those societies could not succeed. In an otherwise imperfect world, imperfect social system, we can never visualise that such a society would thrive. Often we find that such societies degenerate into some sort of Rajneeshpuram that has earned enough notoriety in the world or they received so much money that quarrels started among the followers and they engage in fractional squabbles. In India, many institutions which receive plenty of Government money do not deserve that money. They misuse funds. Government should be cautious in granting huge funds because there is a fear that funds may be misused. Not only this, we find that this sort of society or commune which started, turn out into museum pieces or they simply cease to exist. In the Seventies Auroville earned bad reputation because all sort of drug addicts, spies and persons indulging in embezzlement of funds were there. Therefore, Government should think twice before handing over the powers to a body. Whichever that body may be but it must represent the people of Auroville. It must be a democratically elected body. Secondly, the Government should be cautious in advancing huge sums for this project. Finally, I should say that those who are accused of embezzlement of funds, they must be brought to book; they must be punished. Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT  
(Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise

to support this Bill. It is a matter of great satisfaction to us that this project and the future of this society is secure in the hands of Shri Rao. He has great faith in the Aurobindo Society and the Aurobindo Ashram. There are about 400 centres of the Aurobindo Society in the whole country. When the Bhoomi-Poojan function of this society was held at Nagpur, the Hon. Minister had then spared time for it and attended the function.

It is certain that it is the duty of the society and highy good institutions to create spiritual awareness among the people. The Government on its part cannot discharge this responsibility smoothly. Every citizen in the country owes reverence to the Aurobindo Ashram. The Mother of Aurobindo Ashram is worshipped by lakhs of families in the country with devotion and reverence. Whatever has happened in the society is undoubtedly very unfortunate. Many charges have been levelled against this society and many irregularities are being committed there. Funds are received from foreign countries and these are being misused. C.B.I. raids were conducted in this regard and the C.B.I. filed a number of cases in the court. As the Hon. Minister is aware, the court passed some strictures against the Government and termed the defaulters as innocent. The Aurobindo Ashram had been established for the welfare of human beings and it is essential that its objectives are fulfilled early. This should not happen that such persons find entry into it who try to create trouble in the name of foreigners or who are spied from other countries. In future you sboulds keep surveillance over it to ensure that the atmosphere of that place is not vitiated. People from other countries may not be able to spoil the discipline and pious atmosphere of that society. If you find something suspecting about those persons after scrutiny, they should not be allowed to enter that place.

This institution has been running for the last seven years or so. I would not say that Government has not done good work. The Government has rather done very good work. I would, however, like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that I am not at all satisfied with the present arrangement. The responsibility to look after the project has been entrusted to a retired judge of

the Allahabad High Court who is 80 years old. This is a very big and an important project and 2200 acres of land have been acquired for this purpose. It is beyond the capacity of a 80 years old judge to look after this project. This has been brought to our notice that nepotism is going on there and they are giving entry to their own people and such things are going on there. The Hon. Minister has just said that the Government is seeking extension only for one year and some wayout will come out in some weeks or months. I would like to suggest that the Government should constitute a management board consisting of 11 to 15 members to be selected by the Minister himself who can take interest in the work and achieve good results till a permanent measure is adopted. That board should carry out the work with greater speed and smoothly keeping in mind its pious atmosphere abd all these things. We will be grateful to him if he saves this institution. It will be a good step from the point of view of humanity and only then this institution will move forward speedily.

With these words, I again support this Bill.

\*SHRI P. SHANMUGAM (Pondicherry) : Honourable Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Amendment Bill, 1987. The Late Holy Mother desired to set up an International Cultural Centre to foster international brotherhood and got the approval of the Central Government for establishing the same in Pondicherry. The people of Pondicherry had high hopes that Auroville will be set up at an early date. Till today, their aspirations have not been fulfilled. The Aurobindo Society, entrusted with the task of establishing Auroville in Pondicherry, was not functioning in the right direction. They delayed the establishment of the International Cultural Centre. The noble objectives of the Holy Mother remains unfulfilled. There were serious complaints about the functioning of the Society and the Central Government had to intervene. By an Act of Parliament, the Central Government took over the administration of Auroville. The Central Government constituted an Advisory Council to run the administration of Auroville. The administra-

tion was taken over for five years in the first instance and it was extended for another two years in 1985. The present Bill seeks to extend the operation of the Act by one more year. I do not favour such frequent extensions for one or two years. A permanent solution must be found to the deadlock. A high Level Committee must be constituted for early settlement of the problem so that the dreams of the Holy Mother could come true and the promised international Cultural Centre comes into existence. Hon. Minister and the Central Government must take necessary steps in this regard.

The Advisory Council was appointed by the Central Government. During the past years, it has functioned efficiently. Many of the drylands around the locality have been turned into green pastures. The Council has given a fresh life to the poor and unemployed farmers in that locality. A unit manufacturing software equipments has also come up. Many art, handicrafts and other industrial centres have also been set up to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed. Educational and other sports centres have also sprung up in the vicinity. The Council has taken all efforts to provide employment opportunities to the people in the locality and also sees to it that Auroville flourishes as a centre of peace and tranquility.

The residents of Auroville are hard working and are endowed with many capabilities. They have brought prosperity to the area. I congratulate the Central Government and the authorities concerned for creating conditions conducive to further development of Auroville.

However, I once again request the Hon. Minister to constitute a High Level Committee which should find a permanent solution to the problem so that the administration of Auroville is carried on more efficiently.

I thank you very much for the opportunity given and conclude.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion placed before us

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\* The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

by the Hon' Minister, primarily because I do not have the confidence that he shall be able to accomplish in the next one year, far less in a few weeks that he has suggested, what he has not been able to achieve in seven years. The Auroville Project was indeed a hope of mankind. It symbolized a dream of universal unity, a vision of human perfection, a message of integral humanism. It became an international project and I do recall my own very humble contribution in promoting it on the international horizon. One feels, however, today, after so many years have elapsed that the project seems to have lost its way somewhere. That is a very sad thought for many of us. The vision appears to have gone, but we should not allow this dream to turn into a nightmare. We should not permit this message to become meaningless. We should not allow this stream to lose itself in the dreary sands of routine bureaucracy. We know that the wheels of bureaucracy move slowly. But they move still slower when there is a motive. I will not go into the details because I do not think we have the time, but the Hon. Minister will appreciate this point I am making that he has to make a very special effort to see to it that the bureaucracy does not permit itself to be entrenched in this project and that the wheels start moving.

I would like to say a few words about the present administration. There is an Administrator, and there is a Deputy Administrator. Both happen to be retired, aged individuals. I have nothing against them, but what I am saying is that they are not in a position to give the time that a project of this nature demands. The expenditure on the administration has been, to my mind, rather high, and there have been instances of mismanagement. Again, we do not have the time to go into details, but there have been cases of questionable mortgage of property belonging to the project, there have been questionable write offs of advances and monies, there has been a certain degree of unreasonable constraint on the freedom of visitors to visit various places in Auroville. There has been a rather loose control on the activities of foreign residents in this area. Therefore, I do not think that the Minister has a case that the present arrangement which, admittedly, is an interim arrangement and which, admittedly, is not expected to be a permanent prescription for Auroville, is in

a satisfactory state. I think he should apply himself more to see to it that these irregularities and this maladministration are not so frequent—because, primarily, why did the Government take over this project in 1980? It was done because there were allegations of serious malfunctioning. I am advised of mismanagement, of financial irregularities, and of diversion of funds. I shall come to them later; but if after the Government's take-over and under the present management, again we are faced with the same situation, then surely the Act has done no good to anybody, nor to the project itself.

I am afraid that today the way it is functioning, the entire project has been turned into what I would call something like an Attached Office of the Government of India. Almost every matter of import is decided here in the Central Secretariat. I am told that locally, the so-called foreign residents of Auroville exert an undue influence. Whatever be our criticism of the Aurobindo Society, one cannot ignore this fact namely, that it is the Aurobindo Society which initiated this project; and the role that was played by the Mother. That is also part of history. I do not think the Minister is being fair when he does not disclose to us, from the official records that are available with him, that the cases that were brought against the Society by CBI, after due enquiries of the allegations against them, were dismissed by the court. This is not mentioned anywhere.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I advisedly did not go into the details of litigation, because digging up those things today would make my future or the immediate effort even more difficult.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I see your point. I just said that it would have been in fairness if only it was mentioned—what happened to those CBI cases. I shall also not go into those details. But what is more painful to me is this, that the Aurobindo Society, as a society, has been making desperate efforts to be heard; and it is not being heard. They wrote letters to the Prime Minister, to the Hon. Minister.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Again on a point of information : It is very well being heard, heard personally by me.

Mr. Narayanan, who happens to be the Chairman of the Society and is a resident of Malaysia, came only last month. In fact, if the Parliament Session had started on the 19th or 20th of November, as generally it does, maybe this Amendment Bill itself would have become unnecessary. I said that even today I received a letter of full cooperation, offering full cooperation from a very important member of the Aurobindo Society who had come to see me along with Mr. Narayanan. I am on the best of terms with them. The only difficulty has been that it is an international committee. Mr. M'Bow for instance, who is a member, happened to be the Director-General of the UNESCO. Madam Zhivkova who unfortunately died, had to come from Bulgaria. Mr. Narayanan had to come from Malaysia even for a meeting of this type, a consultation of this type. It takes time. Therefore, we are trying to expedite it as far as possible. I would like to assure you that there is no question of my not hearing them or not being available for consultations.

**SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :** I am happy about this information. What I had in mind was that the Society had officially addressed letters on September 30, 1985 to the Prime Minister suggesting a certain course of action and then subsequently in 1987 to the Hon. Minister. What I had in mind was that these letters perhaps had not received the attention that they deserved.

It has been said in the Hon. Minister's Statement of Purpose that it is this International Advisory Council which is now seized of the matter or trying to work out a proper settlement as to how this project should be run. Now I wish them, God's speed and I do hope that you shall have formal exchange of views, formal negotiations with the Aurobindo Society and work out something on the lines broadly I submitted to you for Government's consideration that there should be an independent trust for Auroville where we should have representatives of the international community, of the Government, of the Government of Pondicherry where it is located, of the people who are residing in the Auroville, and of the Aurobindo Society. I had, of course, my views about the representation of the Aurobindo Ashram as such because to my mind Aurobindo Ashram and the Aurobindo Society are not different from

each other; they are broadly two faces of the same coin. So, I would suggest to the Hon. Minister through you that this particular idea of creating a permanent trust with representation from all concerned should be given due consideration and prompt attention.

Finally, I would suggest that we cannot permit Auroville to become a sort of foreign enclave with its own laws. After all, our sovereignty is supreme; it is an international project and it is a place where we would like to have an international community to develop a new way of life and a new human culture, and at the same time it must be seen to it that undesirable characters don't make their permanent abode there, that there should be some sort of screening of the people who are coming there; whether they have got religious and spiritual motive for coming there; whether they have got any type of motive for coming there; that should be a look out of the Government and we should see that only right elements are admitted to the holy precincts of Auroville and even given a hand in the administration. I would certainly welcome the Hon. Minister if he comes to us before one year passes and tells us that he has been able to achieve a permanent solution of the problem and that he has been able to instal a permanent machinery which would once again put the project back on the rail and with a motive force to drive it forward to its destination the realisation of the great dream of Auroville. Thank you.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** We now adjourn for lunch and will re-assemble at 2.05 P. M.

13 03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch  
still five minutes past fourteen of  
the Clock*

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*The Lok Sabha re-assembled  
after Lunch at ten minutes  
past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**AUROVILLE (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL—Contd.**

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister.

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to the Hon. Members who have participated in this debate and I would like to assure them that the warnings given by them, the advice given by them and the analysis given by them will certainly be kept in view while we are dealing with this problem.

I would certainly have agreed with Sri Syed Shahabuddin when he said that if it could not be done in seven years, how it could be done in one year. But I would like to point out that our efforts at conciliation started only a few months back and that is why we are falling short by a few months. So, with some amount of confidence, I told the House earlier that I may not even need full one year. I know that if we cannot do it in one year, we cannot do it in five years hereafter. But so far as the past is concerned, two years went by in litigation, five years went by in a holding operation during which time a lot of work has been done and now we are in a position to say that Auroville as it now stands has come to stay. It has now earned a reputation internationally because of the personalities and because of the way in which we dealt with the problems without getting involved in local squabbles. So, we are now at the take-off stage when we can have a local or responsible Committee to run it without our being there all the time. This is my fervent hope. I am glad that all the Members in addition to their advice and suggestions have wished well to this idea. The idea may or may not have succeeded elsewhere, but India is a country where we have the maximum scope to make this succeed. That is what we have been priding ourselves on because this is a country where all cultures have flowered and all cultures can flower at any time.

I would like to thank the Hon. Members once again and request the House to pass this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill further to amend the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1980, be taken into consideration.”

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

“That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, I beg to move :

“That the Bill be passed.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Bill be passed.”

[*Translation*]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit only two or three points before you. Although nothing is left to ask after the statement which the Hon. Minister has given but I would like to bring to his notice that in 1985 when an amendment to the Bill was being discussed in this House, Shri K. C. Pant, who was piloting the Bill, had said that they would not need further extension any more. Even then the Government had come forward to seek extension for one year more and even today the Hon. Minister has said emphatically that they are fully hopeful that the state of affairs there will be set right soon. We also hope so but I would like to submit that in case things are not set right even after handing over the management to them, then the Government should not hesitate to take over its management again because what has appeared in the newspapers during the last few years is not a good thing. The aim with which the mother established

the Ashram and what good things UNESCO has said about it, all hopes have now been dashed to the ground. Now many bad things are being said in regard to the Ashram. I would not like to repeat what has already been said and neither I am submitting on which stage negotiations are going on and that what is happening there. I would only say that the Government should carefully think before handing over the management to them. It has been our experience that once the Government take over some society or organisation or company, a certain pattern is set and when it is again handed back to the private hands the evils from which it was plagued earlier re-appear. Then the Government has to think what should be done. A lot has been come out in regard to the Aurobindo Ashram. So I would request that the Government should carefully think before handing over the management to them.

[English]

**SHRI GOPESHWAR (Jamshedpur) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have nothing further to add particularly when the Minister has assured this House. I had an occasion of meeting the Prime Minister, alongwith Dr. P. P. Narayanan, some time back when we had pointed out certain serious irregularities going on even under the Government administration. There is a philosophy which is being practised in Sri Aurobindo Ashram and I do not think any government machinery can administer it. The earlier it is taken over by some other agency, the better.

As the Hon. Minister has assured that he is anxious to give it to certain body and not to manage it through the Government machinery, I would only seek some assurance from him. In between this period, certain things are being done, lands are being mortgaged, and even the money that is being given by the Education Ministry is not being routed through the Administrator but through certain other means. The activities, the grabbing attitude of some of the persons there must be taken care of. The Government has to be very careful. I would suggest that some Government officer in active service, instead of having a retired person for certain considerations, should be entrusted this task before it is handed over to certain body. I would further suggest that there

should be a Trust where the representatives of the people, of the Aurobindo Society, of the Tamil Nadu Government, of the residents of this Ashram, and such other interests should be there, and that Trust should take over this Ashram. I hope that this Ashram or this village will then come to its old glory. I am rather pained to hear some persons who said that this system had been adopted some time back in some other European countries. We belong to India, we look to the philosophy and the systems that have been tried out or enunciated in our country. The failures and successes and the excellence of that system remains in our own tradition, not that certain things were experimented outside. I very strongly object to any comparison with Rajneeshpuram or anything of the kind. We should understand that a very great philosophy was enunciated by Shri Aurobindo and was put to practical system by the Mother. I hope the Government will hand it over to a certain responsible agency and it will not take months or years. As the Minister said, it should be done within weeks or a month. This is very important and I hope that any kind of litigation and other things will not be there. With these words, I support the Bill.

**SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI (Muzaffarpur) :** Sir, at this stage of the Bill, the position is very much simplified. I have stood up not to level charges against either the Society or the Aurobindo Society. That is not my intention because that will complicate the matter. But what we have to see is this that he had spent seven years and one year extension is needed in order to settle the issue. That is a very simple proposal and I think the House will endorse it in the interest of the Society and in the interest of Shri Aurobindo and the Aurobindo Society. As it appears, it is an attempt an idea, a vision to bring a confluence of his ideas, past and the present, the spiritual thing and the material. That is a good idea in this and all of us should endorse it. So far as Government of India is concerned or this House is concerned, we have given the best among us and that is what the Minister of Human Resources should look into and I am quite sure that under his leadership when he stipulated the time, things will settle down. It is not a question of having propriety right over a land or a building. It is an idea which has to be given to boost by

the Society, by the Government and I am quite sure that Government as such cannot move, cannot keep the spirit. It is difficult for the Government to keep the spirit moving as the Government is run on the basis of L.C.M.— Lowest Common Factor. But here the specialised people are needed people with ideas and vision are needed and I am quite sure that Government will look into that. I support the Bill.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** The additional suggestions have come. I entirely agree with the approach which has come out in the debate, in the speeches. It is true that when we hand over this body to another body, we cannot hand over it in a situation where that body will find that it has inherited something unmanageable. Naturally we have to look into it and the suggestions that have been made specifically will be looked into, Sir. Thank you.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is :

“That the Bill be passed”.

*The motion was adopted.*

14.24 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DIS-  
APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTION  
(SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER  
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1987**

AND

**CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED  
TRIBES) ORDER (AMEND-  
MENT) BILL**

*[English]*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Now, we will take up the next item that is Items No. 8 and 9. Mr. C. Janga Reddy— He is not here. Then, Dr. Chinta Mohan, are you moving the Resolution?

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati) :** I move my Resolution.

**SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) :** Sir, I have come. I will move my Resolution.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Just wait. I called your name, but you were not in your seat. That is why I called Mr. Chinta Mohan and he is on his legs. Please take your seat.

**SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :** Sir, I am sorry to say that I am not allowed to move my resolution. I was entering the House when my name was called and I was just coming before the mike to speak.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Please take your seat. When I called your name, you must be in your seat. When I am calling your name you should be in your seat and then only I can allow you.

**SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :** I was just entering the House.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** When the Bill is discussed you can speak. Please take your seat. Now, Dr. Chinta Mohan, do you want to speak on this?

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati) :** Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House disapproves of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 (Ordinance No. 5 of 1987) promulgated by the President on the 19th September, 1987.”

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Now he has taken the floor.

**SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :** I am very sorry, when I am coming here, before the mike, you called him.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** You have to be on the seat when I call you. You are just entering means I cannot wait for you.

**SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :** I am coming to the mike only. I am here.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** No, no. Yes, Dr. Chinta Mohan.

*(Interruptions)*

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN :** Sir, the three communities, Koch, Boro Kacharis and Raba are being included in the Scheduled Tribes. I am happy that the Government is trying to do some justice for these Scheduled Tribes. But at the same time, I have my reservations on this. Here, Meghalaya has got three major communities. Meghalaya is surrounded by most of these communities. Actually, we are going to have some elections in Nagaland on 18th December and at this juncture, the Government of India has taken a decision to send an Ordinance to the President to approve these three communities for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes list. I am happy that the Government has taken this decision, but I have my own doubts and reservations on this. Actually, the use of Article 123 of the Constitution was explained by Dr. Ambedkar. When there is a serious situation, when there is a serious trouble, when the present law is not applicable, when the present legislation is not able to control the situation, then we can use Article 123 of the Constitution. But the frequent use of this Article 123 of the Constitution creates erosion of Parliament, it creates confusion in the parliamentary democracy and also it makes the Parliament a powerless spectator. It is also nothing but bringing the legislation through the back-door methods when the situation does not warrant it. But on September 19, I do not know what made the Government come to this decision, but the people outside are saying that they have taken this decision in view of the ensuing Nagaland elections, the leaders from Nagaland, the leaders from Meghalaya approached the higher authorities in Delhi and managed to send the Ordinance to the President on 19th September. By including these three communities in the Scheduled Tribes list they have some possibility of winning this Nagaland election. That is what the people outside are saying. If it is so, I call it a political conspiracy of the Government of India in this election. They say, it is also a political gimmick. If it is a political gimmick, I condemn the attitude of the Government. The people outside are saying that the leaders of Nagaland have taken this inclusion of the three communities in their political campaign and they are trying to create an impact on the Nagaland people.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF  
THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE

**(DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) :** It has nothing to do with Nagaland, it is only for Meghalaya.

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN :** Nagaland has got the population of some of these communities there. In fact, Nagaland is surrounded by these three communities. Recently I visited that place. But here it appears to me that the frequent use and abuse of Article 123 of the Constitution appears to me that it is nothing but looting the parliamentary democracy. The Parliament can be called a powerless spectator. It is nothing but violating the spirit of the Constitution. If it is so, I condemn the attitude of the Government. Whatever it is, I am happy that the Government constituted a Joint Select Committee to look into the scheduling and re-scheduling and unscheduling of these communities. I would like to know when this Joint Select Committee is going to bring this Bill in Parliament. I will be glad if the Minister will give me some information about it.

I have a problem in my mind. If you continue this attitude of including some communities in the Scheduled Tribes list, the people from Nagaland, the people from Meghalaya, the people from Karnataka and so on will start campaigning in Delhi and they may create confusion to the Government and later create a problem to the Government. They will say, you include our community also in the Scheduled Tribes list, in the Scheduled Castes list. This campaign may have a little problem in future. I request the Government to keep all these things in mind before bringing such an ordinance. I would have been very glad had he brought forward straight-away a Bill here, which should have been something substantial. Any-way, I want to know, in what circumstances, the Government issued this ordinance.

With these words, I conclude my speech. I oppose the Ordinance.

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI :**  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I oppose...

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** You move the motion for consideration of the Bill.

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN :** She is opposing the Bill.

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI :**  
I am opposing your statutory resolution.

**SHRI JANGA REDDY :** You are not giving proper training to the Minister as to how to move.

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI :**  
I beg to move\* :

"That the Bill to provide for the inclusion of certain tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Meghalaya, be taken into consideration."

The tribal communities of Boro Kacharis, Koch and Raba or Rava, in the State of Meghalaya, were not included in the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 and accordingly, these tribal communities did not derive the benefits of the various safeguards provided for them in the Constitution, including the reservation of seats for them in the Legislative Assembly of the State. The State Government of Meghalaya had recommended the inclusion of these communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

**SHRI H. A. DORA :** (Srikakulam) : Why has it taken 37 years ?

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI :** It is a continuous process. The proposal of the State Government was examined. When the State Government recommends it, the Central Government also considers it. The proposal of the State Government was examined and it was found that all these three communities fulfil the criteria followed for the inclusion of any tribal community in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The criteria are indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large and backwardness. These are the criteria on which any tribe is recognised and included in the list.

During the last session, as you all know, Parliament enacted the Constitution (Fifty-seventh Amendment) Act, 1987 for Meghalaya. (*Interruptions*)

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

These tribal communities were not in the Meghalaya list. Each State has got its own separate list. Some tribe is recognised in some State and some tribe is recognised in another State. Meghalaya Government wanted that these three tribes may be included and so we had considered it.

In the last session, Parliament enacted the Constitution (Fifty-seventh Amendment) Act, 1987 and the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Act, 1987 with a view to determining the number of seats for Scheduled Tribes in Legislative Assemblies of the State of Meghalaya and some other States in the North-Eastern region. That we had already enacted. In consideration of that, to facilitate further work of Election Commission, ordinance was promulgated. Now as Parliamentary Committee, we have come with this simple Bill and elections to the State Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya are due to be held any time before February, 1988. Before that, Election Commission also wanted that after determining the seat, they can declare it. In order to enable the Election Commission to take preparatory action for the determination of the number of seats to be reserved for Scheduled Tribes for the conduct of elections to the State Legislative Assembly, and as there was very little time, because in February, we are facing election, so Ordinance was promulgated. The President promulgated the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 on the 19th September, 1987 for the inclusion of 'Boro Kacharis, Koch and Raba or Rava' in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Meghalaya. Since both the Houses of Parliament were not in session at that time, the aforesaid circumstances necessitated, as the Hon. Members were asking, the promulgation of the Ordinance by the President. This measure was undertaken having regard to the urgency of the matter as pointed out by the Election Commission. So, we had to promulgate that Ordinance.

I, therefore, move that the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1987 for replacing the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 to provide for the inclusion of Boro Kacharis, Koch and Raba or Rava in the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Meghalaya be taken

into consideration. That is the simple reason and I hope that House will adopt it without further discussion because we are only including three tribes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motions moved :

"That this House disapproves of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 (Ordinance No. 5 of 1987) promulgated by the President on the 19th September, 1987."

"That the Bill to provide for the inclusion of certain tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Meghalaya, be taken into consideration."

Shri E. Ayyapu Reddy will speak now.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool) : From our party, Shri H. A. Dora will speak.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I want to speak, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will call you. Wait.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : That is the allotted seat for me. I was there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why have you come here then ? Why are you here ?

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : That is my seat. That is there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That shows that you are not in your seat. That is the problem.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : That is my seat. You go and see. That is my seat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : But you were not in your seat. That is the problem. This is not your seat. You occupy your seat. When you are not in your seat, how can I

call you ? For your argument, I am telling that bad you been in your seat, it was OK. You are sitting here only. No argument please.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Only I am coming to the mike.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Near your seat also mike is there. When I called your name, you were not in the House. You are always creating problems. When I called your name, you were not in the seat. Why this argument ?

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Shillong) : There is nothing wrong. He can sit anywhere.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He can sit. That is not the point. Why are you defending him ?

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I was there.

(Interruptions)

Sir, I was there. I agree, you have got more powers.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When I called you, you were not here at that time.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I was here. Who told you that I was not here ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Have I got any enmity against you ? When I have a lowed Dr. Chinta Mohan, what is the problem in not allowing you ?

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Just see, I came here before the resolution was moved...

(Interruptions)

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : He can speak afterwards.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why doesn't be understand that ? That is what

I told him. I will call him afterwards. Why is he shouting like this ?

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : When I was there, why have you allowed him to move the Resolution ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, You were not there. When I called you, you were not there.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I do not want much time. But, why have you done like this ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are wrong.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. A. DORA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. But at the same time, while supporting the Bill, I would like to briefly bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is the way of Mr. Janga Reddy's doing things. What can I do ? That is his way of creating the problem.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : You are also trying to create problems.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. It is not my duty to create any problem. What is the problem with you ?

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : When I was in the House, you have not called my name. I was present here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You were not present here. I am in the Chair. I know, whether you were present or not. I am in the Chair.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I was there and I was coming to my seat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The point is that when I called your name, you were not present in the House.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I was in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You were not in the House. No argument. Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Is it not dictatorship ?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not dictatorship. This is democracy. That is what I am telling you. Don't dictate to me.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I was there. Before moving the Bill, I came to my seat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't tell all these things. You are an experienced man.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Had he been there, I would have immediately called him. But now he is shouting : "I am here." What is the meaning in an argument like this ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : You can give him some time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I told him that I will give him the chance.

(*Interruptions*),

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I am not at his mercy.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nobody is at anybody's mercy. I am not at your mercy and you are not at my mercy. Everybody is at the mercy of the people. Not you. I know that.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H A DORA (Srikakulam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, while supporting the Bill, I would like to bring to the kind notice of the Hon. Minister that a comprehensive review of the reservation and the developmental programmes intended to the scheduled tribes must be taken up expeditiously. That is my first point. Secondly, it is not uncommon to come across cases where the reservations are exploited by non-tribal communities, posing as if they are belonging to the tribal community. This must also be looked into. It is time that each State be directed to submit reports to the President of India as to the progress and development made by the scheduled tribes. The tribal unrest, particularly in the North-Eastern States requires careful handling by the Government of India. At the same time, I would like to bring to your kind notice that the non-tribal residents in tribal areas must not be deprived of their fundamental rights, as citizens of India. Some of the enactments made to protect the tribals from exploitation by non-tribals have been infructuous on account of impracticability. They must also be reviewed and re-modified. That is all I am going to submit and I support the Bill.

14.45 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE PROCUREMENT/  
MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES  
FOR RABI CROPS OF  
1987-88**

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : Sir, the Government have fixed the procurement/minimum support prices of Rabi crops of 1987-88 to be marketed in 1988-89 season.

The procurement price of wheat of fair average quality has been raised from Rs.166 per quintal during 1987-88 marketing season to Rs. 173 per quintal for the 1988-89 marketing season.

For barley of fair average quality, the minimum support price has been fixed at Rs. 135 per quintal for the 1988-89 marketing season.

The minimum support price for gram of fair average quality has been fixed at Rs. 290 per quintal for the 1988-89 marketing season marking an increase of Rs. 10 over the price fixed for 1987-88 marketing season.

The minimum support price of mustard of fair average quality has been raised from Rs. 415 per quintal during the 1987-88 marketing season to Rs. 430 per quintal for the 1988-89 marketing season. The minimum support price of Safflower for the 1988-89 season has been fixed at Rs. 415 per quintal. The minimum support price of *Toria* would be announced separately.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : What would be the transport and storing charges ..

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. Mr. Girdhari Lal Vyas.

(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. Nothing will go on record.

— — —  
**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE DIS-  
APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTION  
(SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER  
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1987  
AND  
CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED  
TRIBES) ORDER (AMEND-  
MENT) BILL —*Contd.***

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1987.

Just now a Hon. Member was opposing the ordinance saying that this ordinance was promulgated with some political motive. I pity him if he thinks so. It is a good thing if any creed or caste is included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. What sort of political motive can be behind it? Where is the point of taking the political advantage out of it.

**AN HON. MEMBER :** It has been done just before the election.

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS :** It makes no difference if it is done before or after the election. It can be done whenever it comes to our notice. The Hon. Minister has said that before including any tribe in the list of Scheduled Tribes, their place of living, their way of life, backwardness of the area, where they live, their dress, culture etc. are taken into consideration. This is a good measure which the Hon. Minister has brought here. She should be thanked for it but on the other hand our Hon. Member is terming it as a politically motivated step and an attempt to take political advantage out of it. In a democratic country, holding of elections is a common thing. Sometime it take place here and sometime at other places and so on. This measure is not for any single state but it is for the whole country. This measure should be adopted for the whole country.

I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister, that she has brought this measure in respect of Meghalaya and but what about other States. In other States, there are a number of such tribes which have not been included in the Scheduled Tribes list and we have been making a demand to this effect for many years. They should also be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. They are not getting the benefits which these tribes are enjoying.

**SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) :** This is what we also want.

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS :** This is what I am also saying. Why do you worry? There are two or three such tribes in Rajasthan which have not been included in the list of the Scheduled Tribes and there are some other castes which have not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes. What I mean to say is that you should make

this provision on the level of the whole country. Different States send different recommendations. As you have stated one tribe which is included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in one State, does not find a place in the list of Scheduled Tribes in the case of other States. All those tribes, who belong to the same culture and live in backward areas, should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes and those who can be included in the Scheduled Castes, they should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes. At present there are lakhs of such people who are not getting benefit of this facility. They should get all those benefits which are available to others. They are hard pressed and are living below the poverty line. If they are brought under this scheme, they will greatly be benefited. So, I would request to make such provision as to bring all these people under this scheme.

