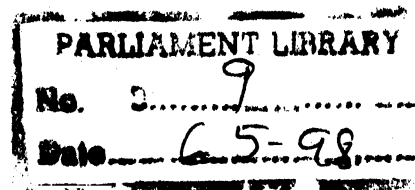


# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**



**Fifth Session**  
**(Eleventh Lok Sabha)**



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

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
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**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates  
(English Version)**

...

**Thursday, July 24, 1997/Shravana 2, 1919 (Saka)**

...

<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
164/15	SHRI P. NAMGAL	SHRI P. NAMGYAL
204/17	SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR	SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR
291/5	SHRI DEO SINGH	SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH
299/1	SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAUHAN	SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN
314/30	SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV	SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV
338/3	SHRI DR. BALIRAM	DR. BALIRAM
338/25	SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI	SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI
430/6	SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE	SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 24, 1997/Shravana 2, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

#### Additional Power Generation

+

\*21. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have assessed the annual rate of increase of power production capacity during the Eighth Five Year Plan as compare to Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the rate of annual power production during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans is commensurate with the increase in population;

(c) whether the annual rate of production has declined during 1996-97 as compared to preceding years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the target set for increase in the rate of annual production during 1997-98 ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The average annual rate of increase in power generation capacity during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan period was 9.9 per cent and 4.8 per cent

respectively. The average annual growth rate of population during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan period was 2.4 per cent and 2 per cent respectively.

(c) and (d) The power generation during 1995-96 and 1996-97 was 380 billion units and 394.5 billion units respectively. In 1995-96 power generation registered an increase of 8.3 per cent. However, during 1996-97 the rate of growth of power generation declined to 3.8 per cent. The decline in the rate of growth of power generation in 1996-97 was primarily due to shortfall in capacity addition, and lower hydel generation. This was partly compensated by a higher level of thermal generation which was achieved by an increase in the Plant Load Factor (PLF).

(e) The target for power generation during the current year (1997-98) has been fixed at 429 billion units. Which represents a growth of 8.7 per cent over the generation level achieved during the last year (1996-97). The growth rates in power generation in the first three months of 1997-98 are as follows :

Sl.No.	Month	Growth Rate (%)
1.	April '97 April '96	(-) 8.0
2.	May '97 May '96	(+) 2.8
3.	June '97 June '96	(+) 8.2

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this point of mine involves national interest. The darkness caused by the power shortage has enveloped not only our wordly life but also our economy. For every country it is very necessary to have a constant and increased power generation to sustain its economy on firm footings. We have seen that when we started our Eighth Five Year Plan, we were far short of our power generation production target set in the Seventh Plan.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great concern that average power consumption of the world is between 22 and 50 kilowatt hours whereas in India it is 300 kilowatt hours. Such is the grim picture of power generation in our country.

Sir, it was due to the acute power shortage that the Northern Grid had failed recently on the 20th December which had affected seven states including Delhi. I am sure that the Hon'ble Minister of Power must be remembering the target of 48 thousand MW was fixed in the 8th Five Year Plan which was later revised to 30,538 MW probably due to our limited resources or for some other reasons but the target achieved by the Department was to the tune of only 18 thousand MW which is a pointer to a very very alarming situation. As per Govt's data, the current power production falls short of only seven percent of our total power requirement. It is 16 per cent during the peak hours. We have failed to increase our Plant Load Factor. In respect of average, we are barely between 61 and 62. In case the plant load factor is increased even by one per cent, we can have an additional power generation of 800 MW by these already installed plants themselves which cost totals to nearly rupees three thousand crore. India is also at the top of the world in the matter of line losses in transmission.

MR. SPEAKER : Your question is becoming very lengthy.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I am coming to the main point. This is very important matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I know the importance of it.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I really appreciate it. The situation about the electricity is assuming alarming proportions and, therefore, I beg your leave to allow me to elaborate on some points.

[Translation]

The percentage of our line losses in 20.85. The hon. Minister is well aware of these things.

The point is that 15th Electric Power Survey Committee have set a target of 95,757 MW electricity by the year 2001-02 in this report. Govt. has setup this Committee. I am not interested in knowing as to what measures are being taken to achieve this target. What I want to know is the steps taken by the Govt. to increase the existing Plant Load Factor and minimise transmission losses, in respect of power transmission and distribution of power plants Houses particularly Thermal ones. It is a well known fact that these measures are relatively cheaper and require less time for their execution. Renovation and modernisation thereof will require huge Government expenditure. Further, what are

the Government's proposal in respect of setting up of small power houses/plants having small installed capacity ? What action the Government propose to initiate in this regard by increasing its own efficiency within the limited resources rather than wait for mobilisation of additional capital resource ?

In respect of part (b) of my question, I would like to say that too much capital is required for setting up of new units in order to increase power generation. The plans of the Govt. to enhance power generation by attracting foreign investment in private sector has not yielded the desired results. Whether the Government is contemplating taking any effective steps to get the foreign capital and the capital private sector invested on power generation sector ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I fully agree with the hon. Member on the point that power situation in the country is very grim. In short he has posed a direct question to me as to what do the Government propose for this year? I, therefore, want to let him know that on individual level, first of all we are sending the engineers of Central Electricity Authority the units having less Plant Load Factor over the past months or years with the instruction that in case any technical assistance or resources are required from the Government, we are ready to provide the same because the Ministry of power was provided a non-budgetary amount of Rs. 900 crore after the current Budget presented which I hope the hon. Member must be remembering. We have provided resources to the Power Finance Corporation to assist those States which are desirous of increasing the Plant Load Factor in the short run. We want to monitor suit cases at the individual level . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : What is the total amount you have provided under this item for increasing the power generation ?

MR. SPEAKER : No, you cannot put a question like this.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : First let me reply to the hon. Members' question. Then I will answer your query.

MR. SPEAKER : No. There is no need for it. have not allowed him to ask the question.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Out of this, amount we have therefore, kept Rs. 200 crore as subsidy on interest for renovation and modernisation. We are also preparing scheme for the individual plants. If technical assistance is needed, it would be provided by BHEL, NTPC or other such companies which are desirous of offering their services.

If resources are available, then Rs. 1700-1800 crores can be spent on renovation and modernisation from the interest subsidy of Rs. 200 crores which would increase power generation by 1500-2000 MW annually. Thirdly, we are providing help to such schemes which yield quick results. For example, I would like to tell the hon. Member that we are helping those entrepreneurs in Karnataka who are interested in setting up a 400 MW wind power plant as wind power plant capacity can be increased in a short time. We are rendering assistance to them regarding their problems of providing bank guarantee and fixing the same with the loans etc.

Fourthly, Central Electricity Authority has identified several small hydel projects. I am writing to the Chief Ministers regarding such individual projects. The Secretary of Power is also writing to the Chief Secretary and the Power Secretaries. My colleague, Capt. Nishad is in charge of the mini-hydel projects. But there are several such small projects, totalling 6400 MW. In such projects, if a machine is installed at the canal's regulator, the others can be replicated. This can be done in a year or two. For the first time after several months energy output increased by 8 per cent in the month of June. Last year, it was 3.8 per cent. It decreased in April. It increased a little in May. And we would try our best to achieve this year's target.

The second question which hon. Member has asked is as to what we are doing for the private sector projects. I would like to tell him that the Prime Minister has also directed the Power Ministry to fix a deadline for deciding each project and we are preparing per-chart in this regard. We have to look into the problem of coal and financial closure. We expect to approve the counter guarantee and mega projects this year. Approval has to be given this year so that these projects could be included in the Ninth Five Year Plan so as to provide an opportunity for investment by the Private Sector. Because such projects take 3-4 years or even 5 years for completion.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I thank the Minister for answering almost all the questions.

Part (a) of my supplementary Question No.2 relates to the huge transmission losses in our country. We discuss a lot regarding the transmission losses and we also propose to make a separate arrangement for transmission of power. Most of our transmission lines are of 400 KV and are all AC. On an experimental basis you had set up a 400 KV DC transmission lines in the country. In the foreign countries, specially in America and Europe the use of 60 to 65 KW DC lines and 10 to 65 KW AC transmission

lines have been very successful. According to an estimate if this is done in India, we can save the transmission losses which is as high as 9000 MW.

I would like to know whether the hon'ble Minister proposes to work out any plan or devices any strategy to control the transmission losses by introducing this kind of transmission lines of higher kilowatt Velocity in the country?

My next point pertains again to the part (b) of my question. The demand projection of energy, particularly electricity, in our country is in too much more than the actual requirement. There are several units which are actually running only one shift rather than three shifts, as claimed by them. I, therefore, would like to know whether the Government has evolved any measures to find out the actual requirement of electricity in the country so that we could take steps in that direction in order to increase the power generation in the country in future ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I am happy to state that so far as H.V.D.C. target of 3878 circuits kilometers is concerned, the Finance Minister in a meeting held day before yesterday with the Planning Commission had assured that [English] "Power will be a fully funded sector." [Translation] Besides this when this matter was taken up some days back with some of the industrialists, I had again said that it was very wrong to say that power sector did not absorb money. We concede that we could not execute many projects during the 8th Plan which has resulted in decline in the number of projects during the 8th Plan which has resulted in decline in the number of project but this year we intend to start many projects. If the hon'ble members like, I will straight away approve NTPC or HVDC project because the repetition will entail wastage of time. In addition we have cleared a resolution during the last month that [English] "Power will be a fully funded sector" [Translation] of Finance says or whether that the Minister means that the utilities of central Government or public sector will also get equality so that they may mobilise more resources from banking sector, state governments and private sector and make it a fully funded plan. I hope that in future we will succeed in achieving our targetted goals. His point is very pertinent that we are having energy deficit and in, we has fail to fulfil the energy demand of the people. I would say in this regard that we have set up a committee consisting of our several experts to look into this matter and give their findings.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the decline in

power generation during the year was attributed to the shortfall of capacity addition of lower hydel power generation. May I know from the hon. Minister the reasons for lower hydel production ? I would also like to know whether there is any scope for acceleration of hydel power production. If so, what are the reasons for not fully exploiting the hydel power generation ? What steps have been taken by the Government to increase the quantum of hydel power production in the country ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, the reasons for lower hydel power production last year were basically the reasons of lower inflow of water into some of the large reservoirs. What we are trying to do right now is, which I think is more important, that out of the funds that have been placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Power we are releasing additional funds for the completion of the on-going hydel projects in the public sector. I do not want to get into the project level details because it would take time. For example, the National Hydel Power Corporation has been given Rs. 450 crore more this year so that it could accelerate the completion of on-going projects. In some projects where there are some problems of evacuation, we are looking into the technical details so that the coordination with the grid is better. I would like to inform the House that during the month of June our engineers have been able to achieve a rate of growth of eight per cent which is close to our target. We should congratulate them and support them in achieving this objective this year. We have every intention of supporting those units which can turn around and make a greater profit.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the policy initiative taken by the Government to go for short gestation liquid fuel based power projects of a total capacity of 10,000 to 12,000 megawatts as a short term solution to the problem. In this context, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has given its concurrence to this proposal because this would involve import of huge quantities of naphtha and other liquid fuels for running the power plant.

Secondly, if they have given concurrence, then what is going to happen to the port capacity ? I would like to know whether the ports in India can handle the liquid cargo over and above what is being already handled in the form of imports of crude oil and other liquid petroleum products.

In the case of land-locked States like Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, certain capacity addition has been earmarked based on liquid fuel. In this context, I would

like to know whether any pipeline would be required. What transportation arrangements have been made to make these projects feasible ?

Thirdly, what would be the impact on the tariff and on the cost of generation if these projects based on liquid fuels are established ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The allocation of liquid fuel, mainly naphtha was 12,000 MWs which is what the Government had announced and it has been agreed to by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. That will be provided from the existing facilities plus planned imports. The hon. Member's question is a very important one in the sense that we may need some further investment in infrastructure from the existing supply points to supply this naphtha to the proposed power projects. As of today, apart from two States, in all other States, the projects that they have give to tie up this 12,000 MWs have been approved; in two States, the approval has been given and they have been asked to give a project-level details. That will be done.

Now the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has suggested that independent power producers should give a certain sum of money per MW so that that money which can be adjusted towards the price later on will be used for completing the infrastructure at the lower level. The hon. Member is a very knowledgeable person and he knows that naphtha based power is an expensive power. But there was a study done by the Planning Commission last year—I remember when I was the Planning Minister it was done—which said that since we would be short of fuel in the next two years, it seems economically viable to invest even in this expensive power.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you. I know that this subject is a very important one. But then the House will resume discussion on the Ninth Plan Document during this Session. I think, that is the time when this issue should be given emphasis and importance; and the hon. Members may participate in it.

#### **Working of Local Bodies in States**

\*22. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working of local bodies in States is examined by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps taken to check the identify the drawbacks in their functioning; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to streamline the system ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The working of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country is reviewed from time to time in the meetings of concerned Panchayati Raj Ministers and Secretaries held at the regional as well as national level. A National Committee of Panchayat Ministers under the Chairmanship of Minister of Rural Areas and Employment has also been constituted for the purpose. Several suggestions have been made to the States/UTs for streamline the Panchayati Raj system.

SHRI N. DENNIS : Sir, the local bodies are faced with several problems in achieving their object of decentralisation of administration and vesting of power to the people at the grass-roots level. Non-devolution of adequate powers by the States to the local bodies is mainly responsible for the number of problems faced by the local bodies. So, providing a demarcation of power among the three tiers of local bodies in the Constitution with a list of subjects – as is done in the case of the subjects under the States and the Centre by means of three lists – would reduce the dependency of local bodies on the State Governments.

So, may I know from the hon. Minister the steps that are taken by the Government in this regard ? The hon. Minister has stated that several suggestions have been made to the States to streamline the administration of local bodies. May I know the impact of these suggestions and directions, and how the State Governments reacted to this matter ?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : The hon. Members are aware that Constitution (Seventy-Third) Amendment Act, 1992 marks a new era in the federal democratic set up. Based on that Amendment Act, Panchayati Raj Institutions have been established and election have also been conducted. We have established, throughout the country, a strong foundation for democratic and participatory Governments. Based on that, the States have been requested to empower on the following issues : Devolution of powers – functional, financial and operational, autonomy for Panchayati Raj Institutions, transparency in their functioning, empowerment of Gram Sabhas, constitution of District Planning Committees, holding elections, training and capacity building, Under the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, 29 subjects are transferred to the local bodies under the three-tier Panchayati Raj system. On

further empowerment and devolution of powers, finances and everything, we had convened meetings of Ministers of Panchayati Raj twice in the months of September, 1995 and October, 1996. Recently, a meeting of Presidents of Panchayats and Zila Parishads of seven States, that is, Maharashtra, Orissa, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, was convened at the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) at Hyderabad on 21.6.97. Meetings of the State Panchayati Raj Secretaries are also frequently held by the Secretary of Rural Development on the devolution of powers, finance and everything. Based on the suggestions of the State Secretaries of Rural Development and recommendations made by the Conference of Panchayati Raj Ministers, we are repeatedly writing letters to the Chief Ministers both from my side and from the Prime Minister's side. It is our objective to devolve finances for self-governance. Like that, we are doing everything.

SHRI N. DENNIS : The delegation of powers, functions and financial control still rest with the State Governments. Thus the local bodies are facing difficulties in administration and also due to inadequate funds. Bureaucracy is also not helpful in sharing powers with the elected representatives of the local bodies. So, may I know from the hon. Minister the steps that are taken by the Government to remove these bottlenecks to achieve the desired result of high hopes and expectations generated by the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution ?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker Sir, we want to make local bodies financially viable and that is why, we are implementing the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. They are putting Rs. 4300 crore at the disposal of only the local bodies, as per the request of the Union Government. All State Government have appointed Finance Commissions to be financed by the State Consolidated Fund. Some States want to give finance to the local bodies. So far, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal and Punjab have already appointed their Finance Commissions. In turn, the Finance Commissions have given their reports to the State Governments and the State Governments have accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commissions and they are devolving Finances to the Gram Panchayats. The reports of the Finance Commissions submitted to the State Governments are under consideration in the following States. They are Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Some States have not received the reports from their Finance Commissions. They are Haryana, Goa, Gujarat, Orissa and Chandigarh. So, the prime Minister is convening a Conference of Chief Ministers and Ministers of Panchayati Raj on 2nd August regarding devolution of powers. In that Conference, we will be discussing the latest position about constitutional problems, what is implemented and what is not implemented and so on.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Under the Constitution, a broad framework has been created to support the local governance at three levels like the village panchayats, municipalities, corporations, talukas and zila parishads. There is a provision for giving funds also to these local bodies. But the third step which has to be really taken is very important and it provides the contents. Now, we have seen that the local bodies are not in a position or do not have the concepts or ideas or the machinery to provide facilities to the people. So, they remain where they are living. The population is migrating from the villages to the towns and cities. In some States, the percentage of migration of population is 25 to 30 per cent of the cities population also. So, the most important thing in this respect is the idea or the concept or the planning to handle the problem of urbanisation as such.

I would like to know from the Government whether the Government at the national level has any concept or any plan to deal with the problem of urbanisation. Have the State Governments made any plans to deal with the problem of urbanisation? Are the local bodies having any plans to deal with the problem of urbanisation or retaining the people in the villages because that is really the content. Having provided the board framework and having provided the funds also, it would be necessary to provide the contents to deal with the actual problem regarding water supply, drainage, housing, roads and extension of the areas and all those things.

If the hon. Minister has the information, he can give it to me or he can supply it to me later on.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, all the Members are aware that under the Amendment to the Constitution, there are two aspects, namely, mandatory issues and advisory issues. According to the Constitution (Seventy-Third) Amendment, the timely elections and appointment of the District Planning Committees come under the mandatory issues.

At the national level, we are implementing all the

programmes through the local bodies only. For example, there is Jawahar Rozgar Yojana to arrest migration from villages to urban areas.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : They are diverting it.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : I am not diverting it. . . .(Interruptions) You put a separate question. And I will answer regarding diversion and everything. This question is about Panchayats. . . .(Interruptions)

I will pass on the other information to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is correct that the autonomous bodies have been facing financial difficulties as before despite the autonomy given to them. You have just mentioned about the Finance Commission and about Madhya Pradesh but there are many states where no progress has taken place even after the recommendations of the Finance Commission. That is why all the autonomous institutions are unable to show their performance due to financial difficulties. Sometimes it becomes quite difficult for the MPs and MLAs to get the work done according to the legislative procedure. In such a situation whether any guidelines would be issued on your behalf to solve their difficulties and to make them efficient.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : I have visited Madhya Pradesh twice. Compared to many other States, they are doing very well. We are giving a lot of powers to the Gram Panchayats. We have already implemented the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

As far as the information received from various States is concerned, we are doing very well. . . .(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : There is no audit of accounts. . . .(Interruptions) We want a special discussion for this.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : That is a separate question. . . .(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The whole thing has been diverted. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

\* Not Recorded.