In our Rajasthan there are persons belonging to communities like Nayak and Gadia Lobar who have not been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The nomadic community known as Kalbelia should also be included in this list. Such communities who are always on the move on carts should also be included in this list. If these communities are included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Rajasthan, they will definitely be benefited. If there had been a provision to this effect for them in the Bill, it would have been a good step. These communities reside in backward areas. They are very poor people who wander here and there. They are nomads. They should definitely be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. If this is done, these people will definitely get all the benefits which the Scheduled tribes enjoy.

There are some communities which are prosperous but have been included in the list of tribes. There is a Meena Community in our region. This is a very prosperous community even more than Jat and Gujar Communities. All the candidates belonging to the scheduled castes which are selected in I.A.S. and I.P.S. come from this caste alone. Only one or two families of Jaipur area dominate in these services. Therefore, a caste which is well off should not be kept in the list of scheduled castes. The caste which have Jagirdars in its fold and is otherwise well off in all respects should not find a place in the list of scheduled castes. The people

belonging to *Meena* Caste in Banswara are quite backward and they should continue to remain in the list of scheduled castes. If the well off caste is allowed to remain in the list, it results in all the benefits being cornered by that particular caste. Only the well off people are able to enter such services because only their children get admission in public schools. The communities which have become well off should be delisted and the poor and backward castes should be included in the scheduled castes. Then only, we shall be able to do justice to the tribals.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[*English*]

DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset...

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : What are you talking ? You yourself indulge in such acts and try to put the blame on others.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name will come according to your turn.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : What are you doing ?...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him say whatever he wants; it shows his dignity. That is all I can say.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Just now he has given his name and approached you in your chamber and you have called his name.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am allowing him according to his party's turn . . . (*Interruptions*) Mr. Janga Reddy, don't speak like this.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, at the outset I oppose this amendment. My only point is that it should have been done much earlier. Even after forty years of independence you are taking these measures. There are so many communities which are living below the poverty line in this country. They have not seen even the very light of civilisation. Such communities are there. Thousands of people belonging to such communities are suffering. You should see to it that they are upgraded. For instance, in my State a community known as Waddar—Kalu Waddar and Mannu Waddar—were included in scheduled castes whereas the same community which is doing the same profession and has same cultural background in the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu were treated as backward tribe. In Andhra Pradesh they are considered as semi-nomadic tribe. In Maharashtra they are considered as a criminal tribe. So this is the disparity. I do not know when Government of India will open its eyes and see that the unfortunate brethren of this community who are under dark clouds are given their due share. This is a national problem and it will create crisis in the society. As long as they are ignorant you can rule on them but the moment they come to know what you are doing naturally they will not excuse you. Therefore, I am asking the Government to see to it that this disparity is removed as early as possible otherwise the overall progress of the country will get hampered. It is high time and I give a warning to the Government to take note of the sentiments of these communities and do away with this discrimination early.

Secondly, Sir, various State Government have sent synonymous names to be treated at par with the other communities under the list of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes but so far the Government of India has not given any response to this demand. This is really creating a lot of problems in this country. Today the Members may laugh at me but this is a very serious issue. They were suffering before Independence and even after Independence they have been suffering. I may point out that there are communities who wear only blouses and some remain bare breasts. Such is the state of affairs. I do not know how long it will take to see to it that the benefits

reach these people. Already an Hon. Member has said that because of the Nagaland elections and the Meghalaya elections the Government has brought this Ordinance but I once again warn the Government to see to it that this community is protected otherwise the integration of the nation will be at stake.

[Translation]

**SHRI C. JANGA REDDY** : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for calling me...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI** (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, his anger is directed against you but it will find vent in the form of attack on our Government. Better you restrain him.

**SHRI C. JANGA REDDY** : If the king commits a mistake his subjects suffer and if the subjects commit a mistake in that case also the subjects suffer. Therefore, your mistake has prompted me to say so. You did not properly see my massive body. You called the other member and that is why I had to engage myself in altercation with you. This Ordinance was promulgated on 19th September. When did the State Government make their recommendation for inclusion and why was it withheld for so long a time? The House was scheduled to meet on 6th November, then why was this ordinance promulgated on 19th? Would heavens have fallen during this short period of 1½ months? If it was so, it could have been brought forward in August when the House was in session. But your officers sleep over it and wake up only when they are in neck-deep water. The same thing happened in the case of Punjab Ordinance too. That too could have been brought earlier.

[English]

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : You can continue tomorrow.

15.00 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE SITUATION ARISING OUT OF INCIDENT OF 'SATI' AT DEORALA VILLAGE IN RAJASTHAN AND THE STEPS PROPOSED BY THE UNION GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT SUCH DEPLORABLE INCIDENTS IN FUTURE

[English]

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Now we take up item No. 13 : Discussion under Rule 193. Shri C. Madhav Reddy...not present. Dr. Chinta Mohan.

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN** (Tirupati) : Sir, the word 'Sati' started from a herbal root which has got a feminine noun and which gives the sense of cheerfulness, goodness and some sort of sincerity. In later days, the word 'Sati' was used for a woman, more sincere for the religion and the society. From the 6th century onwards, the 'Sati' started. There are two types of 'satis' : one voluntary and another forcible. When we look into the various scriptures, we do not have any Vedic sanctions at all. Recently, I happened to look at some of the writings in Yuga Veda. In chapter 18, page 8, it is said that a widow can go for a second marriage. In Atharvana Veda also in chapter 18, page 1, it is said that a widow can go for a second marriage. It never said that the forcible 'sati' is practised. It is not given at all. Because Sati is attached to the religious sentiments. I would like to go to the Yugas and ancient culture. When we look into the Krutha Yuga, it is seen that Sati Savitri never died with her husband. When we look into the Tretha Yuga, the famous personality Sita never died with Lord Rama. When we look into the Dwapar Yuga, the famous Draupadi never died with the Pandavas. If we look into the Kalayuga, we are now seeing some instances of Roop Kanwar and other ladies. In some of the writings, it is said that it started in Vijayanagara Samrajya. Then it reached the Gangetic belt on to the Punjab and Calcutta in West Bengal.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE** (Rajapur) : That's why the CPM had to take over !

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Even when we look into the pre-British days, there are so many instances of 'Sati'. More than 2,365 'Sati' incidents had happened. After that, Lord Bentick brought a legislation in 1929 to stop this evil system. The famous Raja Rammohan Roy had also taken an active part to abolish 'Sati'. After independence, Indian Penal Code was brought and they brought a number of constitutional amendments. Article 51(a) and 21(a) has given the constitutional rights to live in this country; we have given safeguards to live in this country. Let us look into the present situation.

On 4th September, in Deorala of Rajasthan, Mr. Man Singh had died in hospital later due to intestinal obstruction. He was brought to his residence around 10.30. After 10.30, the wife of the deceased, Roop Kanwar went into the fields to hide herself to fight against sati. But the relatives of Man Singh forcibly brought her around 1.30 to the funeral pyre and got her burnt literally. This has happened in Rajasthan where the Congress (I) is ruling. Is it not a shame for the Government? I do not know why the Chief Minister of Rajasthan is continuing as the Chief Minister of that State. Is not a shame on the part of the Government to continue such things? The same thing happened on the 4th October 1980 in the same place but no condemnation had been expressed. But after 13 days, a festival called 'Chunari Mahotsav' was held where 3 lakhs people attended. The function was attended by 3 MLAs—the religious revivalistic function. The Congress leaders also attended and enjoyed the function. I congratulate the Press, specifically the 'Jansatta' who published this article in their editorial and thus brought this into the focus of this great nation. I congratulate the Janata Party and Opposition parties when they organised a function condemning sati on the 2nd October, Gandhiji's birthday. I do not know what happened to the rulers of this Government. I mean the people who are sitting in the Treasury Benches. Once the Minister of State visited the place and the people presented a propaganda saying that sati should be prohibited. Instead of condemning it directly, the Minister went inside the suit and was not able to say anything. This is the type of functioning of this Government. Later on, probably, the people in the high-

ups forgot sati. A little later, when the Press was putting some questions, they said that sati should be condemned.

15.07 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVAJESWARI *in the Chair*]

On 4th September, the Minister of State for Welfare brought an Ordinance for inclusion of three tribes in the Scheduled Castes in Meghalaya. I am very happy about that. If not on 4th September, at least on 10th September they should have brought an Ordinance to condemn sati. Then we would have been very happy. They had totally forgotten about sati. It all goes to say that people do not have any political will; the very socialistic pattern of society is tilting towards the capitalist attitude; the Government is trying to bring religious revivalism. It all goes to say the obscurantist attitude of this Government. I condemn this Government for not bringing till today a Bill in this Parliament in regard to the condemnation of sati. We talk in this Parliament about modernisation of industries; we talk about computerisation, space research and development.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : How is it that when such a serious debate is going on, the Union Home Minister is not present? Basically he is concerned with this problem.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : That only shows how serious they are.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Madam, you can express your displeasure about the absence of the Home Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is the senior most Minister, he will take care of it.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : This is really super-technicality. I am Minister in charge of women and, therefore, I have a legitimate duty to be here.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am not raising it in a light-hearted manner. Even at other place—I would not say Rajya Sabha—this issue was raised by a Congress

Member and they said that basically it is the Home Minister who is concerned with this.

**AN HON. MEMBER :** Including the Leader of the House.

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** This is a matter which can be looked at from both ways. I am concerned with the subject and, therefore, I am here. I have a right to be here: I have a duty to be here.

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) :** Madam, I express my deep concern that the Leader of the House is not present here, when such a discussion is going on.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** How are you under an impression that the Home Minister has nothing to do with the subject, when most of the issues that are coming up even the amendment of the IPC, Section 306, the Central Legislation that has to be moved, definitely affect the Home Ministry? Whenever the Women's Organisation has interviewed, they have interviewed the Home Minister and all the assurances that have been given to these organisations are also given by the Home Minister only. He has been dealing with it all the way. I am not raising it lightly. If you think that it is a light matter, I would say that is the way you take up many important subjects.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) :** Sir, how many Congress Party Members are sitting here, I would like to know.

*(Interruptions)*

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** I do not challenge his competence. He is competent to deal any Ministry, be it External Affairs, Home or any Ministry for that matter. But the ex-Home Minister is different from the present Home Minister.

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati) :** Madam, there are two aspects; one is the general case of the Sati where the Minister in charge of women can deal but the other aspect deals with the incident of Deorala, which definitely is the question of law and order. I do not think he is capable of answering some of the questions which my learned colleague has put, like as to why no law has been framed.

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** If I am not able to answer any question, the Home Minister will come to answer them.

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Please hear him, what he wants to say.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** There is certain propriety and that has to be maintained in such debate. For example if during the debate on Finance matter, the Finance Minister is not present, it is of no use. I must say, it has never happened like this.

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** The parallel does not apply here. If the Finance Minister is absent while discussion on the finance matter is going on, that is a different story altogether.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Are you connected with the Home Ministry?

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** I am connected with the subject matter of this discussion. The Home Ministry is concerned with the law and order aspect of it. That is only one aspect of the issue.

*(Interruptions)*

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** They are taking Parliament for granted; that is all.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** He will take care of it.

**SHRI M. R. SAIKIA (Nowgong) :** Sir, the Opposition is providing the quorum.

*(Interruptions)*

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN :** The Government of India is talking of the space research, of modernisation, computerisation, research and development and thus are trying to take us to the 21st century. But when we look at these sort of incidents, it appears that they are leading us to the 16th century. Sir, this has never happened in all the four 'yugas', i.e. the Dwarpar, the Krita, the Treta, etc. but it is happening in this yuga. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, for whom I have great respect and admiration,

has he gone to Deorala ? If he has visited that place, he can enlighten us about the incident that has taken place there. I have my own doubt whether the Government can bring a Bill to prevent Sati. If the Government is really thinking of enacting a Bill, I would like to know when that Bill will come and if not the reasons therefor. With these words I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

**SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (B jnor) :**  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very sad day today. It is sad because, the speaker who spoke before me made this serious and heart-rending subject a political issue. His was a political speech. We would debate this issue by rising above politics. This is not an issue for party politics.

I was saying that it was a very sad day today. A need has arisen today to do once again all that which was done by Raja Rammohan Roy and William Bentick in 1829. Whatever happened 150 years ago is happening again and it is very sad and shameful that the preventive measures against it are meeting the same opposition even today. Has our society, our civilization, our culture and our mentality not gone forward even a bit during the past 150 years ? Have we keenly engrossed ourselves in the evil customs to such an extent that we have become crippled and are not able to retrieve ourselves from there ? Now when we are on the threshhold of the 21st century, shall we not feel ashamed to enter 21st century ? We have to think about this.

This issue should not be politicized. So far we were under the impression that Raja Rammohan Roy and William Bentick had put a full stop to the custom of *Sati*. But now it has come to light that numerous incidents of *Sati* have taken place in Rajasthan and other parts of the country. Many of such incidents have been aborted as a result of the action taken by the administration. It is a matter of grave concern.

A dangerous mentality of selfishness works behind *Sati* due to which the relatives went to usurp the money and property of the widow after burning her. Another selfish mentality that works behind the incidents of *Sati* is that once a widow commits *Sati* in a

family, the social status of that family will go up. What an irony and what a social paradox is it that we want to raise the status of our family by burning a widow and not by dint of our virtues ?

Worst of all is a third mentality. This is the mentality of looking down upon the entire race of women by accusing them of being characterless, weak and useless and susceptible to enticement by nature and, as such, they need to be kept under control whether they are in the house of their father or in the house of their husband. When her husband having full control over her dies, she too is burned on his pyre because she is useless and no more wanted by the society. If she remains alive thereafter, she will bring a bad name to the family. This horrible mentality is working behind this custom and Roop Kanwar became victim of this mentality on 4th September.

Now we are having a discussion over it. The people are saying different things. Not all the facts are known. The inquiry is going on. Conflicting reports are coming in. Some people have said that she committed *Sati* voluntarily. Just now, an Hon. Member has said that there are two types of *Sati*- voluntary and involuntary. What are they talking ? This is like making mockery of women-kind particularly the helplessness of Indian womenfolk. Do you know that there is nothing like 'woman's will' in the conventional Indian society ? Her will has no importance in regard to the type of education she is to receive. Her desire has no importance in so far as her going out of and returning to house is concerned. Even in the matter of choice of clothes she is to wear, her desire has no importance.

**SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) :** She has been converted into a *Devi*.  
...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR :** Her will carries no weight in the matter of choosing a life partner. Her desire has no importance in any matter in her life, big or small. But if following the death of her husband she says that she too be burned with her husband, her desire carries all importance. At that time, it is said that it is her sweet will and she be burned. Her will is

accepted at once and she is burned before the police gets the news. At that time, her will assumes all the importance and it is said that she committed *Sati* voluntarily. It is a matter of great regret that the persons who support such a view are educated people and belong to the intelligentsia and they are responsible persons in the society. The editor of the "*Jansatta*" newspaper has written that that girl committed *Sati* of her own free will. What is the meaning of this "free will"? At the time of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, a journal '*Samacher Chandrika*', was published in 1820-30. It was a pro-*Sati* journal. The same role is being played by the "*Jansatta*" now and my predecessor speaker is congratulating him for such a role.

Some persons have said that she committed *Sati* out of excessive emotion. What is this emotion? When a near relative of some one dies, he or she has a feeling of detachment from worldly pleasures at the cremation ground. Everyone has such a feeling at that time. If a mother loses her child, then the mother feels that she should also die. When someone loses his or her near relative, he or she also feels that he or she should also die. Is he or she also killed due to such a feeling expressed by them? No, they are encouraged to live and the feeling of detachment is removed from their minds. But in this particular case dangerous selfish interests were at work and there was an abominable tendency which was at work and that is why, that girl was burnt alive. The people wanted to usurp her wealth. They were afraid that she might be a blot on their family and they also doubted her character.

I would like to ask one more question. Our society is too religious and a fanatic society. Majority of people in India are religious minded and custom of '*Sati*' is being encouraged in the name of religion. It is a matter of great surprise and it is very unfortunate that all the religious leaders and religious scholars are silent on this issue. Why do they not say that it does not have any roots in the religion. If anybody has given any statement, then it is the Shankaracharya of Puri. He has poisoned the entire atmosphere by issuing his statement. He has said that committing of *Sati* is in accordance with the religion. That means that those of our mothers, sisters and daughters who have not committed *Sati* or burnt themselves with the dead bodies of their husbands have

committed a sin. The Shankaracharya of Puri has insulted all the Indian women collectively. He should openly apologise to all Indian women. In his own family there are women who did not burn themselves with the dead bodies of their husbands and they according to him, have also committed irreligious acts. Does the Shankaracharya of Puri belong to an irreligious family? He is talking of which religion? Three mothers of Lord Rama did not commit *Sati*. Mandodari did not commit *Sati*. The wife of Bali did not commit *Sati*. During the period of Mahabharata no women committed *Sati*. Kunti, Madri, Uttara did not commit *Sati*. In Hindu mythology there are Panch Kanyas who are considered *Satis* but they did not commit *Sati* after the death of their respective husbands. They are talking about which religion?

You may take all "Vedas". The Atharvaveda has been referred to here. There is mention of re-marriage in the Atharvaveda. You may take all the Vedas, Upanishadas, all the Puranas, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Gita or all the main religious books of Hindu religion. I would challenge Shankaracharyas and all the religious leaders to mention even a single *Shloka* in favour of *Sati* and if they are unable to refer to such a *shloka*, then they should start making statements against the custom of *Sati* from today onwards. It is a matter of pleasure that there is nothing in favour of *Sati* in our religious books. But I would like to say here that even if religious books had been full of pages in support of *Sati*, even then on humanitarian grounds and on the grounds of justice, human dignity and the provisions of our Constitution, we would have demanded that the custom of *Sati* be done away with immediately. Does it make any difference that Roop Kunwar was unmarried or married or a widow. She was simply a girl and a human being and at the tender age of 18 years, she was burnt alive with all her dreams and ambitions.

We talk of human rights and human dignity in the world and when such type of incidents take place in our own country and when such a huge crowd gathers in support of that incident and responsible persons make statements in its supports does it not lower the prestige of our country in the world? But these persons including politicians who are supporting the custom of *Sati*,

are not concerned with the prestige of the country at all. I would like to reiterate with full authority that these are the elements, which had sided with the Britishers during the freedom struggle and had not shown even the slightest hesitation in selling our motherland, how could they feel ashamed of burning alive their own mothers and sisters ?

I would like to say one more thing that many persons are supporting the custom of *Sati* out of greed, inducement, or fear and many persons who are not supporting it openly are silent either due to some fear or due to some inducement. I would like to urge such persons sitting on the fence that they should not suppress the voice of their conscience. They should listen to the voice of their conscience and rise above party politics. I would also like to submit to the intelligentsia that it should act after rising above all prejudices. I would also like to submit to the religious leaders that they should rise above the old customs and listen to the voice of humanity and should unite in its favour. This is my demand to all. The incident which happened the other day in Rajasthan is a matter of great regret. You might have read in newspapers that when the Bill was being passed there yesterday, then many M.L.As opposed that Bill but they perhaps forgot the fact that they are committed to uphold the Constitution. The directive principle '1 (A) of the Constitution says that we should renounce practice derogatory to the dignity of woman. They have even forgotten the Constitution. They are either too much horrified or under great inducement. I would like to urge them to abide by the Constitution at least. They should remember the great responsibility which has been imposed on them.

Some people say that she committed *Sati* of his own free will. I would like to submit to them that the life of the widow in the society is so torturous and so full of troubles that death is a sweet alternative to a life full of torture. Therefore, we have to think to provide rights and a life of dignity to the widow who has not burnt herself with the dead body of her husband and who is insulted at each and every step throughout her life.

In the end, I would like to welcome the Bill which was brought forward by Rajasthan Government in the Assembly and was passed.

I would also like to welcome the decision of the Hon. Prime Minister to bring forward anti *Sati* Bill in the House. I am of the view that the word 'Sati' should be properly defined in that Bill and committing of 'Sati' should be declared a serious crime. There should be a provision for most stringent punishment to those persons who abet *Sati* or participate in its glorification. All sorts of activities like building of temples, writing of articles, issuing of statements, holding of meetings and rallies, etc. glorifying the custom of *Sati* should be banned and stringent punishment should be prescribed for all those connected with the crime of *Sati*. There are still 12 years to enter the 21st century i.e. the new era of our civilisation. It should be our endeavour to wipe out blot on the face of our country before we enter the new era.

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) :**  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank all those Hon. Members through you who have raised this issue. I am very thankful to sister Meira also. Her speech was full of compassion and sensitivity about womanhood. The dignity of man was being reflected by her. There are two aspects of this issue. While making use of this forum of Lok Sabha, we can either enmesh ourselves in politics or rise above politics. I would, however, not like to misuse this forum hoping that the whole House will unanimously express its opinion on this issue which is full of compassion so that the country come to know that we are talking here about something which relates to a basic human emotion. Mr Chairman, Sir, I will go into the Deorala incident later. I will try to take little time. But I would like to say as Hon Shrimati Meira Kumar has said that the five Maha *Satis* mentioned the *Hindu shastras* never sacrificed themselves on the funeral pyre of their husband (Interruptions)

They never immolated themselves on the pyres of their husbands. I want to submit that the *Shastras* in which we have faith, have never misled us. I can take the name of thousands of our *Shastras* and also names of thousands of our saints and sages and quote those stories and songs which eulogise *Sati*. Anusuya, Savitri, Tara and Mandodari but none of them immolated themselves on the funeral pyre of their husbands. But since this practice has started in this country it has

produced very bad results. I want to remind the Hon. Members that even today when a daughter is born in the family of the poor it is said that the goddess Lakshmi has entered our house. She is not disrespected. But Hon. Madam Chairman, when a daughter is born in a palace as we have both seen and read, she is killed so as to escape the burden of bringing her up. A poor man is able to bring her up but the rich wants to kill her. And if she happens to survive efforts are made to burn her alive. Such evil practices are garbed in religion. I do not want to specify any community in this respect.

In Rajasthan there are temples of 48 *Satis* whereas their number in this vast country is less than 100. But I will surely say that the great men of this country like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Mahatma Gandhi, Vivekanand, Dayanand Saraswati, Subramanium Bharati and others have all opposed this evil custom. No one has welcomed it. Are we the inheritors of these great men or of these people who are acting like brutes or inciting others to indulge in barbarism. I can definitely say with holding my head high that we are the followers of Raja Ram Mohan Roy and not of these lunatics who can burn a young girl alive.

Madam Chairman. I know that Rajasthan is our neighbouring State and we are affected by whatever happens there. I want to tell you about the report of the people who saw that incident. There was a procession of two and a half or three thousand people. I want to inform the House that I deny this basic fact this persons commit Sati of their free will. There is no question of free will. It is decided by a few decrepit and evil intentioned members of the family whether the widow is to be kept alive or not. Before burning the widow on her husband's funeral pyre she is drugged and intoxicated. She is made to drink opium mixed in some liquid and then drums are beaten loudly. Coconuts are strewn around her. Madam Chairman, she becomes unconscious immediately and thus the question of free will does not arise. She becomes senseless. She is not able to move with the procession, she staggers but she is dragged along. This is what happened in Deorala. There are two reports about Roop Kanwar. One is that she was made to take opium and the other is that she was administered an injection by a

Doctor to make her unconscious. She was not in senses to express her willingness. It is being investigated and a report is awaited. It is said that she hid herself in a cattle shed and protested that she did not want to die. But people were raising slogans so loudly that her cries could not be heard. In order to ensure that her voice is not heard and she gets burnt quickly, coconuts and *ghee* are put on her and the whole atmosphere resounds with slogans glorifying her. Those who cannot take care of her while she is alive, construct temples after her death. This is how situations are created and they are held with pride. Journalists are now coming back and I want to congratulate Shrimati Manimala for her report about the incident. She said that girl was shouting *Papa, Papa* and was trying to get out of the pyre but she was not allowed to get out and that Roop Kanwar was burnt alive. Just see, who was asked to list the funeral pyre? It was lit by a minor boy of 15 or 16 years to avoid any charge being levelled against any major one. Her father-in-law says that he was not in his senses. The person who was able to bring his son's body from Sikar says that he had lost his senses due to grief. I want to ask the Government that it should be investigated thoroughly and whoever is found guilty should be hanged. It would be a great favour. I do not want to politicise this issue. I do not want to involve any Government... (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): Madam, Rajasthan Government has withdrawn the bail. There is no objection for the bail in the High Court.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Madam Chairman, I have not yet resumed my seat. I want that Shri Dattaji should say whatever he wants to say, when his turn comes...

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is in not yielding.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: You are talking something, but what is your Government doing?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Datta Samant, he is not yielding. Why do you interrupt him.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : The time is limited and I will not take much time of this august House. I want to say that a Minister of the stature of Hon. Shri Narasimha Rao is taking down notes in the House. I want to submit that whatever punishment may be provided but we must make some law in this respect. We will be grateful to him. This will not only seal the lips of people like Datta Samant, Madhu Dandavate, Balkavi Bairagi and others but also the rest of the people of this country will also come to their senses. It should also be provided in the election rules that anyone supporting *Sati* shall be disqualified on the ground of indulging in a corrupt practice. The Minister should do us this favour.

Madam Chairman, in Rajasthan it has become a fashion to court arrest in support of *Sati*. The people are willingly getting themselves arrested on this charge. They think if they would not do so, they would not get votes in elections. I want to request that such persons who are indulging in such acts, should be expelled from their respective parties regardless of whether they belong to the ruling party or the opposition. Today lakhs of people there are moving in procession carrying bare swords in their hands in support of this custom of *Sati*. They are saying that if the practice of *Sati* is discontinued, it would be against their religion. It does not matter if this Government fails thousands of times but if we are not able to protect our widows we will not be able to show our faces to our mothers and sisters. I want to say it very politely that a man is more valuable than Government and the dignity of woman is the most important thing in this country. I want to congratulate Rajasthan Government for the new law they have framed. But I want to appeal to the responsible cabinet of the Central Government, the Hon. Prime Minister and those who are listening to me that the entire legislation on this subject has been discussed thoroughly during the last one and a half months in the Rajasthan Assembly and its shortcomings have been brought to light and

discussed. I want to submit that Central Government should now frame a law after plugging all these loopholes and enforce it throughout the country. We are here today, we may be somewhere else tomorrow but in order to uphold the Constitution and in order to save this country, a law must be made and enforced in this country so that the people would remember us all as they remember Raja Ram Mohan Roy. I want to submit that you should frame a strict law after plugging all loopholes. We should also deliberate as to what to do with the old temples. Who has been arrested and on which charge should now be forgotten. I want to say that if any widow is burnt alive, it is a matter of shame for all of us irrespective of party affiliations. We may stand under any flag but we will have to think it hundred times as to whether we are fit to stand under that flag. I don't want to talk of the role played by the Press in this regard. This issue came to light when politics was brought into it. Till then, there was nothing. Now it has become a fashion of the modern time that the people seek tickets on this ground. Without naming anybody, I would like to submit to my senior brother, Prof. Madhu Dandavateji that while seeking tickets of a party the members of the party would give in writing in their bio-data that they had been arrested in a *Sati*-case and therefore, they should be given the tickets. At that time, you should have the courage to deny them tickets of your party and you should tell them that it does not make any difference whether one was arrested or not. ...(*Interruptions*) Whosoever he or she might be, I am saying this for all.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Bairagiji, they do not have the courage to expel Kalvi from the party ...  
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Madam Chairman, I would like to underline the statement of Vyasa ji. I did not want to mention his name. He has mentioned his name.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : I would condemn him even mentioning his name.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I would be very happy.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): Expell him from the party.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I will do it if you have faith in my conscience.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Thank you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Had I been the President of the Party, I would have demanded his expulsion from the party.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Madam Chairman, I would like to submit that the law in this regard should be made more and more stringent. It has to be considered very seriously as to how the old Sati temples be used and how the country make use of these temples, otherwise it would be yet another issue which may create disturbances in the country.

A great scholar, the Shankaracharya of Puri has said that it is in accordance with the religion. Sister Meira has already spoken a lot about it and I do not want to say anything more about it, but I would like to go into its background. At one time, the Shankaracharya of Puri was the Head of Sanskrit Department in Jaipur University, later he became Shankaracharya. It appears to me that he does not consider Hindu religion of the entire country as his religion, but he considers the religion of the Jaipur streets and Deorala streets as his own religion. If he wants to indulge in politics, he should then change his own clothes and he is most welcome to enter into politics and we are ready to face him. He should change his clothes, renounce his Danda and Kamandalu and he may come back to Jaipur after taking holy water of the Ganga. He may come to Deorala. Momasa, Mandsaur or Bombay, we are ready to face him at political level, but by wearing holy clothes of a religion it does not behave him to provide protection to an evil practice and the big persons like him in the society should not indulge in such things.

With these words, I express my thanks to you for providing me an opportunity to speak and I would like to submit to all that let us resolve today that in future no widow would be allowed to meet the fate of Roop Kunwar and no widow would be allowed to be burnt alive. We wish that Roop Kunwar be the last widow to die in this manner.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Madam Chairman, there are moments in the life of a Parliament when the entire House need speak with one voice and without any discordant note. You may recall that in this very hall of the Central parliament, years back when nation became free, late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said on that occasion that "moment comes—it comes but rare—in history when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance". I am sure, all those women who have been suppressed for generations will find utterance in the debate of this House because to the last man, this House shall stand together forgetting the partisan differences because there will be enough moments in which we can criticise the Government. I shall not do that. And if I criticise, I shall only criticise my own colleagues whom I find guilty of a great crime as far as the problem of Rajasthan is concerned.

The incident of *Sati* at Deorala village in Rajasthan is not an isolated instance. It is the perverse reflection and manifestation of the obscurantist mind in the country which is sought to be cultivated by some elements. Roop Kanwar's death on the funeral pyre is a symbol of the mutilated dignity of Indian women and the purpose of this debate will be how to restore the mutilated dignity of Indian women, setting aside all the past traditions and the legal framework. On the funeral pyre lies not only Roop Kanwar but even the soul of Raja Ram Mohan Roy lies buried below the ashes of Roop Kanwar. Everything that Raja Ram Mohan Roy did, is sought to be destroyed by the religious obscurantism in this country. *Sati* is born not out of the funeral pyre but *Sati* is born out of the perverted obscurantist mind of the people, and it is that mind that has to be changed.