MR. SPEAKER : It is enough. Now, question No. 23.  
Shri Suresh Kalmadi is not there.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Enough, enough. The Minister has taken note of your anxieties.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : He has taken note of it.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : I have said that nothing will go on record.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, in today's Question List, questions no. 32 and 37 are pertaining to this. So, these two questions could be clubbed together and then we could have the answers for these questions. If you club both question no. 32 and 37 with this then all these questions could be answered.

MR. SPEAKER : You should have pointed it out earlier. It is late now. I have already called the next question. Now, if we could reach question no. 32 I will club question no. 37 also with that. So, please be brief now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pilot has given a very good suggestion. Why are you not trying to save time so that we could reach question no. 32 ? I am trying to reach question no. 32. You please help me in reaching question no. 32.

(Interruptions)

#### German Telecom Companies

\*24. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the visit of the Finance Minister to Germany in June, 1997, several German telecom companies pleaded with him to expedite the process of privatisation of basic telecom sectors in India;

(b) if so, whether any positive assurance was given by the Finance Minister in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to step up the tempo of privatisation ?

\* Not Recorded.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, our hon. Finance Minister visited Germany and I would like to quote what was reported there by the newspapers then.

"The German Telecom companies wanted the Indian Government to expedite the process of privatisation of basic telecom sector apparently as the major bidders had been left behind in bidding for the cellular and pager services."

This was reported in a newspaper on 5th June. This was pertaining to the visit of the Finance Minister to Germany. Some German Telecom companies said that they were left behind as a result of which they had not got a share in the privatisation of cellular and other basic telecom services and they are pressing for the privatisation of the telecom services.

Do we privatise the telecom sector because some companies abroad feel that they have not got an adequate share ? Since they have been left behind, should we open some more sectors so that they could participate in this? Is it the policy of the Government ?

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, according to the available information, the German Telecom company did not contact the Finance Minister who was recently on a visit to Germany to accelerate the progress of privatisation of basic services. In our country, no German Company is a partner in any circle in regard to which the biddings have been held.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : The Government is allowing so many foreign companies to come and participate in our country. Similarly, is it the view of the Government that on a reciprocal basis, bilaterally, the companies originating from India would also be allowed to access the foreign markets in the telecom sector in the respective countries? For example, the US companies have been allowed; the French companies have been allowed; the Swiss

companies have also come in. Similarly, would be Indian Government also insist for allowing the Indian companies to access the markets of those countries ?

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, in pursuance of the Government's policy, foreign participation in basic telecom services would be 49 per cent whereas the share of Indian companies would be 51 per cent. Any company or any country is allowed to enter our market and we are also allowed to enter any global market. In a liberalised economy, there remains no restriction on any country. The restriction which remains is that of equity share which is 49 per cent for foreign companies and 51 per cent for Indian companies.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you, want to know whether various telecom public undertakings, be it ITI or Videsh Sanchar Seva Nigam providing infrastructure do ever invite tenders from foreign companies or not ? Public Undertakings like ITI have rendered their vast services to the people by building up infrastructure in the telecom sector but inspite of it, the Government is allowing foreign companies to enter one telecom sector and earn huge profits which should go to our undertakings. Department of Telecommunications is doing tremendous job in our rural areas and therefore I would like to know whether Central Government Undertakings would continue to get more and more incentives from the Government for undertaking various developmental work in rural areas or our rural areas are to be left at the mercy of Videsh Sanchar Seva Nigam by giving it a meagre amount of 10 per cent ? It is justified ? Will our rural areas get only 10 per cent of the total expenditure and huge share of it is likely to go to the foreign companies?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year we have given much financial assistance to ITI and it is likely to get more relief from us which is under our consideration. They would get all kind of incentives. In respect of the hon. Members question pertaining to the infrastructural facilities, I would like to say that the policy formulated by the Government in this regard would be implemented.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is that policy ?

MR. SPEAKER : Rawatji, it is enough now, please.

[English]

### Financial Crisis in SAIL

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\*25. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :  
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is losing due to fall in sales and heading towards a financial crisis;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor and the quantum off all recorded in profits are compared to the last two years;

(c) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to check the overhead and the operational costs of SAIL;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the latest performance trend is likely to hit SAIL's \$100 million Yankee bond issue and other debt finance programmes;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to check the losses in SAIL and to improve its performance ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

### Statement

(a) to (g) While the quantity of sales decreased by about 3.4% during 1996-97 as compared to 1995-96, the first quarter of 1997-98 has witnessed an increase in the sales quantity by 4.4% over corresponding quarter of 1996-97. Though the last year was a difficult year for the steel industry yet SAIL made a profit. The details of profit (before tax) for the last three years are as under :

(Rs. in Crores)		
1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1163	1319	602*

\* Subject to CAG audit.

The main reasons for fall in sales include sluggish

demand for steel, greater competition from imports arising due to lower international prices compounded by further reduction in customs duties and also enhancement in supplies in domestic market. Whereas the reasons for fall in profits, inter-alia, include increase in input costs on account of cost escalations in coal price, petroleum price, railway freight, power tariff, special custom duties etc. whose impact was about Rs. 1000 crores while only a part of this impact could be neutralised through improvement in operational efficiencies.

The Ministry of Steel periodically reviews the performance of SAIL and areas that need improvement, including cost control, are emphasised.

SAIL continues to be a fundamentally strong company and no adverse impact on SAIL's proposed US \$ 100 million Yankee bond issue and other debt finance programmes is expected.

SAIL is taking steps on a continuous basis to improve its performance and sales, which include modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants, improving techno-economic factors i.e. reduction in coke rate, energy consumption, metallic input, improvement in yield, extensive customer contact, market oriented product-mix, improvement in quality, long term relationship with customers, leadership in service and customer satisfaction, strict control and monitoring of operating costs, higher productivity and greater autonomy to field officers, etc.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, last year for the first time the Steel Authority of India faced a crisis, both in respect of its production and financial performance. In his reply the Minister has also admitted that the profitability of the company has been reduced from Rs. 1319 crore to Rs. 602 crore. Along with the reduction in profit, there has also been a reduction in the production in various plants of the Steel Authority of India. The situation has not improved in the current year also. The Minister has stated that there has been an increase in the sales quantity by four per cent but there has been a reduction in the production of various plants of the Steel Authority of India.

May I know from the Minister as to why there has been a substantial reduction in the profit of the Steel Authority of India, which is one of the giant public sector undertakings ? One of the blast furnaces, at two of its plants at Bhilai and Bokaro, has been closed down. Particularly last year, what were the factors that led to a situation which is continuing in the current year also ?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : I am thankful to the hon. Member for putting a very important question relating to the Steel Authority of India. I do admit that the profit of the Steel Authority of India has declined last year to nearly about Rs. 600 crore but I do not agree with the hon. Member when he said that for the first time there has been a financial crisis in the Steel Authority of India. This is not so. The Steel Authority of India is a profit-making company. It made profits for the last ten years continuously. The profits for 1996-97 have also been higher than those of all other previous years except last two years when there was a boom in consumption of steel.

The demand for steel depends upon the economic and industrial growth of a country. The growth in steel production last year was 6.5 per cent but growth of consumption was only 4.5 per cent. So, there is a basic difference between demand and supply. Supply was higher than the demand and so inventory was going up and due to the market surplus profits declined. Not only the Steel Authority of India, all the major steel processing industries of our country including TISCO, ESSAR and Lloyd, suffered decline in profits last year. In European countries also the profits declined last year at an average of 40 per cent. The profits declined last year in the British steel industry also. This was a special situation because last year was not a good year for the steel industry as a whole.

Regarding the problem of blast furnaces at Bhilai and Bokaro, I do agree with the hon. Member. It is due to the techno-economic performance of the company that these two blast furnaces were shut down. There is no crisis. The Steel Authority of India is making profits and it is going to make profits continuously.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Steel Authority of India is borrowing heavily from the market, at an average rate of Rs. 200 crore a month. The total borrowing up to March, 1997 stood at Rs. 2440 crore as against Rs. 1164 crore in March, 1994 and Rs. 1376 crore in March, 1995. As a result of this the debt equity ratio also increased from 1.85:1 in March, 1996 to 2.5:1 in April, 1997. How does the Government propose to overcome this problem ?

About Rs. 9000 crore were spent on the modernisation of three steel plants but the return is much less than what was invested. There has not been any reflection of the investment in the production of steel either. What is the problem that even after spending Rs. 9000 crore on modernisation, there has not been a substantial increase in the production of steel ?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member. The Steel Authority of India invested more than Rs. 10000 crore in the last five years for modernisation of its three steel plants at Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela. But nobody can get the effects of modernisation immediately. It will take some time for that. Modernisation means improvement of the techno-economic performance of a plant. All over the world, day by day new technologies are coming up. So, it is necessary for the Steel Authority of India to modernise its plants.

But, I would like to take the example of Bhilai. We have invested huge amount of money in the modernisation of Bhilai. From Bhilai also, we were not getting immediate benefit. But today we are deriving maximum profit from the Bhilai Steel Plant. You never get the full effect immediately. The effect of the Durgapur started immediately and the production has gone up to 81 percent of capacity in June of this year. The production of Durgapur is going up. Its capacity utilization will be 100 per cent.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But Railways is importing rails, from China.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Secondly, about Rourkela, we can see the effect from next year.

The hon. Member has put a very important question regarding Railways importing rails from abroad. I do agree that same technologies adopted by the SAIL are old. We have to be competitive. We have to modernise the industry. We have to adopt new technology. With this intention, the Ministry of Steel is going to give Rs. 150 crores every year for the purpose of Research and Development in the steel industry from this year. I am hopeful that it will be helpful for the progress of good and modern technology.

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : The Steel Authority of India is considered to be one of the *navaratnas* of our Public Sector Undertakings. Particularly, the performance of 1996-97 has been the worst in terms of profit. The Minister has conceded in his statement that one of the main reasons is the cost escalation of inputs. You look at the inputs, and mainly the increase in the coal price and the petroleum price and increase in railway freight and increase in power tariff. All these I am sure, certain more of this type is absolutely down the road will inflate the input price. Considering this reason, I would like to know what exactly the Steel Authority of India would do.

I am thankful to the Minister for conceding in his statement that he is hopeful that the Steel Authority of India

would be profitable.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, I do not agree at all with the hon. Member when he says that last year was the worst year of SAIL. This is not true at all. In 1996-97 also, the profit is higher than all other previous years, except last two years. It is known to everybody that in business the theory of trade cycle is applicable. In the last two years, there is boom in consumption in the steel industry not only in India but all over the world. So, the profit was higher. But, if you are to compare the profit of the SAIL in the last ten years, the last year's position is the third position and this is the position not confined only to India. For example, today no European company is doing very well in the field of steel production. Their profit also declined by 40 per cent. The profits of SAIL is also declined.

✓ MR. SPEAKER : Having been the Minister of Information and Broadcasting myself, I cannot deny the maiden opportunity to Mr. Reddy here. So, I go to next question Q. No. 26.

#### Conference on Electronic Media

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\*26. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

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

(a) whether a Conference of State Ministers on electronic media was held in New Delhi during 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the points discussed in the Conference and the decisions arrived at;

(d) the details of demands made by the State Governments particularly the Government of Maharashtra; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government there to?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (e) A Conference of State and Union Territory Ministers of Information and Cinematography was held on October 29, 1996 which discussed the issues related to

electronic, film and print media and interpersonal media.

The following recommendations, as far as electronic media is concerned, were adopted during the Conference:

1. Expansion of Doordarshan facilities during the IXth Plan would be carried out on technical planning and proposals for special investments for difficult regions like North-East would be prepared.
2. The State Governments/UTs were requested to immediately communicate their reasonable requirements after fixing up priority so that IXth Plan proposals could be suitably framed.
3. State Governments in general endorsed an autonomous status for AIR and Doordarshan.
4. Broadcasting Bill should be formulated so as to have adequate regulation of the Satellite TV Channels.
5. Most of the State Governments observed that the existing Cable TV (Regulation) Act needed substantial amendment to ensure the proper regulation of cable TV networks.
6. The State Government's demand for exclusive time slot on Doordarshan was noted.

The Major demands raised by various state Governments, inter-alia, included strengthening of media infrastructure and communication network in the States by way of establishing/upgrading/opening new media offices/stations in various parts of the States. The Government of Maharashtra had made a demand that IInd Channel of Doordarshan be made available to the remaining parts of the State and extensive news coverage from the State should find a place in the National News telecast. There should be an increase in the percentage of news coverage of the State in the regional news bulletin. As far as the demand for covering the entire State of Maharashtra with DD-2 is concerned, it may be mentioned that extension of DD-2 in all the States would be taken up under a phased programme depending upon the availability of financial resources, manpower and other infrastructural facilities. In regard to the coverage of the State in the regional/national news, it is the endeavour of the Doordarshan to provide fair coverage to all the State.

SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has taken any decision to increase the regional language time, particu-

larly for Telugu programmes following the decision taken in the Conference of State Ministers' which was held in 1996.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, at this Conference of State Ministers it was urged that more time should be spared for regional network. The time in DD-1 is very limited. We are sparing four hours' time, i.e. from 4.30 to 8.30 in the evening. We are also further exploring the avenues of expanding time for regional networks. We appreciate the genuineness of demand but we have not been able to take a decision so far.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : For more than six years the Government of India has been dreaming to introduce a legislation on the electronic media. Now we are in 1997. The entire nation is anxious to know from the hon. Minister whether he will be successful in introducing such a legislation in this Session or not.

Secondly, as per the last Conference of the State Ministers of Information and broadcasting, his Ministry will take up the task of upgrading, modernising and introducing the electronic media communication system to the maximum extent. I would like to know the progress made in this regard.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Firstly, I thank the hon. Minister . . . (Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Old habits die hard! Does it mean the Congress party is going to join the United Front Government ? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, this was the same mistake that Shri Vajpayee made as the Prime Minister. Some of our habits die very hard; I have no difficulty in confessing to this limitation . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You will not get enough time to get out of this habit . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : My hon. friend has raised the question of granting autonomy to the electronic media. Both the Houses of Parliament passed the Act in 1990. It gives me immense pleasure that it has fallen to my lot to announce that the autonomy will be granted on the electronic media and I seek the support and blessings from parties across the political spectrum. This is a non-controversial, nonpartisan matter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Congratulations !

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : This is a matter to which we as a nation are committed. We are committed to this as

a polity . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : This was what I conceived !

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What was conceived half heartedly by Shri Upendra was delivered by me whole heartedly.

My friend, Shri Reddy has referred to the need for expanding the network. I agree with him, but he must persuade the Parliament to grant more funds for the purpose. As it is, it gives me pride to tell you that Doordarshan has the largest terrestrial network in the world. We have more than 800 transmitters and no other broadcasting corporation in the world has this kind of a network. We need to expand it more; we need to use this for other social and educational purposes. If you get me more funds, I am more than willing to do this.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : I want to know as to how much time has been allotted for Urdu programme. Does the Minister consider that time adequate and whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, it is our endeavour that more time is spared for all Indian languages like Hindi and other languages, including Urdu. We are looking at it and we shall do our best.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question which I asked has not been answered. My question was as to how much time has been allotted for Urdu programmes at the moment. In Doordarshan and whether the Government has any intention to increase the time slot or not.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : We intend to increase the time slot but I do not have the facts as to how much time has been allotted presently.

[English]

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put a one sentence question. Otherwise, the time is over.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want

to ask a very small question from the Minister. The former Minister had committed in the House that he would constitute a Committee of MPs soon to check obscene and vulgar programmes being telecast from the Doordarshan and the Committee would ponder over as to what sort of programmes should be made. Since Mr. Reddy is the Minister how he should tell as to what action has been taken in this regard and how long it would take to constitute that Committee.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The Standing Committee of Parliament on Communications is going into that question. I may also invite suggestions from you. I am worried about the vulgarity that is shown both on the big screen, on the small screen and in the foreign programmes. I share your concern. I invite your suggestions as to how our vision can be translated into reality.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Power Tariff

\*23. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are Contemplating to introduce dual-power tariff from the consumers in the country;

(b) if so, whether the said dual-power tariff would be Calculated on the basis of peak-hours and normal hours;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the concept of the peak hours; and

(d) the average rate of power-tariff charged from various categories of consumers at national level as on March, 1997 and the rates proposed under the new dual power tariff systems ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise. However, in West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Time-of-Day (TOD) tariff has been introduced for industrial consumers provided with TOD meters. In Gujarat there is an additional charge on industrial consumers during 7.00 AM to 11.00 AM and 5.00 PM to 9.00 PM.

(d) The average rate of power tariff charged from State Electricity Boards is given in the attached various categories of consumers by different States/ Statement.