There are controversies regarding various features of the *Sati* practice. There is no sanction of religion behind *Sati*. But I shall go a step ahead of Meira Kumar Ji and I shall go to the extent of saying that even if some religious scriptures permit and sanction the creation of *Sati* in the country and mutilate the dignity of womanhood, I shall have no hesitation in burning to ashes such holy scriptures which will mutilate the dignity and the prestige of Indian womanhood. This is a practice violative of article 21. Article 21 very clearly says : "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law" No procedure established by law allows the women's dignity to be destroyed. On the contrary, the Fundamental Rights adumbrated in the Constitution, and the Directive Principles of the State Policy, demand that women must enjoy the Right to Equality. There is also the commercial aspect of the problem. Many delegations have gone there, women streams have gone there. They have seen what is happening. It is the economic and financial greed of the relatives and the community as a whole and of the village as a whole that also sometimes is responsible for the glorification of the *Sati*. Madam, you just go and see the site of the place where the monument is sought to be erected. Large number of shops and hoteliers are coming up as if a great samphire of pilgrims is to arrive, and they are making money.

I may be, permitted to say that according to the property rights belonging to the Hindu family, if a man dies without a son or a daughter, and if his wife also dies, the property of the man who dies goes to the nearest kith and kin. This is also a dimension that is taken note of. We have people in this country who respect property more than the human life. I am one among those who, right from the very beginning, pleaded that the Right to Property in Chapter IV on Fundamental Rights should be removed from there and should be made an ordinary legal right. It need not be treated on par with Fundamental Rights. I am glad that with the total unenmity in the House, the Constitution stands amended and right to property in this country no more empowers the right to freedom, right to sanctity of the human life, altogether that suppression has taken place and there is a question whether '*Sati*' is voluntary or involuntary. I would like to warn the House even in what is described

sometime back by some people as voluntary. What is voluntary '*Sati*' and what is involuntary '*Sati*'? It is a social compunction of a widow which makes it necessary for her to surrender her life on the life on the funeral pyre of her husband. I will come to this point afterwards.

15.55 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*]

Now, if you look at the historical perspective of the experiment of '*Sati*', you will find that even in the old civilisations, the oldest civilisations, there had been certain arrangement of such practice. Even there will be groups in the Greek civilisation, these are barbarous groups. Even the position of women suffered immensely following Manu's formulation of Hindu law. I do not want to destroy anybody's religious susceptibility. But I am one among those who in my election meeting I have said that those scriptures of Manu in which it is said that any '*Shudra*' listens to the recitation of '*Vedas*', in that case molten lead must be poured into his ears, if you don't give me vote I want to publicly proclaim that I am prepared to burn such scriptures of Manu. I said I did not mind if I lose my deposit in the election. I am prepared to burn those scriptures which actually permit molten lead to be put into the ears of those '*shudras*', Harijans and Dalits who try to listen to the *Vedas*.

So, Sir, the same attitude of Manu's Hindu Law is towards women. Widow is treated as an inferior citizen. Widow is supposed to stay in the backyards of the big palatial buildings. She is supposed to take inferior food, she is supposed to move without chappals, she is not supposed to visit any religious temples, she is not supposed to attend any religious and social functions and when women is destined to that particular life, she feels life is a humiliation and she feels that the greatest gift to life is death. When she feels the greatest gift to life is death, in that case she won't hesitate to mount on the funeral pyre and other orthodox elements will push her to the pyre and try to kill her. That is what is happening. So, so far voluntary '*Sati*' is not at all voluntary because it is a compunction of the social situation that gives an impression that some women are going to the funeral pyre

with a voluntary attitude. But that is not voluntary attitude. Really speaking, it is an oppression and suppression of the entire community. Raja Ram Mohan Roy tried to campaign Against 'Sati'. It was unfortunate that apart from Raja Ram Mohan Roy not the big political leaders of this country, no matter whatever be complication, it was Lord William Bentick who insisted that for moral civilisation, 'Sati' has no place but it is a curse and therefore Bengal Regulation of India was brought. When I went through all the documents I found that there was only Bengal Regulation. Then came Ordinance in Rajasthan which was meant only for Rajasthan. But there was no Central Legislation. We must have a Central Legislation and I am glad that the women delegation which met the Home Minister were assured that there would be a Central Legislation which has already been circulated among the Members. My only request to the Minister who is handling this portfolio, to take the constructive proposals and suggestions of the Opposition as well as the leading women organisations in the country so that they will have enough to say as far as this aspect is concerned. There is one more aspect and that is, along with the Central Legislation remember that so far at all-India level, which is the law that was utilised by the various State Governments and the Central Government ?

They were utilising the Indian Penal Code Section 306 and Section 309. Section 306 talks about suicide and abetment to suicide and for that the punishment is prescribed. Sir, I have already introduced a Bill seeking an amendment to the Indian Penal Code in which I am insisting that in Section 306 we should say "suicide or resort to the practice of 'Sati'" and this explanation can be given. will also be punishable for the same type of crime and therefore, the Indian Penal Code also should be modified.

16 00 hrs.

Sir, let the Parliament speak out with one voice. There must be a comprehensive Central legislation. I said that there are a number of research organisations devoted to social reform. They have already worked out a number of propositions. Let us see to it that we take their opinion into account

and try to see that they are helped as much as possible.

I would like to point out to the House that ill treatment of women has led to the *Sati* practice. I would like to point out to you, Sir, that in this country there were certain rulers and social reformers who tried their best to fight against the *Sati* system. During the Mughal empire it was Akbar who, through A'in-in-Akbari, tried to introduce a social reform by which he tried to oppose Sati. Even the daughter of Jodhpur King was actually saved by Akbar. These were the traditions in India.

Sir, I will give one illustration and I would like to tell the House through you that if tears in their eyes are yet not dried up, be prepared to shed the tears. Sir, here is an actual incident that had happened in Madhya Pradesh. And when you hear about those incidents, what happened in Rajasthan will completely go into background. Sir, in a village near Jodhpur in Madhya Pradesh one old, poor man died. He was ill for two years. His wife tried to put every ounce of her energy and the last farthing in her pocket to save her husband. Ultimately the husband died. And when the husband died, that lady found that there was not a farthing in her house for the funeral of her husband and she went to the villagers. She said, 'I have no money for the funeral rites of my husband. You please spend, and if you don't give me money, in that case vultures will devour my husband's body. I could not save him in his life time, let me save his dead body. Please arrange for the funeral. You will be surprised that callously the villagers told that old lady, 'For hundred years we had no Sati in our village. So, Madam, if you are prepared to become a Sati in this village, we shall spend on the funeral of your husband and we shall also spend on your funeral'. And you will be shocked to know that that old lady agreeing to that in order to see that the body of the husband is not devoured by vultures and dogs said, I am prepared to become a Sati. Burn the body of my husband and put me on the funeral pyre.' And when the police came to know about it, thanks to the Police Administration, they rushed to the spot, they saved that lady who wanted to be a Sati forcibly, and they finished the funeral of that particular husband. So, that is how

squarely the society is guided by the obscurantist ideas in this country, they try to do it.

Sir, the politicians sometimes are on the oresi. I shall not talk of my political opponents, but I have a right to talk about my colleagues. Sir, I hang down my head with shame when one of my colleagues of the Janata Party and the Chairman of the Janata Party, Rajasthan Branch, had the temerity to praise and glorify the Sati system, and, Sir, I condemn him in no uncertain words, and I demand in my party that he should be thrown out of the party lock stock and barrel. There cannot be a place for Mr. Kalvi and Madhu Dandavate in the same Party if they have to stand on the liberal ideas for which Mahatma Gandhi lived and died. So, I have a right to criticise my Party. I do not want to criticise others. This is the politics that is going on. Why this is happening? This is because the narrow politician is not thinking of the next generation, he is not thinking about the next civilization, he is thinking about the next general election and so long as we have politicians who think only of the next election and not of the next generation and not of the next civilization, I tell you this problem is not going to be solved and if all the political parties irrespective of their political life take a firm attitude, no matter whoever may be a member of my party, if he takes such an obscurantist attitude, he has no place in the national party; other parties, caste parties may accommodate them. But there is no room for such men inside the national parties. That is the attitude that is to be there.

MR. SPEAKER : Absolutely right.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to make one concrete suggestion, i.e. Education and campaign against Sati. Raja Ram Mohan Roy played a great role in seeing that before the Bengal Regulation came into effect, the necessary climate was created by his mass campaign and mass education. That is to be carried on

Sir, what happened in Rajasthan? The conscience of many politicians was crushed under the dead weight of decadent tradition. The State Government's sensitivity to some extent was also paralysed for some time. The mass campaign against Sati and effective State intervention are needed. For that, the Central

intervention is a must. I am glad the Home Minister has already assured all the concerned that we are going in the direction. Already a draft has been prepared. I will repeat my suggestion that when that Central legislation comes before this House, take the constructive proposals and suggestions from all sections of the House and kindly take the suggestions from women's organisations. When that Central legislation comes before this House and at the end of the discussion, when you announce "Ayes" and 'Noes'; I am sure, all of us with full throat and voice say "Ayes" in the House. So, that will be the cry of solidarity behind the women whose dignity is sought to be violated and behind them stand the entire House, in that perspective.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA (Motihari) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all of us are moved at the painful incident which is being discussed in the House today. On the one hand, we are on the threshold of 21st century and are raising slogan throughout the world for the women's liberation and upliftment and on the other hand, horrifying incidents like committing of *Sati* by Roop Kunwar of 18 years of age at Deorala in Rajasthan are taking place. The entire world has been stunned at this incident and it has moved our hearts. We are horripilated at this incident and it has given a great mental shock to us. A girl aged eighteen years was forced to sit on a heap of wood.

16.07 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the chair*]

Mr. Chairman. Sir, eighteen years is a very tender age. She was an innocent girl. As a matter of fact, she was forced to commit *Sati*. Through this august House, I would like to ask the Rajasthan Government that even after occurring of this incident on 4th of September, why did it not move into action and why did it remain inactive? At About 10 o'clock or 10.30 o'clock is the dead body of her husband was brought from the hospital and everything was over by 12.30 o'clock i.e. within 2 or 2.5 hours. The innocent girl burnt alive on the funeral pyre of her husband. Our Government of Rajasthan

became active only when the High Court delivered this judgement that no *Sati* temple would be allowed to be constructed or no festival would be allowed to be held. But it is very painful that despite all these things, *chunri* festival was held with great pomp and show and approx. 2 or 2.5 lakh of people participated in it. If Rajasthan Government had desired, it would have prevented such an incident.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the incidents of *Sati* have taken place earlier also in Rajasthan. At Deopura village of Sikar district, a person of 60 years of age died. When his wife got ready to commit *Sati* after taking the dead body of her husband in her lap, the local administration came to know of it and it took immediate action to stop that woman from committing *Sati*. I would like to praise the then local administration which took timely steps to save the life of that woman. At that time also, within 3 hours, a crowd of 20,000 people had gathered there and at the time of intervention by Police, there number had increased to 50,000. Shri Guptaji was S.P. there he went there and acted in a very tactical manner. He delivered a speech there and said that he had come there to offer his prayers to *Sati Mata* and offer his coconut to her, but it has been provided in Hindu religion that fire should engulf the pyre of its own and therefore, we should wait till engulfs the pyre of its own. They waited till the evening, but the fire did not light up till evening. In the evening, he arrested all his relatives and told them that she was not going to commit *Sati* of her free will, because if a woman commits *Sati* of her free will, the fire should light up the pyre of its own. The crowd which had gathered there, gradually dispersed and some persons even said that women should not be allowed to commit *Sati*. In this way, a serious accident which was going to take place in 1984 was averted, because the Administration there was alert, vigilant and efficient. If the Administration here also had been alert and efficient, the present incident would have been averted. The local administration did not show any alertness. Whereas the place where this incident took place is not far off from the Police Station and the innocent girl was allowed to be burnt alive within two or two and a half hours.

During the Ramayana era, Sulochna wife of Meghnada had committed *Sati*.

Thereafter, the word 'Johar' came to be used in our history. The context was different at that time. Then women used to immolate themselves on receipt of the news about the killing of their husbands in a battle to protect themselves from the evil eye of the opponents and also to protect their chastity. This has been the history of Rajasthan:—

"Chittor champak hee raha lakhon yaman Ali Ho Gaye,  
Dharmarth Haldighati mein kitane subhat bali ho gaye  
Ham magn hein, un padmini si devion ke sbok mein."

That was totally a different matter. It belongs to an era when the women did not come out of their homes and spent their entire life in the four walls of their houses. A strong protest used to be made even at that time. At that time also, Raja Ram Mohan Roy raised a strong voice against it and Anti-Sati Act was enacted on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1829. The people of that time denounced and rejected the practice of *Sati* and Anti-Sati law was passed at that time. Today we have to remember our foreign rulers in this painful atmosphere. There has been an old custom in Rajasthan that one or the other woman has been committing *Sati* off and on. When such painful incidents take place, that we have to make a reference to them.

Yesterday, a discussion was going on in Rajasthan Assembly on this issue. Prof. Madhu Dandavate is sitting here. On the one side were the Members belonging to his party and on the other side was Shri Kedar Nath Sharma, who opposed this practice vehemently. Whereas Mr. Bhati of Janta Party tore off the copy of the Bill and called it a black law. Whereas many other Members of B.J.P. vehemently opposed this custom and extended their co-operation in passing this Bill. We thank the Rajasthan Government for having passed it. It is our firm belief that this law would be implemented in letter and spirit and the fundamentalists and blind followers of religion would be dealt with firmly.

I would like to ask these fundamentalists and make them understand through this Sanskrit *Shloka*:

"Sam Gachhadhwam Sam Vadadhwam,  
Sam Wo Manansi Janataam"

Nowhere is it written that the wife should burn herself by sitting on the funeral pyre of her husband. In Rig Veda it is written :

*"Aarohan'u Janayo Yaginiye"*

According to this if a woman is widowed, her younger brother-in-law should come in the night and marry her. Such things have been mentioned in our Vedas. 'Agre' has been distorted to 'Agnya'. In his translation of Vedas the great philosopher Maxmuller has said that superstition has reached such limits that the entire nation and the world has to hang its head in shame. This is a great challenge for us and for our society. It is a blot on our face. I hope that our Government which is a welfare Government and has done a lot for women under the able stewardship of Shri Rajiv Gandhi would enact a strict legislation.

So far as *Abhilmanyu* is concerned he was killed at the age of 16 years. But did *Utrara* commit *Sati*? *Utrara* did not commit *Sati* and instead she was honoured. In no Veda or other scripture is it written that disrespect should be shown to a widow. It is the pious duty of our society to keep the widow in the house and show her due respect. I am sure that the Central Government will enact a law in this regard immediately, besides making the Sati Act of 1829, formulated by William Bentick, more stern. The proposed Act should make a provision, that those who glorify *Sati*, they would not be allowed to contest election. Dandavateji has said it rightly. But the president of the State Unit of Janata Party, Shri Rathor is participating in pro-*Sati* agitation and is raising slogans. If he is burnt or even if he gets minor burns on his fingers what will happen to him? I am hopeful that the Government will bring forth a Bill in this regard during the current session. Provision should be made for special courts therein, so that no *Roop Kanwar* or a new bride is forced to commit *Sati*.

Lakhs of girls are committing *Sati* on the altar of dowry. Mothers-in-law burn them. But where was the mother-in-law of *Roop Kanwar* when she was burnt alive? Women are to be blamed for the evil system of dowry to thrive. Where was *Roop Kanwar*'s mother-in-law sleeping when this

heinous crime was being committed. We should strongly condemn her. I condemn this heinous crime. Whatever law is made, it should be implemented sternly. If anybody is burnt alive in this country, I condemn it and I feel that the entire House will unanimously support this Bill and condemn the *Sati* system.

[English]

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa):** Sir, the 'ati incident at Deorala village in Rajasthan has shaken the country to its very foundation of humane and civilized existence. This is a stunning proof that despite all our claims of modernity and taking the country to 21st century in actuality the forces of obscurantism and orthodoxy, are pulling this country backwards to medieval times. We understand that there cannot be anything more revolting than the cruel burning of the helpless widow. We all condemn this. But what is just beyond comprehension is this: that we find in our country the existence of such people who try to support this practice, who try to defend this act that has been committed and who come out in the streets and try to mobilise the people to defend their rights to kill women. We just cannot understand in what country and in which times we are living. It is a most shameful thing that is happening. In Deorala many people witnessed the burning. Many of them actively participated in this. Some of them were educated people. Then what happened to our education? This clearly proves that education in our country has failed to inculcate scientific outlook among our people.

The incident in Deorala is the most symbolic reflection of the fact that secularism in our country has been weakened over the years. In a normal time, those people who took part in the burning of the women in Deorala, they would refrain from committing a murder, they would stop somebody from committing a suicide. But motivated by the commercial interest, by profit motives, they used religion and committed the most barbaric crime and the illiterate people those followed, they were blind by religion. But how is this that in our country, when we are approaching 21st century, religion is used to enact this kind of inhuman activity? Here, I must say that in the days of very

recent past, the atmosphere of our country has been so vitiated that the fundamentalist and the reactionary forces, dare to do anything they like. They demand impunity in the name of religion. I want to remind this House about the debate during the Muslim Woman's Bill. At that time, we warned the Government not to enact that Bill. We said that this will encourage every sort of fundamentalism to raise their heads. But our opinion was nullified. What we heard at that time this Government, their leaders, they said, "We cannot interfere that thing which comes in the name of religious practice." Now these sword-wielding youth, they are saying, "do not interfere in our religious practice." Who is to pay for all this? If we had political will, if we are not blind, we can just set things right and motivate our people. But we must also search our soul. We have to understand the blunders we have committed. Today, a situation has come where these fundamentalists and the reactionary forces have adopted a very aggressive posture. I do not think that things have gone out of hand. We have still ability, we have still that resources to tackle that. For that, we require that kind of political determination that kind of will to make a campaign which should be participated in by all political parties.

Professor Dandavate has condemned Mr. Kalvi his own partyman who actively propagated the sati burning. I wish him all support that he will succeed in throwing him out from his party. But then, that is not the only question. There are many other things. What have they said? What action have you taken maybe, as a Central Government, as a ruling party, when the Rajasthan Government had failed to stop the 'Chunari Mahotsava' despite the High Court order? What action did the Government take to prevent it? Why have they failed? Now I can quote one press report from the 'Navbharat Times' of 19th September, which is in Hindi.

[Translation]

"The Chief Minister summoned the Cabinet yesterday-which was not termed as a formal Cabinet meeting-to discuss the 'Chunri Mahotsava Ceremony'. It is believed that most of the Cabinet

members were in favour of allowing the Chunri Ceremony."

[English]

Nobody contradicted this.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN. (Barmer) : This is not true. We contradict it. This is wrong. Which newspaper is this?

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : I condemn Jansatta for their editorial.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum) : I will show you that even in West Bengal which is supposed to be one of the most progressive states, you had not taken any steps to stop glorifying Sati.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : You search your soul.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Everybody has said that everyone will rise above politics. Now when I tried to tell the facts everybody is shouting on everybody else. What action did they take? They have to answer to this House and to the people. It is not a simple thing. In any civilised country that kind of Government would have been sacked. We are having a Government with hypocrites and fools in it.

What are their arguments? They said that many of them would participate in the Sati Mela. Glorification of Sati has been going on. Government put up stalls in the Melas. This is happening; If this is the situation, then only by law we cannot stop this. We require a popular campaign.

I am pinpointing my speech also on the role of the political leaders. Because if we do not set up examples, how will others follow? This kind of a situation was not there five years ago that somebody would

burn a widow, commit a murder and try to glorify it and say 'don't touch me'. This kind of degeneration and deterioration was not there.

I wanted very much before speaking here that the newly appointed general secretary of the Congress (I) Mr. Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi to be here; but he is not here...*(Interruption)*. . . I quote from the Times of India in which he has said :

"Rajasthan Congress leaders have not condemned the incident because they have to live and work in the State"

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** We condemned it in toto.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** He had to issue a rejoinder; otherwise how will I know ? So, to work and live in Rajasthan, you don't speak out your mind and to rule India you spoke out your mind only three weeks later.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) :** The Prime Minister spoke three weeks later.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** You tell me whether anybody has countered It. Why did he not speak out his mind just after that incident, will you tell me ? Did not this create a revulsion in everybody's mind ? Now we are talking of so many big things.

Even now Mr. Chaturvedi is trying to say that it was a voluntary act. What is a voluntary act ? Roop Kanwar committed Sati voluntarily; What does it mean ?

More than 150 years ago—if I can quote from Raja Ram Mohan Roy—in a petition to the then Governor General of West Bengal in August 1818, he wrote :

"Your petitioners are fully aware from their own knowledge and from the authority of credible eye witness that cases have frequently occurred when women have been induced by the persuasions of their next heirs, interested in their destruction to burn themselves on the funeral piles of

their husbands, that others who have been induced by fear to retract a resolution, rashly expressed in the first moments of grief of burning with their deceased husbands, have been forced upon the pile and there bound down with ropes and pressed with bamboos until consumed with the flames, have been carried back by their relations and burnt to death. All these instances, your petitioners humbly submit, are murders according to every Sastra, as well as to the common sense of all nations."

Sir, Raja Ram Mohan Roy was not wrong. Who says it is a voluntary act ? Voluntary concept is a myth. What Mr. Balkavi Bairagi has said is correct as to how she was administered drug. She tried to escape; how so many people were there but nobody tried to help. What kind of inhuman situation it has become. It is religion or no religion, I do not know, but we believe in the religion of humanity and that should prevail in our country. We just cannot allow this kind of thing to happen any more in our country.

Sir, laws are there. A new law has been enacted in Rajasthan and we are going to enact one at the Centre. I do not know whether that will cover the Deorala incident or not but then we have the regular law which can take care of the Deorala people who have committed crime. They should be sincerely tried on charges of murder-murder of the most foul type. There should not be any laxity in the action of the Government.

Further, Sir, when the Bill is drafted one thing has to be kept in mind. That in any case of Sati-burning of a widow—those who are going to benefit property-wise they should be made the suspects and they should be tried and onus of proof should be on them that they have not committed the crime

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House but this law that will come, that should be very fool-proof and it should be an all-India law. It should take care that no glorification of this barbaric crime in any manner whatsoever is permitted. Further let us take up a campaign. Only law would not do. Law is necessary but coupled with this the need is that we all take part in a campaign. We have so many other problems.

We have the fear of dis-memberment of our country by the conspiracy of the agencies of Imperialism but I keep it in the secondary position and would like to give this problem the primary position. With this seriousness we should take part in this debate and in the coming days we will take part in the campaign. With these words I conclude.

**SHRI ASUTOSH LAW** (Dum Dum) : Sir, it is very unfortunate that when we are standing at the threshold of 21st century we have to discuss certain barbaric actions committed by certain people in Rajasthan. It is very unfortunate. I can understand and appreciate the anguish and anxiety expressed by our lady Member. This evil of the society was banned in 1829 at the instance of Raja Ram Mohan Roy in Bengal. History shows that even during the Muslim rule the Sultans of Delhi once tried to ban this heinous act of religious evil. There after Humayun also tried and thought of absolute prohibition of Sati. The great emperor Akbar made an attempt to prohibit this Sati. Then Jehangir followed it. Aurangzeb also tried. But ultimately it was Lord Bentick who totally banned it by legislation in 1829. But in 1987 in the month of September for the first time we have heard of such a barbaric act committed at Deorala village of Rajasthan.

Sir, we all condemn about this sort of barbaric action which is not only against the humanity but is also against all principles. I feel that only by legislation we cannot stop this sort of our practice. The proper education, proper propaganda and proper preaching in the society can really bring in an end to this sort of evil practice in the society. A young girl of 16 was forced to die. It has been glorified now. I request the Government to enact central Act. By that Act, any glorification of 'sati' should be stopped. It should be considered an offence. I hope then there will be no further repetition of this sort of tragic tales of young girls committing 'sati' in our country in future. In any such event-particularly in this case- the father-in-law and the mother-in-law of the girl should be punished. In future, if we are so unfortunate to face any such incident, a law should be enacted and serious action should be taken against not only the father-in-law but also against the mother-in-law of the victim. They should be given the maximum punishment. Forcing any young girl to commit 'sati' amounts to committing a murder under

section 302. Even if I assume that a girl voluntarily goes and sacrifices her life, that also is a crime under the Criminal Procedure Code as suicide is also a crime or offence under our criminal law.

Sir, another thing which calls for attention to bring an end to this evil system in our society is that we do not pay proper respect or proper rights to the women of our country. It is very sad and strange. Forget about the urban areas or metropolitan cities. Every Member knows about how the villagers differentiate between women and men. Time has come and this thing has to be stopped. Hundreds and thousands of widows of different States are still suffering in Hardwar, Brindaban and in Kashi. They are leading a wretched life in those places. They earn only Rs. 2 per day and they are exploited. Now the time has come. If we do not give them proper respect, if we cannot make these women understand that they are equal or are at the same footing with us, possibly in future we will not be in a position to remove all these evils from our society. Therefore, I request the Central Government that at the time of making any Central legislation, certain things have to be incorporated. The Government should at least consider those things. The definition of sati should be placed at par with suicide in the Indian Penal Code and it should be considered as an offence. Secondly, glorification of sati should be considered as a great offence which should also be treated under it.

Thirdly, in case if there is any such incident of sati, the Government should confiscate all land and property of that man against whom the complaint has been made. If anybody collects funds to glorify sati those funds should be confiscated by the Government.

Fourthly, Representation of Peoples Act should be amended to the effect that propaganda in the name of *sati* or to glorify *sati* in any election or election campaign, should be considered a corrupt practice. Only then, people cannot take political advantage out of *Sati*. Unless and until we give proper rights to our women in the society, these evils cannot be removed. Just now the Marxist friend was referring about the inability and incapacity of the State Government of Rajasthan in spite of the High Court order. Does the Marxist friend want the

Government to open fire before lakhs of people ? That is what they want to be done by the State Government of Rajasthan. Only innocent people were misled by the so-called religious superstitious belief. They want to open fire on those lakhs of people who are living in that village. About those who are claiming themselves as champions of progressiveness, may I say what a publication dated the 11th November published in the heart of the city of Calcutta, where Raja Ram Mohan Roy fought against these evils, has said ? Even today sati melas have held in Belghata to glorify sati on the 15th of this month, i.e., on Sunday. It is mentioned in this paper. There is no reason for the State Government to keep silent on this till today

(Interruptions) .. Please make yourself more wise and get further information from the State. The progressive cannot stop them from holding melas at Belghata, at the heart of Calcutta on the 15th of this month.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : What is that ? Will you please read it ?

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : I will read it, it is in Bengali.

"Kolkata te Sati Mandir, Sati Mahaty procharer mela. Rajasthaner taruni badhu Roop Kanwarer Sati hobar ghatanar par, gota desh jakhon ek-dike, protibader jhar uthche, tokhon khod Kolkata tei Sati ghatanar birudhhe meeting Choleche, tokhon Bele ghata anchale Sati mandire aagami 15 November Sati-melar anus- than hote choleche."

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Translate it into English.

(In erruptions)

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Let them understand that they should not bring polities into it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : The Chief Minister of West Bengal declared that there is not going to be any *mela*.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : That is the Congress (I) culture.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It has a false implication.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Sir, I would like to know has any attempt been made to stop these Sati Melas, to glorify the Sati ? Let them deny this fact.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : The people of Calcutta, the Chief Minister of West Bengal has declared to stop this mela by all means. (Interruptions)

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Sir, they believe that they are above the Government, above the party.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Do not try to misuse the floor of the House.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Do not try to mislead the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He was quoting from some Bengali newspaper and then you asked him to read it. Now, he has read it and it has come on record. If he has mislead the House, whatever action you want you can take later on.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You know about '*suggestio falsi*' and '*Suppresso veri*'? (Interruptions)

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Sir, I would like to tell my hon. friend that it is a matter of national interest. It is a question of humanity. For the sake of humanity, for the sake of the women of our great country, I would request my hon. friends, let us not bring politics in this matter. Let us find out some way to remove this social evil. Let us find out some way to solve this problem. Sir, I would like to conclude by quoting few lines from The Tagore poem and I will translate it in English :

"Oh Lord, why not give the women the freedom to decide and conquer her own further and destiny."

Sir, this eternal question is coming in everybody's mind. Give them the right which

is due to them. Give them proper respect. Sir, in our religion we call women as 'Mata', the mother. So, I would request that this social evil of Sati or for that matter any other such evil should be completely removed from our country. With this request, I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD**  
**YOGESH** (Chatra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. I rise to support the subject under discussion which is against the *sati* system. Some Hon. Members have tried to make political capital out of the public opinion against the *sati* system. Those who have done so, they themselves are not against the *sati* system. I would like to tell them that soon after the Deorala incident, Margaret Alva strongly condemned it on the Television and discussed the strong measures that would be taken against it. The attitude adopted by the Government in this respect is not an ordinary one. All of us have to come together and wipe out this evil against mankind. Today when we are talking of entering the 21st century, I feel that this House is still in the 19th century because we are discussing *sati* system. There was no *sati* system in India nor is it prevalent today. When we come across such an incident today we think that it is a heinous crime. Nothing more can be said about it. As man used to feel happy by torturing other animals during the primitive age, similarly, even today incidents of far uglier nature take place which are a blot on the face of our society and are causing concern.

The Hon Prime Minister has said in this regard that it is a matter of shame for the entire nation. Even today women are burnt alive in the name of *sati*. No religion has ever preached it. This has been continuing either because of politics or because of economic frustration. Women have been given exploited through this practice and in order to hide this sin it has been given a holy name in order to mislead the people. The meaning of the word *sati* as defined in the holy scriptures is nowhere associated with burning of the widow on her husband's funeral pyre. There was no question of *sati* system during the Vedic period nor is it mentioned in the Ramayana or the Mahabharata. The word *sati* that has been men-

tioned in the Ramayana by Anusura does not mean the woman who burns herself on her husband's funeral pyre. Nor has she mentioned that *sati* should be glorified. What she means is different :

*Patil achhat par patirat ural,  
Raurav narak kulpasat paral.*

That is if a wife commits adultery even when her husband is alive, she is committing a crime. But nowhere has it been mentioned that she should sacrifice her life and atone for her sins. Famous among the *satis* has been *sati Savitri*. But even she did not burn herself on her husband's funeral pyre. Through her devotion and power acquired penance she brought her husband back to life. The way *sati* has been described by *Anusuya* in the Ramayana it does not mean that the wife has to sacrifice herself on the funeral pyre of her husband. The meaning changed at the time when India was invaded and the Rajasthan women took the vow of *Johar* and burnt themselves in order to protect their chastity. But we feel that even this is improper. It cannot be justified in any way. Maharani Laxmi Bai was also widowed during that period but she turned out to be a great warrior and laid down her life for the motherland while fighting enemies. Had the Rajasthani women fought like Maharani Laxmi Bai and not committed *Johar*, the history of India would have been quite different. The women of India would not have suffered in the name of *johar*. The evil system of *sati* took roots in the Indian soil because of *johar*. This is a shameful incident. On the one hand we come across such incidents in Rajasthan and on the other we have tales of Meera's widowhood. People have not forgotten those tales even today. We will not forget her for many centuries to come. Meera considered herself *sati* of high order. Anusuya has defined thus :

*"Uttam ke bas asagun mahi,  
Sopnehan aan par purush Jug naahin".*

According to her, *sati* of exceptionally high order is one who believes that there is no other man in the world except her husband. Meera was an example of such a *sati* of exceptionally high order.