### Statement

*Statement showing Average Rates of Power Tariff as on 31.3.1997*

S. No.	Name of Utility	Tariff Effective From	Domestic 2KW (100 Kwh/ Month)	Domestic 5KW (400 Kwh M)	Commercial 5 KW (200 Kwh M)	Comm. 10KW (1000 Kwh M)	Agriculture 10 HP 28% LF (1089 Kwh/M)	Small Ind. 10 HP 25 % LF (1361 Kwh/M)	Med. Ind 50 KW, 40% LF (14600 Kwh/M)	Large Ind. 1000 KW, 65% LF (474500 Kwh/M)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.8.96	136.00	248.50	386.00	382.00	20.05	293.40	318.51	340.07
2.	Assam	8.9.94	105.00	230.00	315.40	363.90	150.00	178.60 81.60	227.10	214.18
3.	Bihar	1.7.93	137.00 U 44.00 R	148.75	449.00	285.00	29.09	155.09	138.54	209.99
4.	Gujarat	22.10.96	181.25 U 165.69 R	302.72 U 272.27 R	398.14	412.99	61.22	233.87	262.44	349.23
5.	Haryana	1.7.96	224.00	246.00	329.00	329.00	50.00	329.00	329.00	329.00
6.	Him. Pradesh	1.11.95	61.00	71.00	155.00	187.00	65.00	105.00	145.00	165.00
7.	Jammu & Kash.	1.4.88	54.90	54.90	91.50	91.50	12.20	48.80	48.80	48.80
8.	Karnataka	1.7.96	185.00	203.75	478.75	471.25	7.65	286.02	221.48	370.37
9.	Kerala	1.10.94	77.00	148.50	313.50	390.50	14.21	119.04	115.65	116.57
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1.7.96	90.00	163.25	379.83	431.83	45.91	185.00	337.34	387.60
11.	Maharashtra	1.7.96	122.50	249.00	401.90	470.10	38.26	208.30	487.12	373.61
12.	Meghalaya	1.9.96	85.00	103.75	176.00	184.00	56.00	149.49	168.43	156.07
13.	Orissa	21.5.96	98.75	155.94	265.00	295.00	70.00	105.00	250.00	306.58
14.	Punjab	11.7.96	135.25	168.06	269.00	269.00	52.75	195.00	210.00	233.00
15.	Rajasthan	1.10.96	132.50	158.88	247.50	269.50	41.46	214.00	254.00	2735.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	1.2.95	90.00	152.50			0.00	286.30	—	—
	Madras Metro Area				330.75	347.55			292.07	288.53
	Non Metro Area				320.25	337.05			281.57	278.03
17.	Uttar Pradesh	3.1.97	145.00 U 38.50 R	186.25	234.87	334.87	47.29	290.44	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
									300.23	326.86
									317.82	53.06
18. West Bengal	19.11.96	127.68 U	257.33 U	282.04 U	385.38 U	85.00	276.09 U	334.14	313.31	
		123.01 R	250.24 R	276.21 R	379.15 R		262.80 R			
19. Arunachal Pradesh	1.3.93	95.00	135.00	210.00	235.00	—	185.00	195.00	250.00	
20. Goa	1.3.97	85.00	112.50	216.25	262.25	50.00	150.00	192.33	228.69	
21. Manipur	30.10.92	87.20	177.20	252.20	162.20	72.20	91.18	100.14	78.64	
22. Mizoram	1.3.92	85.00	90.00	100.00	116.00	45.00	95.00	95.00	105.00	
23. Nagaland	1.12.95	200.00	275.00	300.00	350.00	150.00	250.00	275.00	275.00	
24. Sikkim	1.4.95	80.00	110.00	155.00	163.00	122.04	126.63	186.44	113.85	
25. Tripura	1.6.92	100.00	100.00	140.00	140.00	60.00	100.00	110.00	—	
26. A&N Island	1.11.94	75.00	90.00	200.00	200.00	50.00	180.00	180.00	—	
27. Chandigarh	19.1.95	96.50	135.25	191.00	191.00	36.25	122.00	155.00	176.00	
28. D & N Haveli	1.2.87	72.50	85.63	122.00	124.40	50.00	170.10	170.36	188.86	
29. Daman & Diu	1.10.94	87.50	106.88	125.00	165.00	50.00	120.00	151.89	168.29	
30. Delhi (DESU)	1.10.93	63.00	152.25	302.00	302.00	52.50	268.80	281.00	334.04	
(NDMC)	5.11.93	63.00	152.25	254.89	254.89	—	212.89	233.09	—	
31. Lakshadweep	1.10.96	100.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	—	100.00	100.00	—	
32. Pondicherry	1.11.94	55.00	77.00	100.00	226.00	7.27	132.06	134.73	166.31	
33. Ahmedabad Elec. Co.	11.1.95	228.29	293.39	395.34	431.13	223.09	259.37	288.62	323.94	
34. Calcutta (CESC)	1.1.95	100.43	263.10	255.60	327.38	—	254.50	292.13	310.85	
35. D.V.C.	1.10.96	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(a) Bihar Area						—	—	—	225.50	
(b) W.B. Area						—	—	—	240.08	
36. Durgapur Projects Ltd.	10.2.95	92.43	255.10	239.90	311.50	199.00	223.93	273.38	262.40	
37. Mumbai (B.E.S.T.)	1.8.94	86.10	226.06	431.78	526.78	—	415.55	445.87	264.21	



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
(B.S.E.S.)	1.8.94	170.35	337.47	524.00	550.60	50.00	498.72	466.52	392.36	
(TATAs)	1.8.94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	296.71
AV. Rates		109.08	177.40	273.64	295.28	62.53	196.76	232.93	252.01	
U-Urban	R- Rural									

### N.E.E.P.C.O.

\*27. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the scheduled dates for completion of Ramachandranagar 84 MW (gas based), Agartala; Doyang (Hydel), Nagaland and Ranganadi (Hydel), Arunachal Pradesh, Power Projects of North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO);

(b) whether the Ramachandranagar Power Project of Tripura is running behind the schedule owing to lapses on the part of ONGC and GAIL; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure the timely completion of the said project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The details of the latest schedule of completion of Ramachandranagar 84 MW (Gas Based), Agartala; Doyang (Hydel), Nagaland and Ranganadi (Hydel), Arunachal Pradesh, Power Projects of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) are given below :

Sl. Project No.	Latest Commissioning Schedule
1. Agartala Gas Based Power Project Ramachandranagar, Agartala (21x4=84 MW)	Unit I - Nov.'97 Unit II - Dec.'97 Unit III - Jan.'98 Unit IV - Feb'98
2. Doyang Hydro-electric Project Nagaland (25x3-75 MW)	Unit I - Mar.'98 Unit II - Sep.'98 Unit III - Oct.'98
3. Ranganadi Hydro-electric Project Arunachal Pradesh (135x3=405 MW)	Unit I - Mar.'99 Unit II - June'99 Unit III - Sep.'99

(b) and (c) Agartala Gas Based Power Project is

running behind the schedule not because of the lapses on the part of ONGC and GAIL, but because of the difficulties encountered by NEEPCO in transportation of heavy equipment comprising 8 heavy packages of about 98 MT each, which were to be transported from Germany to Calcutta by shipment; from Calcutta to Badarpur Ghat-Karimganj (Assam) by Inland Water ways and then by road to the project site via Karimganj.

The delay has taken place due to receding of water at Badarpur Ghat thereby making it impossible to off load the packages. Hence special ramps were constructed for this purpose. In addition, due to incessant rains & flash floods, culverts, bridges and by passes had to be repaired and strengthened to enable the transportation of these equipments to the project site. Due to bad condition of the roads, the special low bed trailers and prime movers had broken down on number of occasions and had to be repaired after importing spares from Germany. Now that all the required materials and machinery have reached the project site, the execution of work is in progress.

[Translation]

### Spreading of Indecent Culture through Foreign Channels

\*28. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to check invasion of Indian culture and the spread of influence of obscenity through foreign channels ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Government have already introduced a Broadcasting Bill in the Parliament, which, among other things, seeks to regulate the foreign satellite channels and bring them within the ambit of Indian laws and regulations including a broadcasting code which inter alia would provide for promotion of Indian culture and prohibition of obscenity, etc.

[English]

**Expansion of DD Network In  
North Eastern States**

\*29. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to expand DD Network and improve transmission in the North Eastern States keeping in view the Prime Minister's initiatives for the North-Eastern Region;

(b) the problems being faced in this regard;

(c) whether Government have drawn-up any strategy to meet the problems including manpower and financial constraint; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the quality of programme in regional Kendras by maximum utilisation of regional Satellite Service according to specific requirements of the areas ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) As a result of the initiative taken by the Prime Minister for the North Eastern Region, satellite uplinking facilities at Shillong, Kohima, Imphal, Aizwal, Agartala and Itanagar and 37 TV transmitters of varying power for primary channel service and 5 transmitters for relay of DD-II service are proposed to be taken up for implementation in the North-Eastern States during the current financial year. Major problems being faced in this regard are :

- (i) Constraint of trained manpower and adequate resources.
- (ii) The nature of terrain in the region and lack of adequate transport facility which do not facilitate easy installation of Hardware and restricts coverage.
- (iii) Law and order situation in some parts of the region.

(c) An outlay of approx. Rs. 200 crore has been proposed for expansion of terrestrial Doordarshan network in the North-Eastern States. Doordarshan has also taken up a special scheme to train local people for appointment as Cameramen with a view to meet the acute shortage of trained manpower in the North-Eastern States.

(d) The Regional Satellite Service have been introduced to expand the reach of regional service to all

parts of the country, including the entire North-Eastern region, and to provide more software in regional languages when terrestrial transmitters have to relay National Programmes. On DD-13, the channel for Assam and North-East, time slots have been provided for various programmes of local interest and also, funds have been provided to Programme Production Centre, Guwahati to commission quality programmes for all the States in the North-eastern region.

[Translation]

**Demand of Steel**

\*30. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the demand of steel in the country by 2001-02;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts to meet this demand;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total production capacity of steel at present and the total quantity of steel for which licenses have been issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) As per projections made by the Working Group on Iron and Steel for the IX Five Year Plan, the demand for finished carbon steel in the country is likely to be 32.68 million tonnes (net) by 2001-02, the terminal year of the IX Five Year Plan. The Working Group has also projected an export potential of 6 million tonnes by 2001-02.

(c) and (d) As per projections made by the Working Group, production of finished carbon steel will reach 38.012 million tonnes (net) by 2001-02, the increase in production coming from modernisation and expansion of existing integrated steel plants and creation of new capacities in private sector. The Working Group has also projected total investment of about Rs. 52498 crores in the steel sector during IX Five Year Plan, with public sector investing around Rs. 20,005 crores. Keeping in tune with present economic policy, Ministry of Steel is endeavouring to facilitate creation of new capacities by making realistic projections of demand and removal of bottlenecks through

interaction with the entrepreneurs, financial institutions and State Governments.

(e) As per present policy, industrial licence is not required for setting up new steel plants, except when they are proposed to be set up within a radius of 25 kms from the periphery of urban agglomerations having a population of more than 10 lakh according to 1991 census.

The total installed capacity for crude steel production in this country is about 32.97 million tonnes per annum.

[English]

#### **Railway Reservation by Private Agencies**

\*31. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL :  
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the railway stations where computerised reservation facilities have been provided during 1996-97, zone-wise;

(b) the details of the railway stations which are proposed to be provided with computerised reservation facilities during 1997-98, zone-wise particularly in tribal areas of Gujarat;

(c) whether the Government propose to authorise Private Agencies also for Railway reservation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons why the passengers are being compelled to do reservation from only the railway counters; and

(f) the reasons for not allowing the Private Agencies to set up computerised Reservation Terminals as is done by the Airlines to ease the rush in centralised reservation office ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Details of the locations where computerised reservation facilities have been provided during 1996-97, zone-wise, are enumerated below :

#### **Central Railway**

Bina

Ahmadnagar

Saugor

Wardha

Ghatkopar (Satellite of Mumbai)

Ajni (Satellite of Nagpur)

Chinchwad (Satellite of Pune)

Shankarsheth -do-

Pune Cantt. -do-

#### **Eastern Railway**

\*Bardhaman

\*Baharampur (Satellite of Calcutta)

\*Krishnanagar -do-

\*Kalyani -do-

\*Naihati -do-

Patna Sahib (Satellite of Patna)

#### **South Central Railway**

Cuddapah

Benz Circle (Satellite of Vijayawada)

#### **North Eastern Railway**

\*Lal Kuan

Darbhanga

Izatnagar

\*Sonpur

Hajipur

\*Varanasi City (Satellite)

Allahabad City (Satellite)

Lucknow City Station (Satellite)

Khagaria

Saharsa

#### **Northern Railway**

Rishikesh

Panipat

Lajpat Nagar (Satellite of Delhi)

IGI Airport -do-

\*Gurgaon (Satellite of Delhi)  
 Prayag (Satellite of Allahabad)

### Southern Railway

Shencottah

Alleppey

Mettupalayam

Nagercoil

Kanyakumari

Madurai City (Satellite of Madurai)

Yashwantpur (Satellite of Bangalore)

Malleshwaram -do-

Koramangala -do-

Banashankari -do-

### Western Railway

Bharuch

Nadiad

\*Sabarmati

Sikar

Gandhinagar (Satellite of Jaipur)

### South Eastern Railway

\*Gondia

Shalimar (Satellite of Calcutta)

Bokaro Steel City (Satellite of Bokaro)

M.V.P. Colony (Satellite of Visakhapatnam)

Naval Base at Visakhapatnam -do-

Gajuwaka -do-

Itwari (Satellite of Nagpur)

Chandrasekharpur (Satellite of Bhubaneswar)

### (Non Rail-head State Capitals)

Agartala

Kohima

Gangtok

\*Aizawl

\*Itanagar

Imphal

\* Included in the Annual Plan for 1996-97 and made operational by 30.6.97.

(b) The details of computerised reservation offices which have been approved in the Annual Plan 1997-98, including some works in progress from the previous year, are enumerated below :

### Central Railway

Banda

Rewa

Devlali

Chandrapur

Bailarshah

Vashi (Satellite of Mumbai)

Chembur -do-

Girgaon CBO -do-

Ambernath -do-

### Eastern Railway

Bandel (Satellite of Calcutta)

Barasat -do-

Kidderpore -do-

Behala -do-

Shyambazar -do-

Barrackpore -do-

Rajendranagar (Satellite of Patna)

### South Central Railway

Hospet

Renigunta

Chirala

Samalkot

Central University Campus, Hyderabad

A.P. Agricultural University Campus, Hyderabad

### North Eastern Railway

Nainital

Raxaul

### Northern Railway

Modinagar

Sonipat

Mirzapur

Hoshiarpur

Muzaffarnagar

Kotdwara

Shakurbasti (Satellite of Delhi)

Sarai Rohilla -do-

Jawaharlal Nehru University,  
New Delhi -do-

ISBT Delhi -do-

Subzi Mandi Delhi -do-

Charbag (Satellite of Lucknow)

Lucknow University -do-

Tourist Bureau Jodhpur (Satellite of Jodhpur)

Mahamandir Jodhpur -do-

### Southern Railway

Tirur

Tiruvalla

Sivakasi

Madras Luz Corner (Satellite of Madras)

Madras St. Thomas Mount -do-

Madras Mount Road -do-

IIM Bangalore (Satellite of Bangalore)

Yelahanka -do-

Trichy Fort (Satellite of Trichy)

Satellite Location at Ernakulam

Satellite Location at Trivandrum

### Western Railway

Mhow

Navsari

Valsad

Porbandar

Surendranagar

Jhunjhunu

Bandra (Satellite of Mumbai)

Vasai Road -do-

Virar -do-

Malad -do-

Udhna (Satellite of Surat)

Alkapuri West (Satellite of Baroda)

Jaipur University CBO (Satellite of Jaipur)

Devi Ahilya University, Indore (Satellite of Indore)

### South Eastern Railway

Bankura

Adra

Vizianagaram

Jharsuguda

Balasore

Utkal University, Bhubaneswar

Sambalpur Road

Ranchi University

Midnapur

Visakhapatnam City Booking Office

Satellite location at Rourkela

Satellite location at Puri

### Non Rail-head State Capitals

(Kavaratti, Androth and Minicoy Islands)—Lakshadweep

Provision of computerised passenger reservation facilities is an on-going process and these facilities are provided at stations as per norms and subject to the availability of funds.

(c) and (d) For convenience of those passengers who cannot go to the Railway Reservation Office for purchasing the tickets, Ministry of Railways have framed a scheme known as Authorisation of Rail Travellers Service Agents (RTSA). The RTSAs appointed under the scheme act on behalf of passengers for purchase of travel ticket and arranging passenger reservations from the Railway Reservation Offices by standing in a queue like a normal passenger.

(e) and (f) The reasons are :

- (i) Mismatch between demand and supply position during the peak rush period which could lead to cornering of accommodation.
- (ii) Need to protect the computer system and software from unauthorised access.

[Translation]

#### **Monitoring of Funds under Employment Assurance Scheme**

\*32. SHRI VIDYASAGAR SONKER : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether effective monitoring of funds provided to the States under the Employment Assurance Scheme, is done;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether labourers in the rural areas get employment and development of rural areas is taking place as per the Government's plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Level Coordination Committee for the Rural Development Programmes is responsible for the overall supervision, guidance and monitoring of EAS. The States are also required to constitute a District EAS Committee in every district and a Block EAS Committee

in blocks covered under the EAS. The membership of the Committees includes district level officers of the implementing agencies, MPs, MLAs and NGOs. Similarly, at the block level, the membership of the Committees comprises block level officers of the implementing agencies, MPs, MLAs and NGOs etc. These Committees are required to supervise the implementation of EAS within their jurisdiction in accordance with the EAS guidelines and suggest to the State Government Steps which in their opinion are necessary for more effective implementation of the Scheme. At the Central Level, the scheme is monitored through monthly, half yearly and annual progress reports. Apart from this, Senior Officers of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, Department of Programme Implementation and Planning Commission also visit States and districts under the Area Officers Scheme.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Employment Assurance Scheme aims at providing assured employment of 100 days of unskilled manual work to the rural poor who are in need of employment and seeking it, besides creation of economic infrastructure and community assets for sustained employment generation. The assurance of 100 days employment extends to men and women over 18 years and below 60 years of age. A maximum of two adults per family would be provided this assurance of 100 days employment under this scheme if and when they seek it during lean agricultural season. Central assistance of Rs. 5577.22 crores has been released to the concerned States/UTs (since inception till end of May, 1997). The number of persons registered in various States/UTs is 269.92 lakhs. The employment generated is 10953.33 lakh mandays upto May 1997 since inception.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Funds to CSIR for R&D**

\*33. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :  
SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has drawn up a programme to modernise and strengthen its R&D and demanded more funds therefor during Ninth Plan;

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

(c) the number of scientific industrial research patented by CSIR during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes Sir, CSIR has drawn up a programme to modernise and strengthen its R&D during the IX Five Year Plan period. It has submitted the proposal for the consideration of the Planning Commission. The IX Plan inter-alia seeks budgetary support of Rs. 250 crore for modernisation of its facilities and equipment and Rs. 360 crore for establishing new facilities with CSIR supplementing the budgetary grants through generation of extra budgetary resources. The Plan allocation for 1997-98 for Modernisation is Rs. 50 crores. In addition CSIR would be given matching grant equal to the incremental commercial rupee generated by it in 1996-97

(b) The Planning Commission has yet to decide on the IX Five Year Plan allocations including those of CSIR.

(c) The number of patents filed by CSIR during the last three years is as under :

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Indian patents filing	241	260	209
Foreign patents filing	29	58	70

[Translation]

#### Setting up of Post Offices

\*34. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI  
CHIKHALIA :  
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the targets fixed and the achievements made for setting up of post-offices in urban, rural, tribal and hilly areas of States and Union Territories during the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Plans;

(b) the steps being contemplated by the Union Government to take up the remaining work in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) During the 7th Plan as against the target of 6000 post offices 4305 post offices were sanctioned and 4003 were opened. Circle-wise details are given in Statement-I attached. The information on post offices opened in Tribal Areas during the plan is at Statement-II attached. Out of the 4003 post offices opened, 3875 were in rural and 128 in the urban area. Information regarding the post offices set up in the hilly areas is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

The Information on targets for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and Departmental Sub Post Offices circlewise and the post offices sanctioned in urban, rural and tribal areas during the 8th Five Year Plan is given in the Statement-III attached.

During the plan for 1997-98 which is also the first year of the 9th Plan there is a target of opening 500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 50 Departmental Sub Post Offices.

The information of circlewise allocation of targets for opening of post offices during the annual plan 1997-98 for the Tribal and other areas is given at the Statement IV attached.

(b) and (c) Post Offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of targets and resources. During the annual plan 1997-98, a target for opening 50 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices has been fixed for the whole country

These are relaxed norms for opening of post offices in hilly, desert & inaccessible areas. Copy of the norms is at the Statement V attached.

#### Statement-I

*Postal Circle-wise details of targets fixed, Post Offices sanctioned and Post Offices opened during the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-1990)*

Sl. No.	Name of Circles	Targets Fixed	Post Offices Sanctioned	Post Offices Opened
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	259	145	143
2.	Assam	327	308	258

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
3. Bihar		484	384	384	12. Maharashtra		478	300	300
4. Delhi		21	—	—	13. North-East		351	285	285
5. Gujarat		215	67	57	14. Orissa		334	275	187
6. Haryana		93	45	33	15. Punjab		112	32	5
7. Himachal Pradesh		135	125	109	16. Rajasthan		309	214	213
8. Jammu & Kashmir		129	100	97	17. Tamil Nadu		219	76	76
9. Karnataka		214	135	134	18. Uttar Pradesh		641	845	839
10. Kerala		165	207	206	19. West Bengal		445	326	313
11. Madhya Pradesh		419	436	364	Total		5350	4305	4003

## Statement-II

*Postal Circle-wise details of Post Offices opened in Tribal Areas during the 7th Five Year Plan (1985-86 to 1989-90)*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Number of Post Offices opened in Tribal Areas										Total
		1985-96		1986-87		1987-88		1988-89		1989-90		
		R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Assam	—	—	—	—	11	—	28	1	14	—	54
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	8	—	14
3.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	23	—	38	—	—	—	61
4.	Delhi	No Tribal Area										
5.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	1	—	26	—	34	—	61
6.	Haryana	No Tribal Area										
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	J & K	No Tribal Area										
9.	Karnataka	—	—	—	—	4	—	14	—	—	—	18
10.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	13	—	15
11.	Madhya Pradesh	28	—	1	—	34	—	6	—	77	—	146
12.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	—	27	—	37
13.	North East	—	—	—	—	31	—	95	—	89	—	215



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14. Orissa		-	-	-	-	11	-	81	-	12	-	104
15. Punjab	No Tribal Area											
16. Rajasthan	No Tribal Area											
17. Tamil Nadu		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
18. Uttar Pradesh		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	21
19. West Bengal		-	-	21	-	11	-	8	-	-	-	40
Total		28	-	22	-	133	-	307	1	298	-	789

Note : U – Urban  
R – Rural

### Statement-III

Circle-Wise targets and Post Offices sanctioned during the Eighth Five Year Plan

S.No.	Name of Circle	Targets		POs Sanctioned			Total
		BO*	SO**	Urban	Rural	Tribal	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	25	26	19	9	54
2.	Assam	63	18	10	26	42	78
3.	Bihar	183	49	19	107	83	209
4.	Delhi	1	41	25	Nil	Nil	25
5.	Gujarat	59	49	25	31	35	91
6.	Haryana	28	40	18	40	Nil	58
7.	Himachal Pradesh	53	29	6	126	5	137
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	12	8	3	24	4	31
9.	Karnataka	34	42	32	30	17	79
10.	Kerala	35	36	30	55	7	92
11.	Maharashtra	163	51	48	113	73	234
12.	Madhya Pradesh	113	37	16	47	67	130
13.	North East	82	18	Nil	14	72	86
14.	Orissa	87	21	9	30	67	106

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Punjab	27	19	17	26	Nil	43
16.	Rajasthan	105	13	21	65	44	130
17.	Tamil Nadu	30	24	19	22	2	43
18.	Uttar Pradesh	206	73	40	225	19	284
19.	West Bengal	117	27	6	87	9	102
Total		1440	650	370	1087	555	2012

\* BO : Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices.

\*\* SO : Departmental Sub Post Offices

#### Statement-IV

*Allotment of Targets for Opening Post Offices during Annual Plan 1997-98*

Sl. No.	Name of Circles	Departmental Sub Post Offices			Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices		
		Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total	Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	2	7	3	10
2.	Assam	1	1	2	17	8	25
3.	Bihar	3	2	5	27	13	40
4.	Delhi	2	—	2	5	—	5
5.	Gujarat	2	—	2	17	8	25
6.	Haryana	2	—	2	15	—	15
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	2	7	3	10
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	—	1	11	4	15
9.	Karnataka	5	—	5	23	7	30
10.	Kerala	2	—	2	10	—	10
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1	1	2	25	12	37
12.	Maharashtra	3	—	3	26	9	35
13.	North.East	1	2	3	17	8	25
14.	Orissa	1	1	2	18	9	27
15.	Punjab	2	—	2	17	—	17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Rajasthan	1	1	2	22	11	33
17.	Tamil Nadu	2	—	2	16	5	21
18.	Uttar Pradesh	6	—	6	53	17	70
19.	West Bengal	3	—	3	38	12	50
	Total	40	10	50	371	129	500

**Statement-V***Norms For Opening Post Offices***1. Norms for opening of New Branch Post Office****1.1 Population****(a) In Normal Areas :**

3000 population in a group villages (including the PPO villages)

**(b) In the hilly, tribal, desert and in accessible areas :**

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

**1.2 Distance :****(a) In Normal Areas :**

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

**(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and in accessible areas :**

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

**1.3 Anticipated Income :****(a) In Normal areas :**

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33-1/3% of cost.

**(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and in accessible areas :**

the minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

**2. Norms of Opening New Departmental Sub Post Offices :****2.1 In Rural Areas :**

The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day. The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

**2.2 In Urban Areas :**

2.2.1 In Urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

2.2.2 The distance between two Post Offices should not be less than 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 km. in other urban areas. If it is a Delivery Post Office, the distance from the nearest Delivery Post Office should not be less than 5 Kms.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

2.2.3 A Delivery Post Office in Urban Areas should have a minimum of 7 Postman's beats.

[English]

**Foreign Investment in Broadcasting Sector**

\*35. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to impose restrictions on the functioning of Electronic media;

(b) if so, the extent thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to encourage foreign investment in broadcasting sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Prasarbharti Bill is likely to be passed ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government have introduced the Broadcasting Bill, 1997 in Lok Sabha on 16.5.97, which, inter alia, provides for regulation and licensing of Direct-to-Home television services. The bill is currently under consideration of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. With a view to prevent pre-emption of the broadcasting law by foreign entities, as may be passed by the Parliament in this regard, Ministry of Telecommunication, Department of Telecom have issued a notification dated 16.7.97 prohibiting establishment, maintenance, operation and possession of equipments capable of receiving signals above the frequency band of 4800 MHz.

(c) and (d) Government have already introduced the Broadcasting Bill in the Parliament which addresses the issue regarding foreign investment in broadcasting sector. The Bill is at present under the consideration of Joint Parliamentary Committee.

(e) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 will come into effect from 15th of September, 1997. A Notification in this regard has been issued on 22.07.1997.

#### **Development on Solar Energy**

\*36. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make the use of solar energy more people-oriented and effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of central grants sanctioned for the development of solar energy during 1997-98, state-wise with particular reference to Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) A number of measures have been taken to promote the wide-spread use

of solar energy devices and systems in the country. Among them are :

(i) Providing subsidies to users of solar photovoltaic systems such as solar lanterns, rural domestic lights, village street lights, small rural power plants and water pumps.

(ii) Providing soft loan to users of solar thermal systems such as solar water heaters, dryers and solar stills through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Soft loans are also available to individual users of solar water heating systems through the Canara Bank and the Union Bank to India in several cities.

(iii) Providing interest-free loans to the bulk users and inter-mediaries of solar cookers through IREDA and to individual users through the Canara Bank and the Union Bank of India.

(iv) Establishment of solar shops in major cities in order to make solar products easily available to users.

(v) Provision of 100% depreciation to commercial organisations for income tax purposes, exemption from excise duties, exemption from sales tax in several states and concessional rates of custom duty on imported materials.

(vi) Supporting training programmes, demonstrations and publicity activities.

(c) An amount of Rs. 58.50 crore has been provided in the Budget of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for solar energy programmes during 1997-98. A part of this budget is used to provide grants to states towards promotional activities. However, state-wise financial allocations have not been made.

#### **Diversion of Central Funds allocated for Rural Development**

\*37. SHRI SIBU SOREN :  
SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large sum of Central funds allotted for various rural development programmes have been diverted for other purposes in West Bengal;

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

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General in its report for the year ended on March 31, 1996 has also indicated the State Government for violating the Central guidelines; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) Reports of the Comptroller & Auditor General for the year ended 31st March, 1996 No. 3 (Civil) and No. 4 (Civil) in respect of Government of West Bengal have raised a number of points arising from audit of financial transactions, inter-alia of the departments of the Government of West Bengal as well as the results of audit in respect of financial assistance given to local bodies. Some of these points relate to the implementation of Employment Assurance Scheme and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

These reports of CAG have been laid before the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on 10.6.1997. The CAG reports are now subject matters of consideration of the West Bengal Public Accounts Committee.

The West Bengal Government have reported that two cases of public interest litigations in respect of this subject matter are pending in the Honourable High Court of West Bengal and the matter is sub-judice.

[English]

#### Revised Rate of Royalty on Minerals

\*38. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :  
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have announced the revised rates of royalty on minerals recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revised rates of royalty is much less than demanded by the Government of Gujarat on various minerals produced in the State;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have considered further revision of the rates of royalty; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government Gazette Notification GSR No. 214 (E) dated 11.4.97 revising the rates of royalty on major minerals (other than Coal and Lignite) has been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 8.5.97.

(c) Revision of Royalty rates on major minerals (other than Coal and Lignite) was effected on the basis of recommendations of the Study Group constituted for the purpose, wherein the State Govt. of Gujarat was also represented. The Study Group had detailed consultations with the State Govts., mineral industry and other agencies. Investment promotion, stability of royalty regime, parity with the international rates and revenue gain to the State Govts. have been the basic criteria for the revision of the royalty rates.

(d) and (e) As per provision of section 9(3) of the MM (R&D) Act, 1957, the royalty rates cannot be enhanced more than once during any period of three years.

[Translation]

#### Selection of Programmes

\*39. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any prescribed norms/system for the selection of programmes to be telecast and broadcast by Doordarshan and All India Radio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the guidelines issued for the selection of programmes in this regard;

(d) whether some changes are contemplated by the Government to make the existing system transparent and corruption free; and

(3) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Programmes received from outside producers are scrutinised by a Committee to assess the suitability as per programme requirements and in conformity to the Broadcast/Telecast Code. The following broad criteria are adopted for selection

of programme under Doordarshan's commissioned programmes scheme :-

- (i) Relevance of the story, theme or subject to the needs of Doordarshan;
- (ii) Treatment of the subject/storyline;
- (iii) Track records of the Director, Executive Producer, writer, crew etc.

In so far as sponsored programmes are concerned, Doordarshan endeavours to approve programmes which propagate high social values combined with wholesome entertainment.

(d) The present rules and procedures provide adequate safeguard in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Konkan Railway Project

\*40. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present stage of the Konkan Railway Project;

(b) the time by which the Konkan Railway Project is likely to be completed and become operational;

(c) the reasons for delay in its completion; and

(d) the total cost thereof and the expenditure incurred on the project so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Out of the 760 kms. 710 kms. have been completed.

(b) The entire length of the project is expected to be completed and commissioned by Dec.'97.

(c) The main reasons for delay in completion of the project are as under :-

- (i) Extreme shortage of funds being faced by the corporation due to difficulties encountered in

raising finances through tax-free bonds in the first three years and again from Feb., 1995 onwards till October, 1996.

(ii) Adverse geological conditions met in tunnels particularly in Goa and Karnataka sectors.

(iii) Stoppage of works in Goa sector for a period of 8 months between March and November, 1993.

(d) The total cost of the project has been assessed as Rs. 3174.00 crores, including financing cost and loss incurred on operations during the construction phase of Rs. 774.00 crores. The total expenditure on the project by 30.06.1997 has been as under :-

On Works	:	Rs. 2385.16 crores
Financing Charges	:	Rs. 773.25 Crores
Total	:	Rs. 3158.41 Crores

[Translation]

#### Survey for Generation of Hydro Electricity

215. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in regard to generation of hydro electricity from Brahamputra river;

(b) if so, the generation capacity of various places where hydro electricity could be generated; and

(c) whether other States have been consulted regarding generation of hydro electricity from Brahmaputra river; and

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) A Systematic and comprehensive survey of the Hydroelectric potential of the country has been carried out by Central Electricity Authority during the period 1978-87 which places the total Hydroelectric potential of the country at 84044 MW at 60% load factor. As per the above studies, the hydro potential of the Brahmaputra river basin has been assessed as 34920 MW

from 226 schemes, the details of which are given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d) The investigation of the specific schemes in the basin is done by the concerned State agencies. North Eastern Electric Power Corporation and Brahmaputra Board, the master/ development plans for the utilisation of water resources of the rivers of the Brahmaputra basin are under preparation by the Brahmaputra Board on which all the States of the North Eastern region are represented.

#### Statement

##### *Details of Hydro Potential Assessment of the Brahmaputra River Basin*

Sl. No.	Name of State Scheme	Name of the River	Installed Capacity (MW)	Potential at 60% L.F. (MW)
1	2	3	4	5

#### Arunachal Pradesh

1.	Lungchang	Tirap	21	13.3
2.	Tipang	Tirap	80	50.5
3.	Yangman	Burhi Dihing	60	38.8
4.	Mpopnong	Burhi Dihing	16	10.8
5.	Diyun Dam	Noadihing	25	17.0
6.	Chemba	Tengapam	12	5.8
7.	Toyam	Tengapam	13	4.5
8.	Kalai	Luhit	2550	1122.7
9.	Hutong	Luhit	950	425.8
10.	Demwe	Luhit	3765	2509.8
11.	Gimliang	Dau	31	14.0
12.	Duliang	Dau	25	11.2
13.	Raigan	Delai	32	15.8
14.	Tidding-I	Tidding	31	14.2
15.	Tidding-II	Tidding	22	11.0
16.	Mihundon	Dibang	145	32.2

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Amulin	Matun	235	60.8
18.	Emini	Matun	295	65.2
19.	Agoline	Dibang	235	52.7
20.	Mulinye	Tangon	335	74.8
21.	Attunli	Tangon	175	45.8
22.	Etalin	Dibang	3045	681.2
23.	Emra-I	Emra	275	60.8
24.	Emra-II	Emra	870	180.3
25.	Elango	Ahi	180	37.3
26.	Dibang Storage	Dibang	2355	1570.2
27.	Yang Sang	Yang Sang	70	29.2
28.	Rigong	Rigong	130	50.8
29.	Mirak	Sigong	160	64.2
30.	Minnying	Sigong	195	56.0
31.	Pauk	Yarjap	50	22.0
32.	Heo	Yarjap	90	39.8
33.	Jarong	Siyom	85	45.5
34.	Hirong	Siyom	180	79.3
35.	Tato-II	Siyom	360	157.2
36.	Tato-I	Yarjap	80	33.2
37.	Ganeng	Sike	37	16.3
38.	Naing	Siyom	495	218.7
39.	Jamu	Yamne	60	34.3
40.	Yesin	Yamne	95	60.3
41.	Pergging	Yamne	60	35.3
42.	Passighat	Dihang	14685	9788.3
43.	Sesseri	Sesseri	55	23.5
44.	Oju-II	Subansiri	1925	680.3

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
45.	Oju-III	Subansiri	2580	912.7	73.	Talong	Kameng	150	36.2
46.	Niang	Surbasiri	1405	560.5	74.	Tabey	Pachuk	24	9.5
47.	Naba	Subansiri	1290	514.2	75.	Satuk	Pachuk	47	18.2
48.	Tammu	Siu	55	37.0	76.	Kapak Leyak	Pachuk	195	49.8
49.	Milli	Kurung	75	29.2	77.	Lachung	Pachi	41	10.8
50.	Sape	Kurung	38	16.8	78.	Phanchung	Pachi	90	22.8
51.	Chomi	Kurung	80	35.0	79.	Utung	Bichom	110	51.0
52.	Chela	Kurung	75	32.2	80.	Nazong	Bichom	65	30.5
53.	Nyepin	Payam	32	14.0	81.	Dibbin	Bichom	95	44.8
54.	Hiya	Payam	41	17.8	82.	Doom	Digen	4	2.8
55.	Kurung Dam I	Kurung	200	130.3	83.	Djrang	Sangti	6	4.0
56.	Kurung Dam II	Kurung	115	74.3	84.	Thembang	Digen	20	11.8
57.	Hegio	Kurung	250	166.0	85.	Khuitam	Digen	29	15.5
58.	Tamen	Kamala	175	98.7	86.	But	Digen	26	14.0
59.	Siri	Jiya Dhol	16	10.7	87.	Mathithing	Digen	40	19.7
60.	Subansiri Dam	Subansiri	4520	3011.7	88.	Bichom Storage I	Bichom	190	124.7
61.	Tago I	Kale	55	24.0	89.	Bichom II	Bichom	205	134.7
62.	Tago II	Kale	13	6.3	90.	Pichang	Kuru	31	20.5
63.	Yazali Storage	Ranga	95	62.3	91.	Tarang Warang	Pacha	65	15.7
64.	Kimin	Panyor	22	14.8	92.	Sepla	Pacha	46	12.0
65.	Par	Dikrang	65	29.0	93.	Chaurate	Papu	25	8.2
66.	Yazal Div. (Ranganadi-I)	Ranga	415	276.3	94.	Papu	Papu	160	104.3
67.	Dardi	Dikrang	60	27.0	95.	Pasar	Pasar	32	21.0
68.	Dudmukh	Dikrang	170	111.3	96.	Kameng Dam	Kameng	280	184.5
69.	Chanda	Kameng	110	26.8	97.	Tenga	Tenga	275	181.3
70.	Badas	Kameng	120	31.2	98.	Kimi	Bichom	535	356.5
71.	Rebby	Para	30	7.8	99.	Bhareli Lift Dam I	Kameng	240	144.2
72.	Para	Para	55	13.7					



2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
100. Dhareli Lift Dam II	Kameng	330	198.8	125. Doyang I	Doyang		16	10.7
101. Pakke	Pakke	120	29.0	126. Sakhai I	Tizu		8	5.3
102. Seba	Pakke	105	26.5	127. Sakhai II	Tizu		31	20.3
<b>Assam</b>				128. Sakhai III	Tizu		11	7.0
103. Dilli	Disang	33	21.8	129. Khuzami	Tizu		32	21.5
104. Disai Dam P/H	Disai	15	10.2	130. Rurrur	Zangki		36	24.0
105. Kaliani	Kaliani	15	9.7	131. Zungki	Zangki		48	32.3
106. Jamuna Dam P/H	Jamuna	28	19.0	132. Laruri	Tizu		80	52.0
107. Diyung Dam P/H	Diyung	47	31.5	133. Tizu	Tizu		365	243.0
108. Kopili I (Khandong)	Kopoli	50	21.8	<b>Manipur</b>				
109. Kopili II	Kopoli	265	91.0	134. Laniye II	Laniye		27	18.0
110. Amring	Amring	40	26.5	135. Laniye I	Laniye		34	22.5
111. Upper Borpani	Borpani	60	37.7	136. Khongnem Chakha I	Barak		7	4.7
112. Langey	Borpani	37	24.3	137. Khongnem Chakha II	Barak		90	58.2
113. Lower Borpani	Borpani	90	57.5	138. Khongnem Chakha III	Barak		48	31.5
<b>Nagaland</b>				139. Khongnem Chakha IV	Barak		16	10.7
114. Dikhu Lift Dam	Dikhu	125	81.8	140. Irang	Irang		75	47.8
115. Dikhu Dam P/H	Dikhu	470	310.5	141. Pabaram	Barak		232	155.0
116. Yangnyu	Yangnyu	135	90.2	142. Nungnag	Irang		70	44.0
117. Jhanji Storage	Jhanji	75	49.0	143. Nungliban	LeiMatek		85	56.8
118. Jhanji Lift Dam	Jhanji	21	12.3	144. Khunou	LeiMatek		115	73.7
119. Doyang V	Doyang	55	35.3	145. Loktak	Loktak		105	70.0
120. Diphupani	Diphu	9	6.3	146. Thinghat	Tuivai		41	27.2
121. Rengma	Rengma	12	8.0	147. Sinjal	Tuivai		39	25.8
122. Doyang IV	Doyang	18	12.0	148. Bungpullong	Tuivai		80	52.1
123. Doyang III	Doyang	13	8.7					
124. Doyang II	Doyang	14	9.3					