A luminous celibate saint who worshipped *Krishna* as a father once visited Vrindavan. When Meera expressed her desire to see that

saint, his disciples told Meera that *Gurudev* did not meet any woman. Thereupon Meera replied that in Vrindavan, there was only one man and that was her *Krishna Kanhaiya*; wherefrom that second man had come. When the disciples narrated this to the saint, he was so impressed that he came running to Meera and bowed his head on the feet of Meera. The reason was that Meera accepted *Krishna* as her husband and since the saint worshipped *Krishna* as his father, he considered Meera as his mother. So the had been such widows in our country who are, in fact, adorable. Our *Vedas* and *Shastras* have highly praised women thus :

*"Yatra nariyastu pujayanti ramante  
tatra devata"*

It means that gods become happy where women are worshipped. But those who force a woman to sit on a burning pyre and amidst the noise of drums and bugles, manage to get her cries drowned in the din, should be condemned as much as possible for such a heinous act. We must pay our attention to it. According to the information which we have received about the heinous incident of Deorala, that the crying woman was not allowed to come out of the pyre. When she tried to jump out of the pyre she was again pushed on the pyre with the help of bamboo sticks. Such acts make the entire society to hang their heads in shame. This confronts us to a very serious question. Today a feeling of rage is there among all sections of the House against this incident. Therefore, the Government should be careful and should take stern action. The way this brutal act has been committed in Deorala, I demand that most stringent punishment should be meted out to the culprits. The custom of *sati* is continuing because we are not yet out of the narrow feelings. Some vested interests want to re-establish the wrong traditions by taking undue advantage of the sentiments of God-fearing people in the name of *sati* whether it is in Rajasthan or in Bengal. We shall have to expose their designs by the kick of our boot. In this modern age, when there is an Act even for the animals, known as Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, occurrence of such an incident is highly shameful. Although legislations are already there, yet the time has come when we shall have to implement them rigorously. I would suggest that all the members of a family in which an incident of *sati* takes place should

be held guilty and the whole of their property should be confiscated and acquired by the Government. Those who commit such a crime deserve most stringent punishment. We shall have to pass strict regulations to check such acts. The people who want to take undue advantage by provoking the sentiments of the fanatics should be socially boycotted so that such incidents do not recur in the country. In our scriptures, we come across a number of instances where the dignity of women has been glorified. For example :

*Yas grihe mata naasti bharya cha  
priyahadini  
aravym te na gauravaym yatha-  
ranyum tatha grlham.*

In a society where the woman has been given so much dignity, if some frustrated men continue to give their atrocities a new form and try to describe their acts as justified by taking the shelter of religion, where shall we stand towards ? Therefore, I would suggest that we should remove the words like '*sati*' and '*Sati Pratha*' from our dictionary so that the future generations could not know that such heinous acts used to be committed in our country. The deeds of Tara, Mandodari and Kunti are adorable and all of them have been considered *sati* of exceptionally high order because they presented examples of high order before us. Even if they got remarried, they did not allow their dignity to be blemished. By their deeds, their dignity got enhanced amongst *satis*. When Bali was killed, Lord Rama told Tara :

*Prakat so tanu aage sowa,  
Jeeva nitya kehi lagi tum rowa.*

If you have a desire for the body of your husband, then it is lying before you, but if you think that life is eternal, then it can never die. What for is this wailing then ? He did not advise her to commit *sati*. I would like to tell you about an incident of Mahatma Gandhi's time.

When Jamna Lal Bajaj passed away, his widow came to Gandhiji and told him that she wanted to commit *sati* on the pyre of her husband. Then Mahatma Gandhi told her that she should not commit suicide in the form of *sati*. If she really loved her husband she should resolve to complete his unfinished works otherwise her devotion to her husband would not be complete.

17.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, such prejudices and conservative things should not be allowed to happen. Such things are happening in our country, when we are on the threshold of the 21st century. These should never be encouraged.

I know the Hon. Minister. He is a very capable man and I am sure he will enact such a law in the country which could help in wiping out this evil custom for ever.

[English]

**SHRI K. R. NATARAJAN (Dindigul) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir. On behalf of AIADMK, I would like to participate in the discussion on *sati*. This barbarous incident of *sati* took place on 4th September 1987 at Deorala in the State of Rajasthan. Roop Kanwar was a Matriculate. Her husband was a B.Sc., a graduate. Her father-in-law is a school-teacher. Unfortunately, being a school teacher, he did not come forward to avert the incident. On the contrary, he took a leading role in this *sati*. The *sati* took place in the presence of about 5,000 people. No one came forward to save the girl. She was put in the funeral pyre and the pyre was lit. Unfortunately, after 30 days, lakhs of people gathered on the spot, and they glorified the incident, saying that she was the 'Sati Mata'. This was reported in almost all the papers, and the press thus brought the message everywhere.

Almost all the leaders have condemned it as one man. Here, I would like to say one thing: Raja Ram Mohan Roy had fought against this pernicious evil in the 19th century. The then Governor-General abolished *sati*. In Tamil Nadu, 'Thanthai Periyar' E. V. R. fought against this pernicious evil of superstitious beliefs. He became successful. These superstitious beliefs have vanished today there. Another 'Periyar' should emerge in the North, to fight against this pernicious evil of superstitious beliefs like *sati*. I hope that our Government will come forward with a comprehensive legislation, punishing those involved in *sati*.

Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the Hon.

Members who have spoken on *Sati* have described it as a social evil and have expressed their views to root it out.

The incident that took place in Deorala village in our Rajasthan hangs our heads in shame. The information about the Deorala incident was received through Dilawar and the Head Constable registered the F.I.R. The Head-Constable reached there by 2.30 in the afternoon the same day, but by then Sbrimati Roop Kanwar was no more. When the Head-Constable reported the matter back, the S.H.O. accompanied by a Sub-Inspector reached the spot. The Deputy Superintendent of Police also reached there the same day. The Collector of Sikar District, who is also the District Magistrate, reached there on 5th accompanied by the Superintendent of Police. My submission is that when the Sub-Inspector and the Deputy Superintendent of Police did know about it and a case under Section 306 was registered, when the Collector and the Superintendent of Police both had reached there on the morning of 5th, the steps taken by them were not commendable because that was for carrying out investigations. Had they arrested the culprits then and there the episode would not have gone to this length. When a case was already registered under Section 306 and the S.P. had the indication that the case could be registered under Section 302, he could have arrested the culprits. The names of five accused were mentioned in the F.I.R. The incident was turned into a *Sati* case only because the Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate who had reached there on 5th, did not arrest the culprits and subsequently they were able to hold the *chunri* ceremony. Had the police taken action right then, the present situation would not have arisen. The only action that the Government of Rajasthan has taken so far against the Superintendent of Police and the Collector is that they have only been transferred. My submission is that for such a serious matter, they should have been suspended. They failed to do their duty. They could have collected the ashes had they so desired. They did not do that and failed to collect evidence on the basis of which the culprits could have been arrested. As a result thereof, the situation reached such a pause that they were able to find out a way out to save themselves by observing *Chunri* ceremony. I am clearly of the view that though Rajasthan Government as well as the High Court had issued directions

regarding the *Chunari* ceremony which was attended by lakhs of people, yet it would have been a hazardous step had the police taken action at that time because there would have been more casualties on the police side too. Therefore, it would not have been a wise step. The steps taken by the police at the time of *Chunari* ceremony cannot be described as wrong.

Now the question that arises is that in such incidents, it is very essential to prove such cases. If the police fails to prove them, it carries a detrimental effect. In such a situation, the witnesses should be given protection.

The situation today is that cases filed against terrorists in Punjab are not successful because no one dares to give evidence against them. Although, challaus have been presented but the accused doctor is absconding. I mean to say that the State Government should provide protection to those who have made statements under section 164 of the Cr. P.C. The Central Government can also come forward in this respect and provide necessary protection to them. If this case is not dealt with properly and the guilty persons are able to go scotfree it will adversely affect our party and Government.

I had brought forward a widow Pension Bill which was very comprehensive. I had said that if you wanted the widows to live in our society with dignity and respect then it was essential to make such provisions. You cannot provide them employment because you already have educated unemployed young men and women having degrees and diplomas to their credit. That is why suitable provisions should be made for payment of pension to widows. It will help in improving the economic condition of widows and they will be able to live honourably in society. If you want then you can provide for payment of pension to widows after making necessary amendments to that bill.

17.11 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

At that time our Hon. Minister Shrimati Margaret Alva had stated that such widows should be admitted in hostels and *Nari Niketans*. We have seen the condition of the hostels and *Nari Niketans*. No one likes to live at these places I will reiterate that

pension should be paid to them for improving their economic condition. I had made many good propositions in the Widow Pension Bill. One provision was that any widow who is childless or whose son or she herself is employed somewhere, should not be granted any pension. You can also bring forward a Bill with similar provisions.

An environment should be created for their remarriage as well. It is a question of bringing about a social revolution and awakening the people in this regard. The law passed by Rajasthan Assembly in this regard is indeed laudable. I want that the Centre should also adopt that law. If there are some shortcomings in that law, necessary amendments should be made in consultation with the Opposition. This law should be uniformly applied in all parts of the country so that this evil practice is wiped out for ever and such incidents never take place again.

The Rajasthan Government has also taken this step to remove age bar for widows between 40 to 45 years of age in matters of employment. This provision is praiseworthy. Other State Governments should also follow this example. It should also be provided that any person who indulges in glorification of *Sati* shall be disqualified for contesting elections under the Representation of the People Act. Such a step will go a long way to abolish this custom of *Sati*. We must strive to bring about a social awareness to root out conservatism and fundamentalism in our country. We must also take steps to enlighten our people about the true meaning of religion.

Without knowing the true meaning of religion, the terrorists in Punjab are laying down their lives aimlessly. Their minds are poisoned and they are misled. In the case of the *Sati* custom also an atmosphere is created which influences the widow and she begins to believe that a widow has to lead a miserable life without any dignity, self-respect or grace and finding that there is no other way out she is then compelled to commit *Sati* or suicide. There is therefore need to create such a situation in which a widow is not compelled to accept this way out. In this connection, I would suggest that my Widow Pension Bill should be accepted by the Government and passed after making necessary amendments therein. We have to

create a conducive atmosphere so that women are able to live with dignity and self-respect.

[*English*]

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE**

(Panskura) : Sir, before I participate in the debate proper, allow me to remove one disinformation which has been given to the House by one Hon. Member with regard to the West Bengal Government's attitude, etc. Sir, I would like to tell you here that on the 11th of November, a news appeared in a newspaper called 'Aajkal', which says that there are some temples organised by people who hail from Rajasthan and in one such temple, the *mela* is being contemplated to be held where this glorification of sati might take place.

This is the newspaper of 12th November, that is today. In yesterday's newspaper, that news has appeared. He should have been here and he should have had the political sagacity to quote the same newspaper of today which clearly says that the West Bengal Chief Minister has said that in this *mela*, if it is held, we will not allow any glorification of sati and he has instructed the Commissioner of Police of Calcutta to take necessary action. He has said clearly that we do not want to interfere in anybody's religious function, whether it is *mela*, but no glorification of *sati* in the name of religion will be allowed in any such *mela*, and if that is done, proper steps will be taken. Anybody would think that those who are really concerned about this evil practice, would put the whole truth in the House. For everybody's reference I would like to present, with your permission, the same paper to the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not necessary.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : You must read it in Bengali itself.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Honestly speaking, I have to hang my head in shame as an Indian woman but no less as an Indian citizen. I really never thought—I do not know why—that I should have self-criticism of myself, that this House will have to debate the glorification of *sati*, burning of a young widow in the name of *sati*, as

everybody has mentioned, after 150 years of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Since I have been in this House, I have taken part in many debates, as you know, on women rights. I was one of those who always appealed the people to rise above political partisanship on such questions.

Here today the debate has taken place where I would like to make a few observations on this question. Before that, really speaking, what is all this non-sensical debate about whether she was willing or she was forced. Who cannot understand that in a society that we are in where women have an inferior status, there this question is irrelevant though in this case we know from various sources that this girl was forced, this girl was drunk. Is it not a fact that in those societies, widows are made common properties of the other male members of the household? And it has happened several times that such innocent widows are violated by the family members and later on when they conceive, then it happened that the servant of the House was accused of being in collusion to produce the child. This is the atmosphere which we still have in this country. Do you not know that? In such a situation what this debate is about voluntary or involuntary? All such acts are involuntary basically; cannot be otherwise. That is the first action that all of us have to admit and proceed from there.

Really speaking, I am really feeling very much crushed. What has anguished me is not only the incident in Deorala, but the most distressing thing is—this has really taken this whole thing to a qualitatively new heights than any other debate we had earlier on women rights question—that there is an aggressive move for defending this heinous custom and for putting Indian women for perpetuating in this situation. I fully support Saifu when he says that this is a new dimension. And it is also true that this dimension tortured us during the Muslim Women's Bill. This is most disturbing. Anyone in this House having any conscience should answer why it is so. We cannot escape this. Let alone Deorala incident, today itself in Delhi, after thirteen years of married life, one woman has been killed for dowry. So, Sir, if that is A, this is Z—zenith of the same line. But what is new is this glorification and its defence in the name of religion. What is new is religious fundamentalism

showing its various facets endangering our country. This is not a question of women's right only, to my mind, as a citizen, it is a question of our national integrity, our national honour, our humanitarian existence as a nation. Therefore, this incident should raise us to a different height to fight it out.

Now, Sir, a question has been raised of rising above political partisanship. I started saying that in many debates—they are on record—whenever I have participated in such a discussion, I have always appealed to all our Hon. colleagues across the parties to join hands. I do the same even today. But in the name of political non-partisanship, I cannot dismiss the question of political responsibility because one cannot rise above partisan politics unless one discharges the supreme political responsibility towards our Constitution, towards humanism, towards the dignity of our women. With that end in view, I will raise a few questions. If that hurts the other friends on the opposite side, with folded hands I shall ask them to be patient and search their mind.