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
149. Tuivai	Tuivai		210	139.0	174. Nongnam	Umngi		36	9.0
150. Tipaimukh	Barak		510	339.0	175. Mawpat	Umngi		55	10.5
<b>Mizoram</b>					176. Kynshi II	Umrilang		175	116.2
151. Sonai	Sonai		55	35.0	177. Umkram	Kynshi		11	7.3
152. Dhaleshwari I	Dhaleswari		8	5.2	178. Kynshi I	Kynshi		295	196.8
153. Tupal	Tuipai		23	15.3	179. Nangmawlar	Kynshi		29	7.7
154. Tuikug Lui	Tuikuglui		24	16.0	180. Mawsyrpat	Kynshi		45	11.7
155. Lunglang	Tyao		690	459.0	181. Mawthaba	Kynshi		70	26.3
156. Mat	Mat		90	59.8	182. Mawbnei Storage	Kynshi		100	44.2
157. Boinu	Kaldan		635	420.7	183. Simsang Dam	Someshri		65	40.8
158. Kaldan	Kaldan		545	362.2	Power House				
159. Deh	Deh		26	17.0	184. Sidugiri	Rongdi		19	12.7
160. Dhaleshwari II	Dhaleshwari		10	6.5	185. Amagam Storage	Rongdi		35	23.5
161. Bhairabi	Dhaleshwari		90	58.7	186. Umrina	Kulsi		14	8.4
<b>Tripura</b>					187. Sumer I	Umiam		11	7.5
162. Gumti	Gumti		15	9.5	(Umiam-I)				
<b>Meghalaya</b>					188. Sumer II	Umtru		6	3.7
163. Sushen	Myntdu		150	30.0	(Umiam-II)				
164. Selim	Myntdu		125	37.5	189. Umiam Umtru III	Umtru		41	27.0
165. Umngot	Umngot		265	125.5	(Kyrdamkulai)				
166. Nongpadu	Umngot		24	16.2	190. Umiam Umtru IV	Umtru		38	25.2
167. Umjaut	Umtrew		85	9.5	191. Umiam Umtru V	Umtru		27	18.0
168. Umduma	Umtrew		95	13.0	192. Umiam Umtru VI	Umtru		145	95.7
169. Manhu	Umtru		90	16.2	193. Umtru (Existing)	Umtru		11	9.3
170. Nonglyngkien	Umtru		47	11.7	194. Umlamphang	Umiam		28	14.2
171. Umngi Storage	Umngi		35	23.3	<b>Sikkim</b>				
172. Rangmaw	Umngi		42	16.0	195. Kalep	Tista		41	11.3
173. Nongkolait	Umngi		180	55.8	196. Talem	Tista		65	17.0
					197. Jedang	Lhonak		185	50.8

	2	3	4	5
198. Zena	Tista	125	33.5	
199. Serum	Sebokung	50	33.3	
200. Lachung	Lachung	30	20.0	
201. Chunthang	Tista	830	283.5	
202. Ringpi	Ringpi	160	32.8	
203. Lingza	Ringpi	160	32.8	
204. Rukel	Tolung	90	18.8	
205. Rangyong	Tolung	175	36.2	
206. Panan	Tolung	230	47.3	
207. Singhik	Tista	685	306.3	
208. Mangan	Tista	445	94.3	
209. Dikchu	Dikchu	90	17.8	
210. Samdong	Tista	280	58.5	
211. Lower Lagyap	Rongni	40	8.2	
212. Chhota Pathing	Rongpo	55	11.0	
213. Chuzachen	Rongpo	13	2.8	
214. Suntelitar	Rongpo	25	5.2	
215. Rongni Storagr	Rongni	95	56.0	
216. Mana	G. Rangit	37	7.7	
217. Yoksam	Rathong	44	29.5	
218. Mamlum	G. Rangit	175	35.7	
219. Gompa	G. Rangit	46	9.5	
220. Ligship (Rangit-III)	G. Rangit	115	23.0	
<b>West Bengal</b>				
221. Rammam I	Rammam	70	17.0	
222. Rammam II	Rammam	85	23.5	
223. Rammam III	Rammam	100	27.2	

1	2	3	4	5
224. Tista High Dam	Tista	2505	1670.0	
225. Jaldhaka I	Jaldhaka	36	31.7	
226. Jaldhaka II	Jaldhaka	12	10.2	
Total		66065	34919.8	

[English]

### Telecast of Sports Events

216. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the sports events at National and International level sponsored by tobacco companies have been covered for telecast by Doordarshan or have been allowed to foreign T.V. channels by Doordarshan During the last three Years;

(b) whether the advertising hoardings of these tobacco companies carried the statutory warning during these telecast;

(c) if not, the action taken by the Government against the defaulting companies; and

(d) whether the Government have any plan to discourage sports events being sponsored by tobacco companies so as to keep the youth away from the use of tobacco ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) During the last three years Wills World Cup Cricket Tournament, Gold Flake ATP Tennis Tournament, Gold Flake Billiards & Snooker Tournament & Scissors Cup Football Tournament were telecast by Doordarshan.

(b) and (c) Enforcement of Regulations in respect of instadia hoardings is the subject matter of State/district authorities where the event is held.

(d) The Department of Sports and Youth Affairs is of the view that sponsorship of sports events etc. by tobacco companies should not be discouraged in view of the fact that some of the biggest sports sponsors worldwide, including India, are cigarette companies. That Department feels that it may not be in the interest of sports promotion to put a blanket ban on the sponsorship of

tobacco companies and that indirect advertising, naming Championship Cup after brand name or use of logo without display of the actual product should be allowed.

#### **Train Services from Kerala to Howrah**

217. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that people of Kerala are facing hardships in the absence of Superfast train from Kerala to Howrah;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make Howrah-Trivandrum and Howrah-Cochin Express as super-fast thereby reduce the running time;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government also propose to increase the frequency of the trains;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Some representations have been received for a superfast train between Kerala and Howrah.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does Not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Operational and resource constraints.

#### **Introduction of Summer Special Trains**

218. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of summer special trains introduced during the summer period, zone-wise; and

(b) the number of passengers carried by these summer special trains, zone-wise, till date ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Figures regarding number of passengers carried

by individual trains/specials are not maintained.

#### **Guwahati Rajdhani Express**

219. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any steps to run Guwahati Rajdhani daily instead of triweekly;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to remove the hurdles to run it daily;

(d) whether the Government are considering to run this train under the jurisdiction of N.F. Railway; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The frequency of 2423/2424 Guwahati Rajdhani was increased from weekly to tri-weekly from 26.1.96. It will also be extended to Dibrugarh Town once a week during 1997-98. However, presently it is not feasible to run it daily due to operational and resource constraints.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) New Delhi-Guwahati triweekly Rajdhani Express is maintained at New Delhi alongwith biweekly Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express. As both the trains are not daily, common maintenance point at New Delhi enables optimal utilisation of facilities as well as coaches kept as maintenance spare. Therefore, at present, it is not desirable to shift maintenance of Guwahati-Rajdhani to Guwahati.

#### **Running of Trains in Kerala**

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the trains in Kerala are running irregularly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The punctuality performance of trains running in Kerala is satisfactory. However, the running of trains get affected at times due to reasons such as accidents, agitations, alarm-chain pulling, miscreant acti-

vities, equipment failures, human failures, law and order situation and bad weather etc.

(b) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives are also being launched.

#### **New Telephone Connection for Andhra Pradesh**

221. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to provide 2.15 lakh new telephones in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the areas likely to be covered;

(c) the total amount to be involved therein; and

(d) the actual demand of telephones in the State and to what extent the State Government's demand is likely to be met by providing 2.15 lakh telephones during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Department has set a target of providing 2.15 lakhs new Telephone connections in the State of Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98.

(b) It is planned to provide new telephone connections in all the 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The amount involved in providing 2.15 lakhs new telephone connections is about Rs. 522.6 crores.

(d) The waiting list for telephone connections as on 31.3.97 is 242592. By providing 2.15 lakh new telephone connections during 1997-98, 88% of the waiting list as on 31.3.97. However, this is subject to availability of equipment and other resources.

#### **DD Centres in Karnataka**

222. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Doordarshan Centres in Karnataka, alongwith the capacity thereof as on June 30, 1997

location-wise;

(b) the details of programmes prepared by these centres during 1996-97 and upto June 30, 1997;

(c) whether the programmes prepared by the local talents are telecast by these centres;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to telecast such programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) There are two Kendras in Karnataka – one at Bangalore and another at Gulbarga with capacity of 10 KW and 1KW respectively.

(b) The details are as under :

Doordarshan Kendra : 1575  
Bangalore

Doordarshan Kendra : 91  
Gulbarga

(c) The programmes prepared by these kendras by inclusion/participation of local talent are telecast depending upon the programme requirement and availability of suitable time slot.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Transportation facilities at Moula Ali Railway Station**

223. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to stop transshipment from Moula Ali Railway Station since July 1, 1997;

(b) if so, whether this would adversely affect the farmers in the district due to shortages of fertilisers and transport bottlenecks of the movement of rice and other agricultural products;

(c) whether the Government received any representation regarding continuation of transshipment facility at Moula Ali Railway Station for traffic destined to and originating from Nizamabad till the gauge conversion in this section is completed;

(d) if so, whether the Government have agreed to the proposal; and

(e) if not, the main reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The proposal to this effect has been pending for the time being for six months.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It has been decided to continue the transshipment facility for another six months for the time being.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Shortage of Coal

224. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of acute shortage in supply of coal to power stations in various parts of the country affecting power generation and disruption in power supply;

(b) if so, the latest status of coal supply to power stations, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to strengthen effective coordination among concerned agencies to ensure adequate and timely supply of coal to the power plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) There is generally no disruption in power generation due to shortage of coal supply. However, due to various reasons including default in payment for coal and Railway freight by the power utilities, the coal stock position in some of the thermal power stations comes down from time to time, causing some under utilisation of generation capacity in some plants.

(b) Status of coal supply to power stations state-wise during the month of June, 1997 is given in the Statement attached.

(c) The Central Electricity is monitoring the coal supply to thermal power stations on daily basis. In addition supply of coal to various sectors including power sector is regularly monitored every fortnight by Secretary (Co-

ordination), Cabinet Secretariat, in a meeting with group of officers representing Ministries of Coal, Power, Surface Transport, Steel Industry and CEA, NTPC and CIL.

#### Statement

(Quantity in 000 T)

Name of TPS	Linkage Monthly	Receipt	Closing Stock days
1	2	3	4
<b>NORTHERN REGION/</b>			
<b>DELHI</b>			
Badarpur	350	322	2
I.P. Stn. (DVB)	95	111	17
Rajghat (DVB)	65	57	15
<b>HARYANA</b>			
Faridabad	70	52	9
Panipat	240	150	5
<b>PUNJAB</b>			
Bhatinda	190	208	19
Ropar	500	466	23
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>			
B Kota	450	404	11
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>			
Anpara	550	513	11
Harduaganj	40	57	32
Obra	360	294	22
Panki Old	10	0	3
Panki Ext.	50	67	13
Paricha	40	46	25
Tanda	80	74	46
Unchahar	220	165	35
Rihand	435	361	21
Singrauli (STPS)	700	642	17

1	2	3	4
NCTPP (Dadri)	450	385	25
Hardwar (BHEL)	0	0	0
Total N.R.	3300	4885	18
WESTERN REGION/GUJRAT			
Ahemadabad	150	93	15
Gandhinagar	240	227	9
Sikka	75	80	34
Ukai	275	268	5
Wanakbori	400	524	11
MADHYA PRADESH			
Amarkantak	100	29	30
Birsingpur	100	105	29
Korba East	190	206	6
Korba West	310	280	14
Satpura	495	428	16
Korba STPS	900	917	2
Vindhyachal	450	371	13
WESTRN REGION/MAHARASHTRA			
Bhusawal	200	206	21
Chandrapur	550	737	21
Koradi	480	403	9
Khaper Kheda	200	185	23
Nasik	250	334	25
Parli	350	243	13
Paras	15	19	70
Trombay	35	13	29
Dhanu	180	245	62
Total W.R.	6245	5913	15
SOUTHERN REGION/A.P.			
Kothagudam	400	361	5

1	2	3	4
Ramagundam	30	22	40
Vijayawada	700	620	12
Ramagundam STPS	60	824	12
Nellore	10	16	42
Mudannur	230	91	10
KARNATAKA			
Raichur	500	368	1
TAMIL NADU			
Ennore	190	108	2
Mettur	400	324	6
Tuticorin	500	439	10
North Madras	90	190	9
Total S.R.	3970	3363	7
EASTERN REGION/BIHAR			
Barauni	50	0	43
Muzaffarpur	35	16	90
Patratu	110	85	39
Kahalgaoon STPS	390	237	15
Patna	5	0	12
Tenugaht	110	50	10
DVC			
Bokaro	130	228	75
Chandrapur	170	135	78
Durgapur	120	128	46
Mejia	80	27	1
ORISSA			
Talcher	170	162	15
If Valley	245	205	6
Talcher STPS	250	185	18

1	2	3	4
<b>WEST BENGAL</b>			
Bandel	130	92	11
Santaidih	75	42	14
Kolaghat	400	314	15
Calcutta (CESC)	85	84	7
Titagarh (CESC)	105	94	14
South Gen. (CESC)	50	42	5
Durgapur (DPL)	110	42	9
Farakka STPS	600	393	10
Budge Budge	20	0	0
Total E.R.	3440	2561	21
<b>N.R. REGION</b>			
Bongaigaon	50	28	28
Total All India	18590	16263	15

[Translation]

#### Investment by Canada in Power Sector

225. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have requested to the Government of Canada to make investment in the power sector keeping in view the acute shortage of power in the country;

(b) if so, the conditions and other details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Canada Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of Canada on 8.1.1997 for a grant of Canadian \$ 13.8 million over a period of three years for Energy Infrastructure Services Project of Kerala. The purpose of

the Project is to (i) assist Kerala with the organisational restructuring and policy reforms required in the power sector. (ii) examine the need for a suitable independent regulatory mechanism to promote and regulate the electric power industry. (iii) evolve norms, procedures, and the related documentation to associate the private sector in the development of various facets of the power industry. (iv) promote regional cooperation between SEBs in the southern region and (v) investigate the possibility of applying the project concept (restructuring and policy reforms) to other SEBs.

Moreover, under the policy for private sector participation in the power sector, Canadian Companies are eligible to invest in Power Projects.

[English]

#### Full Time Programmes in Martandom Low Power Transmitter

226. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide full time programmes in the Martandom Low Power Transmitter for which there are pressing demands and representations from the people of that area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) While the Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) at Marthandam was commissioned on 9.12.95 pending staff sanction and is presently being run by deployment of staff, on tour, from elsewhere in Doordarshan network, thereby providing only part transmission, full time transmission from the LPT would depend upon availability of staff sanction for operation and maintenance of the project.

#### Restriction of Business Activities

227. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has restricted the business activities of Siemens, Birla Ericsson, RPG, Sterlite and Vikas Hybrid;

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

(c) whether any representation has been received from any of these companies in this regard; and



(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, action has been initiated to ban business activities against these companies as they were part of a group of Companies who formed a cartel in the tender opened on 21.5.96, for the supply of Optical Fibre Cable.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An Enquiry Officer has been nominated by the Department and show cause notices have been issued to the Companies. Representations received are under examination.

[Translation]

#### Derailment of Goods Train

228. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the derailment of goods train near Bhanwar Tank Railway Station (Katni – Bilaspur section in Madhya Pradesh) on February 3, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The accident was enquired by a Committee of Officers which has concluded that it occurred due to excessive difference in CBC height and tight gauge.

#### Setting up of Railway Crossing at Hatmabad

229. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any requests from various Members of Parliament for setting up of a railway crossing at village Hatmabad of Bulandshahr district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Telecom Advisory Committee

230. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any action to reconstitute the Telecom Advisory Committee in Palakkad, Kesuloo, Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Telecom Advisory Committee for Palakkad and Kerala Telecom Circle have already been constituted upto 30.6.1999 and 31.12.1998 respectively. There is no separate TAC for Kesuloo and such areas are normally taken care of by the Circle TAC.

[Translation]

#### Ban on Obscene Advertisements

231. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intend to ban the obscene advertisements being telecast on Doordarshan channels to protect the Indian culture;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard so far; and

(c) the number of obscene advertisements banned so far ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Doordarshan telecasts commercial advertisements as per guidelines prescribed in the code for commercial advertising. The Code inter-alia does not permit indecent or obscene advertisements.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

### Importance of TV Programmes

232. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have conducted and study/survey regarding the progress made on the T.V. programmes after the introduction of foreign TV channels for Indian viewers :

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any feedback from the viewers who thought that the foreign channels excel in improving advertising programmes for consumer goods, their introduction has done little to improve the quality of the entertainment programmes which are mostly the re-run of the popular Doordarshan serials;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if so, whether the Government are contemplating any change in its policy to permit only such foreign TV channels which promise to cater to Indian cultural values, education and tastes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No specific study has been conducted by Doordarshan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) There are different perceptions about the programmes of the foreign channels. The Government has introduced the Broadcasting Bill, 1997 in the Parliament which inter alia provides for a regulatory authority for all the TV channels in the country. This bill is currently being examined by a Select Committee of the Parliament.

### Portable Satellite Communication Service

233. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of Mini-M, the new portable satellite communication service;

(b) the call charges per minute;

(c) whether connections are given to all appli-

cants; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, Inmarsat-phone Mini-M is the new global mobile phone service supporting voice telephones, fax and data services at 2.4 kbps. Inmarsat-phone Mini-M terminals are among the smallest and lightest (approximately 2.4 kg) satellite phones ever made.

The cost of the terminal is appx Rs. 2.75 lakhs, inclusive of all taxes and duties.

(b) The call charges per minutes is around Rs. 116/-

(c) Connections are given to applicants after the technical scrutiny of their applications in the Deptt. of Telecommunications are subsequent clearance of the case in Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing (WPC) of Ministry of Communications.

(d) In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.

### Increase in Frequency of Howrah-Nagpur Azad Hind Express

234. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the frequency of Howrah-Nagpur Azad Hind Express;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There is no proposal at present to increase the frequency of 1029/1030 Howrah-Pune Azad Hind Express via Nagpur.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

### Running of EMU Service between Kharagpur and Sealdah

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

(a) whether the Government have since taken any

steps to run EMU service between Kharagpur and Sealdah via C.C. Chord section;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay to start this service when all facilities are available;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that if this service is being introduced, the pressure on Howrah railway station would be reduced considerably; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Provision of a direct EMU service between Kharagpur and Sealdah could provide some relief to Howrah Railway Station. However introduction of direct passenger trains between Kharagpur and Sealdah via Andul-Calcutta Chord is presently not feasible due to operational and technical constraints. An Engineering-cum-traffic survey for Kharagpur-Dankuni-Sealdah sector has been taken up.

#### Shortage of Staff

236. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :  
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to shortage of staff, posting of Train Superintendents have been delayed in selected trains;

(b) the initiative taken by the Government to fill up the vacant post;

(c) whether the Government are considering any proposal to promote junior Staff to Train Superintendent (TS) and create new posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the efforts which are underway to post Train Superintendents in the selected trains ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) The postings of Train Superintendents have been delayed in some trains due to non-availability of suitable willing staff. All out efforts are underway for posting Train Superintendents in the selected trains by deploying willing staff and creation of additional posts.

#### Introduction of Superfast Train between Howrah and Kanyakumari

237. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken note of the demand of the people of Karala as well as Calcutta for a superfast train between Howrah and Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce at least once a week such train between these two places;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for forcing the people to avail break-journey to reach both the places ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received in this regard.

(b) to (d) It has been decided to extend 6315/6316 Howrah-Cochin Express upto Trivendrum. Provision of a direct service between Howrah and Kanniya Kumari is presently not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

#### Capacity of EMU Car Shed

238. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of homing capacity of EMU car-sheds under Howrah, Sealdah and Kharagpur divisions, car-shed wise;

(b) whether all the car-sheds are equipped to handle 12 coach EMU rakes;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor.

(d) whether there is any proposal to modernise these car-sheds and make them fit to handle 12 coach EMU rakes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The homing capacity of EMU car sheds under Howrah, Sealdah and Kharagpur Divisions are as under :-

- (i) Howrah : 22 Rakes  
 (ii) Bandel : 18 Rakes  
 (iii) Narkeldanga : 17 Rakes  
 (iv) Sonarpur : 21 Rakes  
 (v) Barasat : 28 Rakes  
 (vi) Tikiapara : 22.5 Rakes  
 (vii) Panskura : 9.5 Rakes

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At present there are no 12 car EMU services in Calcutta area and hence the car sheds are not planned to be equipped to handle 12 coach EMU rakes.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) These sheds are provided with all necessary facilities to maintain EMU rakes. As there is no proposal to run 12 car EMU services in Calcutta, it is not necessary to make these sheds fit to maintain 12 coach EMU rakes.

#### Telephone Exchanges in Bardhaman

239. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the capacity of telephone exchanges at present functioning in the district of Bardhaman, West Bengal, Exchange-wise;

(b) the present capacity thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to increase the capacity of the existing exchanges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details are given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) The present capacity is 73790 lines.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are given in the attached Statement-II.

#### Statement-I

*Capacity of telephone exchanges functioning in the district of Bardhaman (West Bengal)*

Sl. No.	Name of the Exchanges	Equipped Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Andal	400
2.	Asansol	11000
3.	Bagura	368
4.	Bahula	1000
5.	Barakar	3000
6.	Burnpur	2000
7.	Chinchuria	88
8.	Chittaranjan	3000
9.	Demohani	184
10.	Jamuriahat	1000
11.	Jhangra	415
12.	Kajora	416
13.	Neamatpur	2000
14.	Nutandanga	208
15.	Pandaveswar	416
16.	Panuria	184
17.	Raniganj	4000
18.	Ukhra	1000
19.	Agradwip	184
20.	Amarun	184
21.	Anguno	184
22.	Badla	368
23.	Baidyapur	208
24.	Balgona	176
25.	Bardighi	184
26.	Bhatar	336

1	2	3
27.	Bhedia	184
28.	Bonpass	184
29.	Borsul	336
30.	Bulbulitala	184
31.	Burdwan	7750
32.	Chakdighi	184
33.	Chandrapur	88
34.	Dainhat	184
35.	Churpuni	192
36.	Devipur	184
37.	Dhatrigram	368
38.	Dignagar (1)	184
39.	Galsi	336
40.	Gangatikuri	88
41.	Gangpur	184
42.	Guskara	1000
43.	Hatgobindapur	336
44.	Jamalpur	336
45.	Jaugram	184
46.	Kalana	1400
47.	Kamarpara	184
48.	Kandra	176
49.	Karalaghat	184
50.	Kasemangar	184
51.	Katwa	3000
52.	Ketugram	88
53.	Khudrun	176
54.	Koichar	176
55.	Kuchut	88
56.	Kurmun	88

1	2	3
57.	Madhyamgram	184
58.	Manteswar	336
59.	Memari	1400
60.	Mandalgram	88
61.	Nabagram (I)	152
62.	Nadanghat	88
63.	Nutanhat	184
64.	Orgram	184
65.	Palsit	176
66.	Panchanantala	184
67.	Paraj	184
68.	Parulia	184
69.	Patuli	88
70.	Raina	184
71.	Ramgopalpur	184
72.	Ramnagar	184
73.	Rasulpur-II	384
74.	Sahebganj	884
75.	Saktigarh-I	384
76.	Samudragarh	304
77.	Satgachhia	1000
78.	Seharbazar	384
79.	Shyamsundar	184
80.	Simlon	184
81.	Srikhanda	184
82.	Bankati	152
83.	Bidhannagar	2000
84.	Budg Budg	368
85.	Durgapur (CC)	3000
86.	Durgapur (I)	4000

1	2	3
87.	Durgapur (S)	5000
88.	Gopalmath	152
89.	Gopalpur	152
90.	Panagarh Bazar	1000
91.	Rajbandh	152
Total		73790

**Statement-II**

*Plan to increase the capacity in Bardhaman Distt of West Bengal (Exchange-wise)*

Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange	Present capacity (in Lines)	Net expansion proposed in 97-98
1	2	3	4
1.	Asansol	11000	6000
2.	Burnpur	2000	500
3.	Balgona	176	160
4.	Bidhannagar	2000	1000
5.	Burdwan	7750	2000
6.	Baidyapur	208	128
7.	Chittaranjan	2000	1000
8.	Daiohat	184	152
9.	Domohani	184	152
10.	Durgapur-I	4000	1000
11.	Durgapur-S	5000	2000
12.	Durgapur-CC	3000	1000
13.	Gangatikuri	88	64
14.	Jaugram	184	152
15.	Kalna	1400	600
16.	Kasemnagar	192	144
17.	Keodra	88	64

1	2	3	4
18.	Kudrun	88	216
19.	Kuchut	88	64
20.	Kurmun	88	64
21.	Memari	1400	768
22.	Nadanghat	88	64
23.	Nutandanga	184	152
24.	Patuli	88	64
25.	Panuria	184	152
26.	Parulia	184	152
27.	Panchanantala	184	152
28.	Panagarh	1000	1000
29.	Sahebgunj	88	64
30.	Simlon	184	152
31.	Shyamsundar	184	152
		43 586	19,332

**Development Work in Madhya Pradesh**

240. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :  
SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the development works decided to be executed in the areas in Telecommunication and Postal sector in Madhya Pradesh during the current year;

(b) whether some of the works started in the current year are incomplete; and

(c) if so, the details of these works and reasons for not completing these works ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details of development works decided to be executed in the areas in Telecommunication and Postal sector in Madhya Pradesh during the current year (1997-98) are given in Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(b) and (c) The development works planned for

current year (1997-98) in Telecommunication and Postal sector are likely to be completed by 31.3.98 during the Annual Plan period.

#### Statement-I

*The details of important development works in Telecommunication planned in Madhya Pradesh during the current year (1997-98) are as under :*

S.No	Name of item	Annual Plan target for 1997-98
1.	Net Switching Capacity	88000 lines
2.	Direct Exchange Lines	70000 Nos.
3.	TAX Capacity (gross)	26000 Lines.
4.	Village Public Telephones	5500 Nos.

#### Statement-II

Details of important developmental works identified in the postal sector in Madhya Pradesh during the current year are :

1. Target for opening of 2 departmental sub post offices and 37 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices has been set.

Post offices are sanctioned subject to fulfillment of income, population and distance norms. In M.P. only three Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned during the year.

2. Installation of 80 multi purpose counter machines in 45 Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh is envisaged.
3. Ten extended Satellite Money Order centres are to be linked with the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) at indore, for on line receipt and transmission of Money Orders.
4. On going projects, in respect of construction of postal buildings and staff quarters are the priority for the current year. No new project has been taken up so far during the current year.

#### Utilisation Capacity of Andal Sainthia Section

241. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the utilisation capacity of the Andal-Sainthia section of Eastern Railways;

- (b) the planning of the Railways to increase the frequency of Andal-Sainthia DMUs;

- (c) whether the Government are considering to construct double rail line and electrify this section;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

- (e) if not, the manner in which the Government are considering for better utilisation of this section ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The utilisation capacity of Andal-Sainthia section is as under :

Andal-Ukhra (12.01 Km)	—	100%
Ukhra-Pandabeswar (8.33 km)	—	65.2%
Pandabeswar-Sainthia (53.06 km)	—	78.6%

- (b) There is no proposal at present.

- (c) From Andal to Pandabeswar twin line already exists. Doubling of Pandabeswar-Sainthia section is not being considered at present. There is no proposal to electrify Andal-Sainthia line.

- (d) Does not arise.

- (e) As utilisation depends on demand of transport, the same will improve as the demand for transport originating on and via this route increases.

#### Waiting List in Assam

242. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of persons who are in the waiting list seeking telephone connections in Assam, exchange-Wise;

- (b) whether the Government have drawn any time-bound programme to provide them telephone connections;

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

- (d) the time by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The total number of persons in Assam waiting for new telephone connections is 24827 as on 31.3.97. The exchange-wise waiting list position is indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There is a plan to provide 35000 new connections and switching capacity addition of 44000 lines during the year 1997-98. With this, the waiting list as on 31.3.97 is likely to be cleared in most of the exchanges during 1997-98.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Abhayapuri	95
2.	Agomoni	16
3.	Algapur	10
4.	Amguri	38
5.	Amingaon	102
6.	Arunachal	31
7.	(I) B. Chariali	5
	(II) B. Chariali	0
8.	Badarpur	162
9.	Badulipar	7
10.	Baihata	7
11.	Bakulia	2
12.	Balipara	3
13.	Bamunbari	8
14.	Bariagram	70
15.	Barama	29
16.	Barbarua	12
17.	Barpathar	9
18.	Barpeta Rd.	80
19.	Barpeta Tn.	60
20.	Baskandi	29
21.	Basugaon	2
22.	Bazarghat	22

1	2	3
23.	Bazarichera	36
24.	Bebejia	87
25.	Bediti	8
26.	Beharabazar	0
27.	Bengtol	24
28.	Bhangabazar	63
29.	Bhootiachung	0
30.	Bihupuria	63
31.	Bijni	33
32.	Bijoynagar	80
33.	Bilashipara	124
34.	Bogribari	1
35.	Bokajan	31
36.	(I) Bokakhat	0
	(II) Bokakhat	142
37.	Boko	15
38.	(I) Bongaigaon	580
	(II) Bongaigaon	0
39.	Borgong	12
40.	Borhapjan	35
41.	Borholla	12
42.	Borjan	6
43.	Borjatrapur	2
44.	Borjhar	8
45.	Borkhola	10
46.	Borkula	16
47.	Chabua	71
48.	Chamata	10
49.	Chandrapur	16



1	2	3
50.	Chapakhowa	18
51.	Chapar	27
52.	Chaygaon	3
53.	Damcherra	0
54.	Darranga	1
55.	Denow	65
56.	Deomornoigao	3
57.	Dergaon	236
58.	Dewan	0
59.	Dhakuakhana	13
60.	Dhaligaon	63
61.	(I) Dhekiajuli	0
	(II) Dhekiajuli	68
62.	(I) Dhemaji	62
	(II) Dhemaji	0
63.	Dhing	38
64.	Dholaibazar	13
65.	Dholaibil	0
66.	Dhubri	428
67.	Dhupdhara	13
68.	(I) Dibrugarh	0
68.	(II) Dibrugarh	680
69.	Digboi	160
70.	Dikom	23
71.	Dikrong	30
72.	Dinjan	34
73.	(I) Diphu	155
	(II) Diphu	0
74.	Doboka	15
75.	Donkamokum	6

1	2	3
76.	Doomdooma	35
77.	Dotma	6
78.	Dr. Universit	40
79.	Duaband	14
80.	Dudnoi	3
81.	Duliajan	132
82.	Dhullavcherra	8
83.	Fakirabazar	59
84.	Fakiragram	13
85.	Furkating	0
86.	Gahigaon	10
87.	Garmur	4
88.	Gauripur	99
89.	Gaurisagar	34
90.	(I) GH-Adabari	247
	(II) GH-Dispur	2996
	(III) GH-Noonmati	50
	(IV) GH-Panbazar	0
	(v) GH-Panbazar	3751
	(VI) GH-Ulubari	0
91.	Ghilamara	0
92.	Ghoramara	21
93.	(I) Goalpara	224
	(II) Goalpara	0
94.	Gogamukh	5
95.	Gohpur	54
96.	Golaghat	193
97.	Golakganj	0
98.	Goraimari	87
99.	Goreswar	1

1	2	3
100.	Gossaigaon	10
101.	Guijan	6
102.	(I) Haflong	188
	(II) Haflong	0
103.	Hailakandi	90
104.	Hajo	17
105.	Hamren	4
106.	Harangajao	2
107.	Hatsinghimar	7
108.	Hojai	180
109.	Hoogrija	5
110.	Howly	37
111.	Howraghat	3
112.	Itakhola	0
113.	(I) Jagiroad	97
	(II) Jagiroad	0
114.	Jagun	9
115.	Jaipur	3
116.	Jajori	48
117.	Jamaguri	7
118.	Jamunamukh	15
119.	Jirighat	3
120.	Jogighopa	15
121.	Jogijan	22
122.	Jonai	3
123.	Jorabat	48
124.	Jorhat	575
125.	Juria	33
126.	Kakajan	19
127.	Kakapathar	21

1	2	3
128.	Kaki	16
129.	Kalag	19
130.	Kalaigaon	0
131.	Kalain	22
132.	Kalgachia	0
133.	Kaliganj Ba.	40
134.	Kamalabari	31
135.	Kampur	94
136.	Kanikargaon	3
137.	(I) Karimganj	0
	(II) Karimganj	679
138.	Kathalguri	0
139.	Katlichera	44
140.	Kaziranga	7
141.	Khairababi	0
142.	Kharupetia	0
143.	Khat Khati	5
144.	Khetri	31
145.	Khowang	10
146.	Khumtai	6
147.	Kokrajhar	107
148.	Korcheng	17
149.	Kotamonibaza	4
150.	Kothiatoli	15
151.	Krishnai	6
152.	Kumbha	2
153.	Kutuha	1
154.	Kuwarital	25
155.	Lahoal	80
156.	Lehori Ghat	10

1	2	3
157.	Lakhipur	64
158.	Lakhipur	48
159.	Lakowa	27
160.	(I) Lala	0
	(II) Lala	62
161.	Laluk	10
162.	Langting	1
163.	Lanka	117
164.	Ledo	19
165.	Lekhapani	0
166.	Lumding	147
167.	Machkhowa	6
168.	Madhuramukh	0
169.	Mahisasan	54
170.	Mahur	2
171.	Maibela	14
172.	Maibong	12
173.	Makum	47
174.	Mangaldai	5
175.	Manikpur	22
176.	Manipur Baga	15
177.	Manja	5
178.	Mankachar	48
179.	Margherita	107
180.	Mariani	188
181.	Marigaon	50
182.	Mazbat	2
183.	Missamari	2
184.	Mohanbari	16
185.	Moirabari	26

1	2	3
186.	Monabug	0
187.	Monacherra	7
188.	Morajhar	40
189.	(I) Moranhat	0
	(II) Moranhat	147
190.	Motinagar	7
191.	Mukalmua	4
192.	Murphulani	0
193.	(I) N. Lakhimpur	0
	(II) N. Lakhimpur	10
194.	(I) Nagaon	1262
	(II) Nagaon	0
195.	(I) Naharkatia	0
	(II) Naharkatia	66
196.	Nakachari	12
197.	Nalbari	24
198.	Namrup	190
199.	Namti	32
200.	Natun bazar	24
201.	(I) Nazira	0
	(II) Nazira	251
202.	Nellie	25
203.	Nepco Kathal	0
204.	Nilambazar	119
205.	Nilbagan	6
206.	NRL	21
207.	Numaligarh	46
208.	Orang	12
209.	Palongghat	8
210.	Panikheti	11

1	2	3
211.	Panitola	30
212.	Patacharkuch	72
213.	Patharkandi	130
214.	Pathsala	79
215.	Pavoicharal	2
216.	Phillobari	7
217.	Punigaon	16
218.	Puranigudam	79
219.	R.K. Nagar	15
220.	Raha	73
221.	Rajabazar	0
222.	Rajgarh	36
223.	Rajnagar	2
224.	Rangachakua	2
225.	(I) Rangapara	38
	(II) Rangapara	0
226.	(I) Rangia	0
	(II) Rangia	74
227.	Rowta	9
228.	Rupahi	56
229.	S..Dev Nagar	6
230.	Salkhowaghat	5
231.	Salakati	20
232.	Salchapra	11
233.	Salona	7
234.	Samaguri	35
235.	Sapatgram	35
236.	Sapekhati	3
237.	Sarabari	2
238.	Sarthebari	4

1	2	3
239.	Sarupathar	15
240.	Sarupeta	16
241.	Sepon	20
242.	Sibsagar	1091
243.	Silapathar	60
244.	(I) Silchar	2319
	(II) Silchar	0
245.	Singri	0
246.	Sipajhar	5
247.	Soalkuchi	30
248.	Sonabarighat	3
249.	Sonaimukh	8
250.	Sonapur	55
251.	Sonari	71
252.	Sootia	55
253.	Sorbhog	22
254.	Talap	21
255.	Tamarhat	0
256.	Tamulpur	0
257.	Tangla	5
258.	Tarabarihat	30
259.	Tengakhata	55
260.	Teok	53
261.	(I) Tezpur	0
	(II) Tezpur	652
262.	Thelamara	4
263.	Tihu	23
264.	Tilikium	49
265.	Ting Khong	7

	2	3
266. (I) Tinsukia		528
(II) Tinsukia		0
267. Titabar		38
268. Udalguri		20
269. Udharbond		22
270. Umrangshu		46
271. Uriamghat		0

#### Survey for Jhargram to Bankura Railway Line

243. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to connect Jhargram with Bankura by constructing a new railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The survey to connect Jhargram to Bankura will be considered whenever a demand for the same is received by the Railways.