We Communists believe in criticism and self-criticism. Before I go in for anybody's criticism, I for myself would go in for a little self-criticism. Not on the Deorala's score but thinking back, when some two-three years back there was one incident of *Sati*, we did protest. But we thought that that was an isolated incident. It did not occur to me at least that this was not an isolated incident it was the forerunner of a very big thing. And there I criticised myself that we were not well aware that this is going to come. We could not put up a file. We did put up a file but that was not taken to its logical limit. So, I do criticise myself. At the same time, I would like humbly to state that as soon as the Deorala incident took place our party's General Secretaries themselves immediately came out with absolute condemnation of the event. That should also be put on record. But that does not absolve me from my self-criticism which I have offered here. But I would like to know this question that I find that on the 4th that Deorala incident took place and on the sixth itself three women's organisations of Rajasthan went to see the Rajasthan Chief Minister and wanted an interview with him so that this *Chunri* thing could be stopped. Those women's representatives said that Rajasthan Chief Minister dismissed

them within less than two minutes and then they had contacted the S. P. of Sikar. Is it any attitude, Sir, the responsible political attitude if I may ask? Will that be challenged as the political partisanship? There are many more things the latest one. I am really shocked to read in *Times of India* that yesterday in the Rajasthan Assembly. After this Ordinance was debated in the Assembly, this was carried with a voice vote. So the Ordinance was carried. But during the debate, there were two Divisions. Naturally there were some clauses. But the *Times of India* stated that apparently 34 MLAs had violated the whip at the time of the first Division in the House and 12 did so during the Second Division. It says that the Assembly had 115 Members and out of them the Opposition Members were 85 and the rest were Congressmen. Now, how did so many Members violate the whip? I tried to understand on what clauses there were Divisions in the Assembly. I could not know. The Rajasthan Assembly Speaker was here. I had asked him to tell me the position. But he could not tell me. But I understand that the clause was on the question of shifting the onus of responsibility of proof on the accused—the question of abatement to 'sati'. I implore this House to recall the debate here in this House on this very question of shifting the question of onus of the responsibility of proof. We the women voiced our opinion in the Select Committee and here also that the onus of responsibility of such social crimes as rape and dowry murder should shift on the accused and this House did agree with us ultimately, but not all our suggestions were taken. So, Sir, this is a very important question and the political responsibility is this that so many violated the whip. Further, the *Times of India* says that during the second Division, this is what happened. Shri Naresh Chaturvediji was arriving at the Jaipur Airport and the MLAs went to receive him. Which is to be given priority, receiving Mr. Chaturvedi or being present in the Assembly when the Bill was being discussed in the Assembly?

Sir, standing here even at this late hour, we have some reservations about the Rajasthan Ordinance. We want to improve it. But whatever has been passed in the Assembly has this political will. Sir, with this anguish in mind, I would say with full of sadness that the nation owes explanation from our young Prime Minister. Why did

he not open his mouth after 20 days of this incident ? Sir, I am a mother and I am here to voice my political feelings. He is a young man and everybody might have noted that his nature has been generally not that biting but politically 'Yes'. But really even then I feel that this is absolutely unbecoming of the leader of the House who has to give a lead to the country to fight against such things. It is not a matter of joke that this can be fought with a single political will and that must be really honest and above all petty political considerations. I am yet to bear a self-criticism from him on this score. In the beginning I said that he should have been present here because when such a thing is debated, the leader of the House should be present here. There is no use that one should go on crying at the top of his voice without any fight or result. I would like to ask whether there is any political response to this question. Prof. Madhu Dandavate professed something and I fully appreciate and I wish that we will be able to do something in this direction with all our might with all the Opposition parties getting together. I do not want to speak about the B. J. P. whose role is well-known. In the morning and in the day they give lecture and in the evening inside their house they practice another thing. This kind of political duplicity will not do much. They should know that this has direct relationship with the religious fundamentalism which is being pursued. Therefore, I would say that the question of political responsibility has to be shared squarely.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** I said the same thing at my house also.

**SARIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Yes, absolutely. As far as Dandavateji himself is concerned, I have nothing to say. He is all right. But in his Party there are very many people...*(Interruptions)*... The Ruling Party must really—it is not a question of biting, it is a question of band on heart; search your heart and see what you can do. What you are doing in Rajasthan is not only inadequate, it is a duplicity. It is not only a political failure, but a political duplicity. It will not carry anybody behind you if you really say this is religious fundamentalism. And I also said during the Muslim Women's Bill that capitulation started in the social sphere and this has gone forth. Therefore, Sir, on this question...

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Banatwalla is behind you.

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Yes, Banatwalla was here at that time itself.

**SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) :** She cannot be consistently relevant. We know this.

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Absolutely consistently relevant.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA :** The difficulty is, they cannot be consistently relevant. Everywhere politics is brought into to divide the nation.

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Sir, naturally we alone can be consistently relevant on this question because we can take a purely secular stand irrespective of all religious fundamentalist preachings. Religion is a private affair, but this fundamentalist preaching has a different connotation. That is really destroying our country. Can this sati episode be isolated from the communal riots that are taking place today ? Can this sati episode be isolated from the extremism, I mean Khalistan extremism, that is raising its head today ? Can this sati incident be isolated from many such other factors today which are threatening to destroy the very fabric of our national integration ? To my mind it cannot, and that is the new height that this fight is calling for. In one way I am glad that our women's rights question has really opened your eyes where either you have to defend women's rights or go down in the history for being dismembering our country, for disintegrating our country. That is the challenge which we are facing. So, to face that challenge we have to take a specific stand in each sphere, in the women's rights sphere, in the political sphere, in the legislative sphere, in the education sphere and in the mass campaign sphere. From that end, Sir, I do remark that all political leaders of consequence will have to search their hearts and be self-critical and admit before the nation if they have failed on any count. This is one. Secondly, Sir, the Rajasthan Government will have to be dismissed on that score not because it is a Congress Government, that is not my contention, but the question is, the

way they have dealt with is axiomatic. Since many of my earlier speakers have already referred to it at length, I am not going in for substantive proof because that has been amply proved by the already published incident.

Then, Sir, all political parties will have to expel such activists or leaders who are taking part in defence of Sati wherever they are, and I fully support the contention that while giving nomination, they will have to be stopped and asked to get out. So, that will come during the time of nomination.

Then, Sir, the Central law should be definitely promulgated. Now, here is the question that if there was no law, how could the Rajasthan Government do anything. Already, of course, under Sections 306 and 309 of the I. P. C. it could have been dealt with. Even then, Sir, they cannot absolve themselves of their responsibility because this law was not there. The law of the land, the Constitution, is already there. They could have taken action if they so liked. Even then, Sir, on such an occasion a specific law again has to be enacted if even the Penal Code covers these things. Therefore, this law has to be Centrally administered. In the ordinance, one thing is very funny. About the sati glorification, the date is such that Deorala Mandir and Rs. 50 lakhs—I do not know how much—that this trust has amassed cannot be touched. It is very funny! The latest heinous incident has been kept under shade. It will not be touched. Only in future nobody can do it. Why? This must be covered. This is one of the challenges before the nation. This fund must be confiscated. That kind of thing cannot be allowed. Therefore, what law we may pass, that has to cover at least the latest incident. Otherwise, it is succumbing to the incident. A serious drive must be made for separation of religion from politics without which, this evil cannot be stopped. All the necessary steps for ending discrimination against women must be examined and re-examined and taken. Here, I would fully support Mr. V. C. Jain about widow's pension. But all the social laws which we have passed are not being implemented and violated. Women should be protected. Economically women's status must be changed, if we want to fight against it.

Last but not the least, with a self-critical attitude, the entire secular forces have

to start a frontal war against this kind of religious fundamentalism. That is the least we can do to avenge the death of Roop Kanwar who is now the epitome of the inferior status of womanhood that prevails in our country. It is really a galore of national shame which we have to undo in her memory, if we want to do anything. This should be taken in right earnest. With these words, I hope, everybody will take proper steps to see that such things do not recur.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) : When is the Minister going to reply? It is question of time. Many of us would like to speak and support this motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are welcome.

SHRI G. M. BANAIWALLA : We are having this discussion under rule 193. Instead, we must have a motion, a resolution of the House to express our indignation and condemnation. What is this, only discussion and then reply? There should be a resolution to express our indignation and our condemnation and a demand for a comprehensive legislation since the demand comes from the entire nation. That must be the direction that should be taken instead of mere discussion under rule 193, expressing views by a few Members. Let there be a resolution.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN (Raipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, although our number is small here but our Parliament is represented by every section and every religion of our country where an important discussion is going on which will change our way of thinking. What I mean to say is that human values are gradually declining in our country. This situation calls for our immediate attention. It seems that the situation today is like what existed two thousand years ago. Today we have talked much about our religious texts and religious people. My opinion is somewhat different from this. I think we are not following our religious texts in letter and spirit. We are interpreting those religious texts in our own way to serve our own ends. If this state of affairs continues we would never be able to root out evil practices, like *sati* from our society. This is a result of a vicious tendency. Therefore I want to present this as a challenge.

Why people have recognised or glorified it as a sacrifice by saying that religious sanction is behind it. The ashes of our sister/daughter who has been burnt alive, should open the eyes of our political and religious leaders. If so happens then our people will get deliverance and our country will make progress. But this is not happening. A lot of discussion is going on here. If we are able to make people appreciate and understand even one fourth of what we have discussed here then we can bring about a change in this situation. I want to say specially to the religious leaders and God fearing people that the respect which followers of Prophet Mohammad used to enjoy during the life time of the Prophet does not exist any longer. Roop Kanwar would not have met with such a miserable fate even if she was born during the times of Lord Rama. Whatever may be my view but no one has ever dared to go against the rights of human beings in the religious texts. Even during the days of Lord Rama Sita, the pious woman was subjected to a sever test to prove her chastity and was compelled to spend her life in exile. The position of woman is even worse now. I want to challenge it. Lord Buddha accepted Amrapali but no politician or religious leader can have this courage today. Our way of life has become so backward. You may look anywhere. During the life time of Mahatma Gandhi, the fervour with which we could raise the problem of Harijans, we cannot do so today. If we raise the question of their social rights, we will either be attacked or we will not have the courage to take such initiatives. We should follow the right path to bring about a change in the atmosphere which is prevalent in this country today. This is our backwardness and degradation. I want to challenge the opposition that irrespective of which party they belong they must strive to change this way of life. I want to say that today religious leaders and religious texts should not be followed any more, instead a new religion should be founded. Karl Marx is no more but the Communist Party of India and the communist opinion in the country should have the courage to voice its way of thinking. These religious texts are like opium. It is being said that religion is a personal affair but if it is followed in this way then many incidents like that of Roop Kanwar shall occur and we will not be able to do anything except shedding tears here. The entire way of thinking has to be radically

changed. In order to do so we will have to make a new history. We cannot follow only those traditions set by Lord Rama who made an innocent woman suffer extreme difficulties. We have to create a new Rama who can uphold woman's rights and women will also have to change their way of life. We will have to make a new history. The whole concept about *sati* will have to be changed. If the husband is licentious and the woman spends her entire life with him then she is considered a *sati*. If some woman keeps on living with an ailing husband, a leper husband or a husband who has venereal or some such other disease, then she is termed as '*sati*'. If even after knowing all these facts she goes on bearing all these sufferings, she is called '*sati*' but if she wants to leave such a husband, she is dubbed as bad woman, a woman who has brought a slur on the name of the family. We will have to change such a concept in this modern era.

Gandhiji too was of the same view that if the feelings and thinking of a wife and husband are at variance, they do not think on the same line, the husband commits atrocities and cruelties, the wife can leave such a husband and can marry again. Mohammad Saheb was also of the same view. But today our culture is heading towards something different. Here an orphan or a widow is given the scant respect and is rather humiliated. No one wants to take her name even. In such matters we want to stick to our old way of life but where we have some vested interest, we go into the background of the family, see the beauty of the girl and also seek matches from where we can get money and luxury items. At that time we forget all about our old way of life. That is why I say we all will have to change this concept of living. Our sisters will have to accept this challenge. Now the time has come when we should change the history written by men belonging to the affluent class in which there is no place for the poor and in which no respect is shown to women.

Come, let us write history according to the new era. So long as no change is brought about in the present age and we go on treading the beaten path and following the obsolete traditions, we will not be able to remove such stigmas. We will have to help women to progress and to get their rights. The women cannot march forward on the

basis of the history written by males or by following the old scriptures. The history of women will be created by Shrimati Meira Kumar who has cleared everything, who has opened our eyes has set an example before us by sacrificing everything. Her views are the views of today's woman.

Even after seeing all these things we are not waking up and we keep on reiterating the old and obscure values. It is a matter of serious concern for us. We will have to come forward rising above the party politics. Though we pass many resolutions but it seems that we do not have the courage to speak out openly. Who can challenge that our present laws are wrong, the reservation for Harijans and Scheduled Tribes is illegal? We form an immediate consensus on such matters. If people are not showing maturity on any matter, we will have to come forward with some new ideas. We have examples of Maitrayee and Gargi before us who had challenged big scholars to discuss the scriptures with them. Unless the same feelings arise again, unless our sisters become self-dependent and rise against the malfeasance, the country cannot progress and the world too cannot march forward. After all, on what basis do we raise an outcry for our old scriptures that have been the cause of our downfall. We will challenge them, Mrs. Meira will challenge them, our Harijans, tribals, backward communities will challenge them and will renounce them. We will have to resurrect Karl Marx in India who may say that the religious books have toxic effect like opium.

You may keep them in a museum. When we create our history, we will see at that time as to how our country used to be and how much progress we have made since then. That will be our history and we will measure our progress on that basis. We will not like to follow the old values; we will look into the present and march forward according to the present values and will shape the country accordingly. I would request that we should not forget the ashes of Roop Kanwar and should swear by it that we will change the world. We will have to come forward to change the rotten system. I can say with challenge that if that era had not dawned, we would not have seen those great men who created history. I request all of you to march forward unitedly to change the world and the rotten system that has crept in our society. Not only this, we will have to

change the thinking of the people. Every party, I am not talking of any one party, wants to achieve political recognition without hard work. If I am a trader, I do not want to progress on the basis of my trade, if I am a scholar, I do not want to progress on the basis of my knowledge and education and if I am a social worker, I do not want to progress on the basis of social work alone. I want to gain through politics, which has become an easy and cheap way. If a man is not able to fulfill his desire through one party, he joins another party and if he does not gain from that party also he joins another party. Somehow or the other he wants to march forward. In this way people have found an easy way of fulfilling their ambitions and to enhance their status. All the parties are trying to achieve their goal through this easy path. We do not have the courage to take up the challenge. We have left that path. We will have to follow our earlier path and will have to launch a crusade against communalism. We will have to fight without fear against casteism, obscurantism and atrocities on women and for this we all will have to come forward unitedly. As during our freedom struggle we had sunk our differences based on party and religion and had become one, we should march forward unitedly once again in this reconstruction of our nation. I want to assure you and there is no concealment and reservation about it, you have got the leadership—this I am not saying on personal basis, I am saying this on the basis of the experience of those who have influenced my life and he wants to take the country to 21st century and the country is fully prepared for it. He is ready to take the country to commanding heights and for that he is ready to sacrifice any thing like his mother. Therefore, I want to request you to come forward and do this work unitedly without taking into consideration the party affiliations and without any affection.

In conclusion, I make you swear by the ashes of Roop Kanwar who has opened our eyes that her ashes should not go waste. This is my appeal to you.

**SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosers) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the *sati* episode has been a very unfortunate incident due to which today, every one in the country is restless. It is a matter of regret that as science has been making long

strides, humanity has been stooping down with the same fast speed.

To know about 'Sati' system we will have to go into its depth. There is no religious sanction behind it. No religious book has given recognition to it, be it the Bible, the Mahabharata, the Ramayana or the Quran. What is it after all? There is selfishness behind it, greediness and a will to acquire more money are the reasons behind it. That is what we have been observing.

I was reading a book on *Sati* system in the Parliament Library. Till date no woman has committed *sati* on her own volition. The widow on her husband's death used to be brought forcibly at the gun point or at

the tip of the spear from her house, even if she was a mother or at any stage and was forced to commit *sati*. No compassion was shown to her even if her children were crying. She used to be burnt on fire.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can continue tomorrow. The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Eleven of the Clock on Friday,  
November 13, 1987/Kartika  
22, 1909 (Saka).*