#### Phone on Demand

244. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "phone on demand to remain a dream" appearing in the "Indian Express" dated January 10, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Telecom Policy 1994 envisages provision of telephone connections on demand by 1997 with Private Sector Supplementing the efforts of Department of Telecommu-

nications. However, there has been a delay in the entry of the Private Sector in the field of basic services and thus the objective of providing telephone on demand by 1997 is not possible. Department of Telecommunications has submitted 9th Five Year Plan Proposals to the Planning Commission for approval which envisages to provide telephone on demand during 9th Five Year Plan with Private Sector supplementing the efforts of the Government.

#### Wrong Telephone Bills

245. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the consumers at phone lines 718 and 719 in North district have been receiving bills as per their old telephone numbers instead of new ones since 1995;

(b) whether these consumers have now been receiving arrear bill of thousands calls wrongly;

(c) the reasons therefor and the action taken to rectify the error;

(d) whether such wrong bills are not being corrected instantly and the consumers are harassed by AO (North) and the staff of Keshav Puram Exchange in the name of bringing actual meter reading; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Subscribers received bills for old number for one billing cycle as it was due to be paid by them upto the date of cut-over or billing date for normal billing cycle for those numbers who had already been fed before the date of cut over i.e. 26.5.96.

(b) Calls from the date of cut over to 1st Billing cycle for new numbers were correctly charged on the basis of actual meter reading and no abnormal complaints of high calls were received.

(c) As date for billing cycle for old numbers had already been fed before cut-over, the subscribers received bills for old numbers for one billing cycle. Such a situation

does not exist now and the subscribers are receiving bills for new numbers only.

(d) No such case has come to notice and corrections wherever necessary were made immediately by concerned Accounts Officer.

(e) Advance action to feed data immediately after cut over for stopping the billing of old numbers has been taken.

#### Wastelands Development Project in Karnataka

246. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Projects, approved under the wastelands development programme in Karnataka;

(b) the details of the Projects pending with the Centre for clearance and the reasons for their pendency;

(c) the time by which these are expected to be cleared;

(d) the number of projects financed by foreign

agencies under wastelands development programme;

(e) the details of the Projects currently under implementation in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The details of the projects approved under the Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme (IWDP) in Karnataka State in the Department of Wastelands Development is given in the Statement attached.

(b) and (c) No Integrated Wastelands Development Project proposal from the State of Karnataka is pending in the Department for sanction.

(d) Five projects are financed by foreign agencies under Wastelands Development Programme.

(e) and (f) The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is providing external assistance for implementation of Tree Growers Co-operative Project (TGCP) in the State of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat with effect from 1.12.1993 to 31.12.99 at a total cost of Rs. 45.99 crores for the development of wastelands.

#### Statement

##### Details of the on-going Projects under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Wastelands Development Project"

S.I. No.	Name of the Project	Project Period	Physical Target (in ha.)	Outlay (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds Released 1992-93 (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds Released 1993-94 (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds Released 1994-95 (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds Released 1995-96 (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds Released 1996-97 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	STATE : KA								
	1. Tunkur-I	91-92 to 95-96	6780	436.20	71.00	90.00	100.00	60.00	0.00
	2. Tunkur-II	91-92 to 95-96	1500	120.00	13.30	26.00	30.00	15.00	0.00
	3. Mandya	93-94 to 97-98	7453	372.91	0.00	45.49	51.00	140.00	67.50
	**Subtotal		15733	929.11	84.30	161.49	181.00	215.00	67.50
	**Total		15733	929.11	84.30	161.49	181.00	215.00	67.50

### **Doubling of Railway Line between Habra and Bongaon**

247. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to construct double rail line between Habra and Bongaon section of Sealdah Division under Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be started and completed; and

(d) the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Techno-economic survey for doubling between Habra and Bongaon is in progress.

Further consideration of project would be possible once the survey becomes available.

### **Institutes of Rural Management in Karnataka**

248. SHRI S.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Institutes of Rural Management running in the country, particularly in Karnataka, District-wise as on June 30, 1997; and

(b) the names of districts in the State where these Institutes are likely to be opened during 1997-98 and Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### **Increase in Processing Fee by Doordarshan**

249. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan has increased the Processing Fees from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 5000 for the proposals received from private producers for production of films/telefilms/serials etc. under commissioned category; and

(b) if so, the reasons/justification of increasing the processing fee ?

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

(b) The main objective for increasing the processing fee is to ensure that the suo moto proposals are received only from genuine and serious outside producers to produce quality programmes. The other reason is that the cost of processing a proposal has also increased in terms of time to be devoted by Doordarshan personell at all levels.

### **Tapurhut Electronic Exchange :**

250. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received from the Secretary Tapurhut Telephone Consumers Associations, Cooch Bihar for providing STD facility at Tapurhut Electronic Exchange; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The work of installation of transmsion equipment is in progress and the STD through reliable media is expected to be provided by 30.9.97.

### **Installation of Telephones**

251. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephones are neither installed and nor shifted for months together even after the issue of "OB" numbers:

(b) if so, the action the Government propose to take in the matter against the officials responsible for the delay; and

(c) the time by when the pending telephones are likely to be installed/shifted ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. By and large telephones are being installed and shifted within the DoT's prescribed norms after issue of OB, except in a few cases due to area being technically not feasible or due to subscribers reasons.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) All out efforts are being made to install/shift the telephones where OBs have been issued as soon as the area is technically feasible.

**Telephone Exchanges in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh**

252. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up so far in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of new telephone exchanges set up in these States during 1996-97, district-wise and location-wise;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats provided telephone facility in the above States during the last two years, till date, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details are given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) The details are given in the attached Statement-II.

(c) The details are given in the attached Statement-III.

**Statement-I**

*Number of Telephone Exchanges set up so far  
(as on 30.6.97) in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, District-wise*

**(A) ORISSA**

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Balasore	31
2.	Bhadrak	21
3.	Mayurbhanja	35
4.	Ganjam	72
5.	Gajapati	17
6.	Phulbani	21

1	2	3
7.	Boudh	10
8.	Khurda	45
9.	Nayagarh	16
10.	Puri	27
11.	Bolangir	22
12.	Sonepur	9
13.	Kalahandi	16
14.	Nuapada	8
15.	Cuttack	41
16.	Jagatsinghpur	30
17.	Kendrapara	20
18.	Jaipur	31
19.	Keonjhar	31
20.	Angul	29
21.	Dhenkanal	29
22.	Koraput	25
23.	Malkangiri	7
24.	Nowrangpur	12
25.	Rayagada	21
26.	Sambalpur	27
27.	Jharsuguda	12
28.	Bargarh	32
29.	Deogarh	3
30.	Sundergarh	39
Total :		739

**(B) ANDHRA PRADESH**

1.	Adilabad	55
2.	Ananthapur	131
3.	Chittoor	132
4.	Cuddapah	88



1	2	3
5.	East Godavari	107
6.	Guntur	114
7.	Hyderabad	48
8.	Rangareddy	68
9.	Karimnagar	107
10.	Khammam	78
11.	Krishna	121
12.	Kurnool	121
13.	Mahaboobnagar	100
14.	Medak	92
15.	Nalgonda	78
16.	Nellore	90
17.	Nizamabad	82
18.	Prakasham	78
19.	Srikakulam	50
20.	Visakhapatnam	66
21.	Vizianagaram	47
22.	Warangal	75
23.	West Godavari	138
Total		2066
Grant Total : (A) + (B) = 739 + 2066 = 2805		

**Statement-II**

*Number of Telephone Exchanges set up during 96-97*

**A. ORISSA**

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of exchanges	Sl. No.	Name of exchanges Location
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Balasore	1	1.	Bishnupur

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Bhadrak	1	2.	Dhamara
3.	Boudh	1	3.	Adingarh
4.	Ganjam	4	4.	Dunkapara
			5.	Dura
			6.	Sarangipalli
			7.	Sorala
5.	Gajapati	1	8.	Nayaranpur
6.	Khurda	3	9.	Kantabada
			10.	Soran
			11.	Bhubaneswar
7.	Nayagarh	3	12.	Banamalipur
			13.	Madhyakhanda
			14.	Malisahi
8.	Kalahandi	2	15.	Kalampur
			16.	Koksara
9.	Sonepur	1	17.	Subalaya
10.	Cuttack	2	18.	Cuttack
				(OMP Square)
			19.	Kanpur
11.	Jagatainghpur	2	20.	Machhagaon
			21.	Tarapur
12.	Kendrapara	2	22.	Andhara
			23.	Birmilakanthapur
13.	Angul	4	24.	Kukudanga
			25.	Madhapur
			26.	Sakasingha
			27.	Badatgirihera
14.	Dhenkanal	2	28.	Dhalapur
			29.	Siminai

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Koraput	1	30.	Almunda
16.	Rayagada	1	31.	Chalkhmbha
17.	Bargarh	2	32.	Jagadapur
			33.	Kadalimunda
18.	Jharsuguda	2	34.	Kulabira
			35.	Rajpur
19.	Sambalpur	3	36.	Golabandha
			37.	Lapanga
			38.	Naktideul

**B. ANDHRA PRADESH**

1.	Guntur	4	1.	Guntur Main
			2.	Guntur (K. Peta)
			3.	Patnam Bazar
			4.	Palapadu
2.	Hyderabad	14	5.	Charminar
			6.	Dwarakapuri
			7.	Masab Tank
			8.	Rani Koti
			9.	Erragadda
			10.	Musheerabad
			11.	Jeedimetla
			12.	Kavadiguda
			13.	L.B. Nagar
			14.	Nacharam
			15.	Santoshnagar
			16.	Lingumpalli
			17.	Miyapur
			18.	Satnikinri
3.	Prakasam	1	19.	Ongole
4.	East Godavari	1	20.	Rajamundry

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Adilabad	6	21.	Bela
			22.	Jainad
			23.	Kuntala
			24.	Kapparla
			25.	Pipparawada
			26.	Repallewada
6.	Anantpur	1	27.	Neelkanta- puram
7.	Khammam	1	28.	Neemali
8.	Nalgonda	3	29.	Damarcherla
			30.	Yellanki
			31.	V.K. Pahad
9.	Nizamabad	1	32.	Bhavanipeta
10	Cuddapah	1	33.	Settigunta
11.	Krishna	1	34.	Cartkapadu
12.	Kurnool	1	35.	Racherla
13.	Medak	1	36.	Ganeshpalli
14.	Vishakhapatnam	1	37.	Dumbriguda
15.	Vijayanagaram	2	38.	Komarada
			39.	Korukanda
16.	Warangal	1	40	Apparajupalli

**Statement-III**

*Number of Gram Panchayats provided  
with Telephone Facility*

**(A) ORISSA**

Sl. No.	District	95-96	96-97	Till Dated (Up to 30.6.97)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Angul	—	—	177

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Balasore	5	—	251
3.	Bargarh	—	2	184
4.	Bhadrak	1	—	161
5.	Bolangir	2	1	221
6.	Boudh	5	—	66
7.	Cuttack	—	—	247
8.	Deogarh	—	1	46
9.	Dhenkanal	1	1	165
10.	Gajapati	2	—	99
11.	Ganjam	—	—	443
12.	Jagatsinghpur	—	—	177
13.	Jajpur	—	—	237
14.	Jharsuguda	1	7	54
15.	Kalahandi	2	2	177
16.	Kendrapara	—	—	203
17.	Keonjhar	—	—	239
18.	Khurda	—	—	153
19.	Koraput	6	1	172
20.	Malkangiri	—	—	49
21.	Mayurbhanj	5	—	301
22.	Nayagarh	—	—	138
23.	Nowapara	2	1	78
24.	Nowrangpur	1	1	129
25.	Phulbani	1	—	116
26.	Puri	—	—	204
27.	Rayagada	5	5	136
28.	Sambalpur	1	—	120
29.	Sonepur	—	—	79
30.	Sundergarh	—	—	166
Total :		40	22	4978

1	2	3	4	5
(B) ANDHRA PRADESH				
1.	Adilabad	114	26	575
2.	Anantapur	11	28	797
3.	Chittoor	75	105	1074
4.	Cuddapah	54	46	653
5.	East Godavari	02	05	860
6.	Guntur	—	—	959
7.	Karim Nagar	107	145	922
8.	Khammam	11	17	549
9.	Krishna	17	06	933
10.	Kurnool	09	41	804
11.	Mahabubnagar	58	72	1059
12.	Medak	107	25	773
13.	Nalgonda	32	67	941
14.	Nellore	50	35	819
15.	Nizamabad	48	56	531
16.	Prakasam	115	44	846
17.	Rangareddy	22	27	575
18.	Srikakulam	91	93	921
19.	Visakhapatnam	47	20	696
20.	Vizianagaram	131	93	795
21.	Warangal	21	—	680
22.	West Godavari	01	07	804
Total :		1123	958	17572

#### Import of Technology

253. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of technologies imported from abroad during the last two years alongwith the names of those

foreign countries;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the estimated cost of technology to be imported during the next two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The number of foreign collaborations involving import of technology, services and others approved by the Government during the years 1995 and 1996 are 2337 and 2303 respectively. The foreign collaborations are from 81 countries including France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Singapore, UK, USA & others.

(b) Lumpsum payments approved in respect of these collaborations are of the order of Rs. 7200 crores during 1995 and Rs. 2500 crores during 1996. In addition, there are payments by the companies towards items like royalty based on production value, training expenditure etc.

(c) The estimated cost of technology to be imported during next two years has not been assessed.

#### **Construction of Car Shed at Asansol**

254. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of proposed carshed for maintenance of EMU rakes at Asansol has been started;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The construction works started during Feb. 1996. The work content basically comprises of :-

(i) Civil Engg. work consisting of buildings, pits and covered shed, etc.

(ii) Provision of OHE.

(iii) Procurement of M&P items, etc.

(c) The work is likely to be completed after three years subject to availability of funds.

[Translation]

#### **Secondary Switching Area Facility**

255. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Secondary Switching Area Facility is provided to a district having 10,000 telephone connections;

(b) if so, the reasons for depriving Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh of the facility;

(c) whether the post of district Manager is lying vacant for a long time at the said place;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the said post is likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) There is no post of District Manager in Firozabad.

[English]

#### **Cases of SAIL referred to CBI**

256. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any matter pertaining to this Ministry related to Steel Authority of India Limited involving purchase, sales and export had been referred to CBI recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Steel have not referred any matter relating to SAIL involving purchase, sales and export, to the CBI recently.

#### **Introduction of Express Train between Sealdah and Lalgaola**

257. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any

steps to introduce an express train from Sealdah to Lalgola under the name of 'Siraj Express' in the morning as there is not a single fast train available;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to introduce an express train in the morning from Sealdah to Lalgola. Two pairs of passenger services in the morning from Sealdah cater to the traffic towards Lalgola.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

#### Foreign Loan

258. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Nagarjuna Power Corporation Limited plans to raise 2,500 crore through foreign loan for its power projects;

(b) if so, whether the foreign loan would be raised from export credit agencies of UK, Japan, Korea, US and France;

(c) if so, the rate of interest on the loan;

(d) the time by which the financial closer of the project is likely to be completed;

(e) the total power to be generated from this project;

(f) whether Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd. has shortlisted Twelve companies for import of coal;

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

(h) the time by which the project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Nagarjun Power Corporation Limited (NPCL) proposes to set up a coal fired thermal power plant near Mangalore in Karnataka. For this project, the company has proposed to take recourse to foreign loans. However, the financial package has not yet been firmed-up by the project promoters.

(d) The financial closure of private sector power projects could be achieved only after all the necessary inputs/linkages and clearances including the techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority have been tied up.

(e) The project envisages a capacity of 1000 MW.

(f) and (g) The Company informed in May, 1997 that a press notification had been issued for prequalifying parties for importing coal in response to which about 20 parties responded.

(h) The completion of the project is conditional to tying up of the required inputs/linkages and obtaining necessary clearances and achieving financial closure.

[Translation]

#### Foreign Assistance for Mining

259. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the places where mining has been going up in Uttar Pradesh for the last three years till date;

(b) the details of the achievement made in this regard;

(c) whether any technical assistance has been sought or proposed to be sought from some foreign institutions for mining work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the names of the foreign companies from which assistance has been sought ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) As per information available, production of silica sand, magnesite, diaspore & pyrophyllite have registered an increasing trend during the last three years. The details of achievements of increasing trend of production of these minerals are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) It is reported that M/s. Uttar Pradesh State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., is setting up a silica sand beneficiation unit at Lalapur village, Allahabad district in collaboration with M/s. Hepworth Minerals & Chemicals Ltd., U.K.

## Statement

(Value in Rs. '000)

Mineral	District	Unit	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97 (Provisional)	
			Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Silica Sand	Allahabad	Tonne	55244	3450	66839	5031	79412	7203
	Banda	Tonne	6823	374	5481	287	2035	81
	Total		62067	3824	72320	5318	81447	7284
Magnesite	Almora	Tonne	25214	22699	30615	27707	32860	29738
	Pithorgarh	Tonne	24902	9538	31000	15888	43358	24022
	Total		50116	32237	61615	43595	76218	53760
Diaspore	Hamirpur	Tonne	250	88	742	371	35	35
	Jhansi	Tonne	601	658	479	599	395	323
	Lalitpur	Tonne	5077	5994	3880	3615	6012	8643
	Total		5928	6740	5101	4585	6442	9001
Pyrophyllite	Hamirpur	Tonne	1210	363	2729	819	7324	2197
	Jhansi	Tonne	2334	840	3425	1675	2369	3102
	Lalitpur	Tonne	1800	517	1320	548	3129	1782
	Total		5344	1720	7474	3042	12822	5081

[English]

**Construction of Railway Line from  
Bangaon to Petrapole**

260. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken up the construction of railway line from Bangaon to Petrapole for running of trains between India and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Survey for restoration of railway line from Bangaon to Petrapole for running of trains between India and Bangladesh has been taken up.

Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

**Mining Lease**

261. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether number of proposals for grant of mining lease are pending;

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

(c) the details of mining lease granted to private/foreign parties under the new mining policy during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(d) whether some proposals for grant of mining lease to private parties in Madhya Pradesh is under consideration of the Government; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Mineral Concession are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. Proposals for grant of minerals concessions are received by the Central Government for minerals specified under the Schedule-I of the aforesaid Act from respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of as per provisions of law. All efforts are being made to expedite approval of Central Govt. 332 cases have been cleared during the year 1996-97. In certain cases the proposals received from the State Government are incomplete. In such cases, State Government are asked to furnish complete information for disposal.

(c) Mining activity in the country has historically been undertaken both by public sector and private sector companies. As on 1.1.1995 there were 8,567 mining leases in private sector in the country. As per Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 mining rights can be given only to an Indian National or a company defined in sub-section (1) of Section (3) of the Companies Act, 1956. Provided that in respect of any mineral specified in the First Schedule, no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government.

(d) and (e) Grant of mineral concession is a continuous process and as many as seventy cases pertaining to Madhya Pradesh have been disposed of during the year 1996-97.

#### Clearance of Power Projects

262. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has given/propose to give clearance to any power projects in private sector; and

(b) if so, the estimated cost, names of participants and places where these projects are proposed to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) So far, 25 private power projects, with a capacity of 14,100 MW, have been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority. Apart from these, CEA considers such private power projects for techno-economic clearance (TEC) that have furnished complete Detailed Project Reports along with other requisite inputs/clearances.

(b) Details of the private power projects so far accorded TEC by the CEA is enclosed as Statement.

#### Statement

*Details of Proposals which have been accorded Techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority*

Sl. No.	Project	Cap. (MW)	Cost (Rs. crs.)	State
1	2	3	4	5
HYDRO SCHEMES				
NORTHERN REGION				
1.	Baspa Stg.-II HEP (M/s JIL)	300	949.23	Himachal Pradesh
2.	Vishnu Prayag HEP (M/s JIL)	400	1614.60	Uttar Pradesh
WESTERN REGION				
3.	Maheshwar HEP (M/s S. Kumars)	400	1500.00	Madhya Pradesh
THERMAL SCHEMES				

1	2	3	4	5
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>				
4.	Paguthan (M/s GTECL)	655	2298.00	Gujarat
5.	Hazira CCGT (M/s Essar Power)	515	1666.56	Gujarat
6.	Baroda CCGT (M/s GIPCL)	160	364.21	Gujarat
7.	Surat Lig. (M/s GIPCL)	250	1151.60	Gujarat
8.	Dabhol CCGT (Dabhol Power Co.)	2015	9051.20	Maharashtra
9.	Bhadravati TPS (Cent. India Power Co.)	1072	4630.90	Maharashtra
10.	Korba East TPS (Daewod Power India Ltd.)	1070	4690.00	Madhya Pradesh
11.	Bina TPS (Bina Power Sun. Co.)	578	2443	Madhya Pradesh
12.	Narasimhpur CCPP (GBL Power)	166	531.24	Madhya Pradesh
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>				
13.	Jagurupadu CCGT (GVK Ind.)	216	816	Andhra Pradesh
14.	Godavari CCGT (SPL)	208	748.43	Andhra Pradesh
15.	Vizag TPS (HNPCL)	1040	4297.80	Andhra Pradesh
16.	Ramagundam Ext. (on ICB route)	520	2384.57	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Toranagallu (J. Tractabel)	260	1093.86	Karnataka
18.	Mangalore TPC (Mangalore Pow. Co.)	1000	3948.33	Karnataka
19.	Neyveli TPS Zero Unit (ST-CMS)	250	1200	Tamilnadu
20.	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT (Dvna Makowski Power Co.)	330.5	1121.70	Tamilnadu
21.	N. Madras TPS-II (Videocon Pow.)	1050	4423.80	Tamilnadu
22.	Basin Bridge DGPP (GMR Vasavi)	200	725.32	Tamilnadu
23.	Tuticorin TPP-IV (SPIC Elec.)	525	2326.27	Tamilnadu
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>				
24.	Ib Valiev TPS-3&4 (IBPL)	420	1993.63	Orissa
25.	Balagarh TPS (BPCL)	500	2234.69	West Bengal
<b>Total (Hydro + Thermal) 14100 MW</b>				

**Study conducted by NCAER for improving  
lot of Rural Population**

263. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister  
of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to

state :

(a) whether a study made by the National Council  
for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), reveals that 39%  
of the rural Population is living below the poverty line while



the mean household income in rural India works out to be less than Rs. 1,900 p.m. corresponding to a per capita income of Rs. 4,485;

(b) whether the figures also reveal that about 58% of India's rural population has access to only about Rs. 6 per day to meet all their minimum requirements of health, nutrition, education and other essentials; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the lot of rural population in the low income States ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected & will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Periodicals

264. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state : the total number of Daily, Weekly, Fortnightly and Monthly periodicals and newspapers being brought out in the country language-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

#### Statement

*Total Number of Daily, Weekly, Fortnightly and Monthly Newspapers/periodicals (Language & Periodicitywise) as on 31.12.1996*

Language	Dailies	Weeklies	Fortnightlies	Monthlies
1	2	3	4	5
English	320	751	557	2384
Hindi	2004	7799	2441	2631
Assamese	12	64	37	56
Bengali	90	547	438	620
Gujarati	86	380	135	406
Kannada	268	321	204	481
Kashmiri	—	1	—	—
Konkani	—	3	1	1
Malayalam	204	159	144	630

1	2	3	4	5
Manipuri	11	5	5	7
Marathi	261	674	148	412
Nepali	3	13	6	7
Oriya	57	110	72	240
Punjabi	100	315	70	216
Sanskrit	3	7	4	15
Sindhi	8	35	9	34
Tamil	327	378	206	629
Telugu	107	219	155	382
Urdu	473	1198	340	472
Bilingual	53	485	284	1008
Multilingual	15	87	58	182
Others	51	77	26	107
Total	4453	13628	5340	10920

[Translation]

#### Telephone Exchange in Gumla

265. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Government propose to set up a telephone exchange at Bashima of Gumla district in Bihar;

(b) whether any application/representation has been received from the village regarding setting up of telephone exchange; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) There is no place by the name of Bashima in District Gumla of Bihar. The information has probably, been sought, about Basia, where it is planned to set up a 128P C-DOT RAX during 1997-98.

(b) As on date, there are 22 registered applicants for telephone connections at Basia.

(c) A telephone exchange has since been planned at Basia as indicated in reply to Para (a) above.

[English]

### Energy Policy

266. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Financial Express dated 1.7.1997 under the caption "Energy policy panel for revamp of SEBs on commercial lines".

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

(c) whether the need for revamping of SEBs have been realised long back and steps initiated in this direction on the basis of experts recommendation without substantial outcome;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of difference between the new policy and package, to revamp the SEBs in a stipulated time scale ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Energy Policy Committee (EPC) constituted by the Planning Commission has not yet given any recommendations in the matter.

(c) to (e) In the wake of growing unviability of SEBs, the Government has been constantly urging the States to take necessary steps to improve operational efficiency and rationalise tariffs. As a result of these efforts, while the capacity in the State Sector (including Private Sector) has gone up from 49291 MW in 1990-91 to 58808 MW in 1996-97, the PLF in the State Sector has improved from 51.3% in 1990-91 to 60.3% in 1996-97. The average tariff for sale of electricity by the SEBs which was 105.4 paise/Kwh in the beginning of the Eighth Plan is estimated to be 144.4 paise/Kwh in 1995-96. Several States such as Orissa, Haryana, U.P., Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Bihar etc. have also initiated measures during the last 2-3 years to restructure the State Electricity Boards and consider new regulatory mechanisms for the power sector.

### Extension of Panchayats

267. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the States having scheduled areas to enact the Law for extension of Panchayats after the enactment of the Central Act;

(b) if so, the gist of the guidelines issued to the States in this regards;

(c) the names of the States that have enacted the Law so far in the spirit of the Extension of Panchayat in Scheduled Areas (Amendment) Act; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of the said Act to protect the interest of the Scheduled Tribes in Scheduled Areas ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The States having scheduled areas have been requested to enact the law for extension of panchayats to the Scheduled Areas in consonance with the 'Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, within the time limit prescribed i.e. one year from 24th December, 1996.

(b) No guidelines have been issued to the States in this regard, but the State Governments have been urged to pass their legislation in conformity with the provisions of the Central Act.

(c) and (d) As per information available, the concerned States have initiated steps to extend PRIs to Scheduled Areas. These States have been requested to expedite passing the necessary legislation within the stipulated time limit.

### Ship breaking Agreement with US

268. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have granted approval to two US ships for ship breaking, off the coast of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the nature of objections made by the Environment Ministry; and

(c) the impact of ship breaking activity on the flora and fauna of the region ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A study on the impact of shipbreaking on environment recently conducted under the aegis of Ferrous

Scrap Committee under Ministry of Steel has indicated that there is no noticeable impact on terrestrial flora and fauna.

#### Non-Functioning of Relay Centre

269. SHRI N.N. KRISHAN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the non-functioning of Doordarshan Relay Centres at Attappady, Agali and Palghat in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make functional these Relay Centres ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) While the existing Low Power TV Centre at Palghat in Kerala is reported to be functioning satisfactorily, the one at Attapadi which is located in Agali Suburb of Palghat district was commissioned on 31.3.97 pending staff sanction. The transmitter is presently being run by deployment of staff, on tour, from elsewhere in Doordarshan network thereby providing only part transmission. Full time transmission from the Low Power TV Transmitter would depend upon availability of staff sanction for operation and maintenance of the project.

[Translation]

#### Ban on Vulgar Films

270. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about declining standard of DD programmes during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the telecast of vulgar films and other such programmes on DD;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) Complaints/

suggestions about the quality of programmes telecast on Doordarshan are received regularly from the viewers. No centralised record of such complaints/suggestions is maintained in Doordarshan. However, Doordarshan constantly strives to bring about a qualitative improvement in its programmes in order to sustain the interest of the viewers.

(d) Doordarshan previews all its programmes including films before their telecast in order to ensure that they are suitable for family viewing. Moreover, only those films which are certified by the Central Board of Film Certification for universal screening are considered for telecast on Doordarshan.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Introduction of Dhaka-Calcutta Express Train

271. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Dhaka-Calcutta Express train; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Shortage of Drinking Water in Assam

272. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total requirement of drinking water in Assam;

(b) the total shortage in its supply at present;

(c) the steps being taken to improve the situation;

(d) whether the World Bank has provided any special assistance for improving the drinking water supply in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) As per the norm of 40 Ltrs. per person per day the total requirement of drinking water for the rural population (1991 Census) in Assam is 7970.60 lakh litres per day.

(b) As on 1.4.1997 there were 10115 'Not Covered'

and 36809 'Partially Covered' habitation in Assam.

(c) The State Government has prepared an Action Plan to provide safe drinking water to the remaining habitations during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Allotment of Land

273. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3162 dated 18.12.1995 regarding allotment of land and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) One Man Inquiry Committee headed by Shri R.M. Vatsa, I.A.S. (Retd.) was constituted on 10.12.1994. The Inquiry Officer resigned without submitting any report. So far, no case of sale/transfer has been reported to the authorities. However, there may have been Benami transactions of such lands. As the house sites are allotted at a very nominal lease rent for nine years only and also without realising cost of the land to the weaker sections of the society who do not own any house, by allowing them to transfer or sell these plots, the Government do not want them to be houseless again. Therefore, the permission to sell/transfer is not granted.

[Translation]

#### Hydel Projects of Bihar

274. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the hydel projects of north Chhotanagpur of Bihar included in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount likely to be spent on the said projects and the time by which the works of the said projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The details of hydel power projects under construction in Chhotanagpur belt of Bihar

and proposed for inclusion in 9th Five Year Plan are as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of Projects/ Capacity (MW)	Expenditure upto 3/97	Latest cost	Commissioning Target
1.	North Koel (24) (Palamu Distt.)	35.99	47.34	1998-99
2.	Chandil LBC (8) (Singh Bhum Distt.)	17.89	32.49	1998-99

[English]

#### Hiring of Private Producers by Doordarshan

275. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan plans to commission private producers for making news capsules for its news bulletins; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### N.T.P.C.

276. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :  
SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "fresh row over NTPC simhadri plant" appearing in the 'News Time' dated 12 June, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the case; and

(c) the progress made in the construction of proposed power plant in Visakhapatnam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has since accorded investment approval for setting up of this project.

(c) Measures for land acquisition for the main plant area of the project have been initiated.

### Survey for Gauge Conversion

277. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has since given instructions for the early completion of the on-going surveys for gauge conversion between Ratangarh and Degana and between Ratangarh and Rewari as envisaged by him in the Budget speech;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) the time by which the above sections are likely to be converted into broad gauge and the diverted Jodhpur Mail restored to its four decades old earlier route ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) The survey for gauge conversions of the above lines has been taken up by Northern Railway on Priority. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report is received.

### Trunk Exchanges in U.P.

278. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of computerised trunk exchanges proposed to be started in Uttar Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to start remote line exchanges in U.P.

(c) if so, the details thereof with proposed location-wise; and

(d) the details of the telephone exchanges proposed to be expanded during 1997-98 in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Number of Computerised Trunk Manual Exchanges proposed to be started in Uttar Pradesh location-wise are as follows :

Lucknow	1 No.
Varanasi	1 No.
Gorakhpur	1 No.
Agra	1 No.
Ghaziabad	1 No.
Saharanpur	1 No.

Kanpur	1 No.
Allahabad	1 No.
Jhansi	1 No.
Dehradun	1 No.
Meerut	1 No.
Moradabad	1 No.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details as per Statement-I.

(d) Details of Telephone Exchanges proposed to be expanded during 1997-98 in the state are as per Statement-II

### Statement-I

*List of Remote line Exchanges tentatively proposed to be commissioned during 1997-98.*

S.No.	Name of Station	District	Capacity
1	2	3	4
1.	Behrana	Allahabad	2.0 K
2.	Jhansi	Allahabad	2.0 K
3.	Fatehpur	Barabanki	2.0 K
4.	Randauli	-do-	2.0 K
5.	Sirauliganspur	-do-	1.0 K
6.	Ayodhya	Faisabad	1.0 K
7.	Gosaiganj	-do-	2.0 K
8.	Gorakhanath	Gorakhpur	2.0 K
9.	Lajpat Nagar	Kanpur	2.0 K
10.	Panki Power House	-do-	1.0 K
11.	Shahganj	Agra	4.0 K
12.	Arahnagar	-do-	2.0 K
13.	Aligarh (Delhi Gate) Aligary	Aligarh	4.0 K
14.	Sasnigate	-do-	2.0 K
15.	Prem Nagar	Bareilly	2.0 K
16.	Subhash Nagar	-do-	1.0 K

1	2	3	4
17.	Transport Nagar	Bareilly	1.0 K
18.	University	-do-	1.0 K
19.	Bareilly Cantt	-do-	2.0 K
20.	Khurja	Ghaziabad	5.0 K
21.	Sikandrabad	-do-	2.0 K
22.	Govindpuram	-do-	3.0 K

**Statement-II**

*Details of Telephone Exchanges proposed to be expanded during 97-98.*

S. No.	Location	Net Capacity to equipment to be Added
1	2	3

**District : Allahabad**

1.	Ajuha	64
2.	Allahpur	1000 RLU
3.	Bharwari (Bisara)	576
4.	Jari	64
5.	Jasra	64
6.	Jhunsi	1632 256 P C-DOT 2
7.	Mau-Aima	704
8.	Sirsa	144 256 P C-DOT
Sub-Total :		4248

**District : Ambedkar Nagar**

9.	Akbarpur	1000
10.	Bariawan	64
11.	Bhiti	64
12.	Jahangiraganj	112 256 P C-DOT
13.	Nevda	64
14.	Rukumpur Kasimpur	64
15.	Surapur	64
Sub-Total :		1432

1	2	3
<b>District : Azamgarh</b>		
16.	Ahiraula	64
17.	Anjan Sahed	64
18.	Azamgarh	2000
19.	Azamgarh	2000
20.	Chandpatti	112 256 P C-DOT
21.	Kandharpur	64
22.	Kaptanganj	64
23.	Mehnagar	64
24.	Phoolpur	400
25.	Phoolpur	552
26.	Sardaha	64
27.	Thekma	64
Sub-Total :		5544

**District : Bahraich**

28.	Bahraich	2000
29.	Baundi	96 64 PMILT
30.	Bhinga	144 256 P C-DOT
31.	Bishesarganj	96 64 P MILT
32.	Chhitaure	96 64 P MILT
33.	Chilwaria	96 64 P MILT
34.	Gilaula	40 64 P MILT 2
35.	Girzapuri	64
36.	Kaiserganj	600
37.	Malhipur	96 64 P MILT
38.	Manpara	224 256 P C-DOT 2
39.	Manpara	400
40.	Mawabganj	64
41.	Payagpur	-8 256 P C-DOT 2
42.	Sheopur	64
Sub-Total :		4072

1	2	3
District : Ballia		
43.	Ballia	1000
44.	Ballia	1000
45.	Bangdih	160 256 P C-DOT
46.	Dokati	64
47.	J.P. Nagar	64
48.	Lalganj	96 64 P MILT
49.	Maniyar	96 256 P MILT
50.	Navratanpur	96 256 P MILT
51.	Rasra	272 512 P ILT-ESAX + 256 P
52.	Tola Siswan Rai	96 64 P MILT
53.	Ujjar Bharauli	96 64 P MILT
Sub-Total :		3040

## District : Banda

54.	Ainchwara	64
55.	Baberu	512 256 P C-DOT x 2 + 128 P
56.	Badausa	64
57.	Bhonri	64
58.	Bisanda	64
59.	Hardauni	64
60.	Kalinger	64
61.	Kamasin	64
62.	Kartal	64
63.	Karwi	400
64.	Karwi	256 256 P C-DOT x 2
65.	Khandeha	96 64 P MILT
66.	Khapatia	64
67.	Kiurahand	64
68.	Korrahi	64
69.	Motundh	8

1	2	3
70.	Oran	96 64 P MILT
71.	Pahari	96 64 P MILT
72.	Pailani	64
73.	Pihani	64
74.	Raipura	64
75.	Rajapur	96 128 P C-DOT+MILT x 2
76.	Shardiuwa	96 64 P MILT
77.	Singhpur	64
78.	Sivrampur	64
79.	Tindwari	88 256 P C-DOT
Sub-Total :		2760

## District : Barabanki

80.	Asandhara	112 256 P C-DOT
81.	Baranbanki	1000 RLU
82.	Buriwal	144 256 P C-DOT
83.	Dariabad	144 256 P C-DOT
84.	Deviganj	64
85.	Dewa	600
86.	Haridergarh	600
87.	Harakh	64
88.	Masauli	600
89.	Ram Sanahi Ghat	600
90.	Sadatgani	144 256 P C-DOT
91.	Safadarganj	144 256 P C-DOT
92.	Sidhaur	112 256 P C-DOT
93.	Sujanganj	64
94.	Tikaitnagar	144 256 P C-DOT
95.	Trilokpur	64
96.	Uduauli	144 256 P C-DOT
97.	Zaidpur	144 256 P C-DOT
Sub-Total :		4888

1	2	3
District : <b>Basti</b>		
98.	Baghnagar	64
99.	Basti	400
100.	Basti	164 2048 P ILT
101.	Bhanpur	64
102.	Chhawani	64
103.	Kalwari	64
104.	Maghar	96 64 P MILT
105.	Mehdawal	64
106.	Munderwa	96 64 P MILT
107.	Semariyawan	64
Sub-Total :		1140

District : <b>Bhadohi</b>		
108.	Basawapur	96 64 P MILT
109.	Bhadohi	1000
110.	Gyanpur	600
111.	Jangiganj	64
112.	Maharajganj	64
113.	Mamhar	64
114.	Modh	64
115.	Parsipur	144 256 P C-DOT
116.	Pearopur	64
Sub-Total :		2160

District : <b>Deoria</b>		
117.	Baghauch Ghat	64
118.	Bhaini	64
119.	Deoria	2000
120.	Deoria	1000
121.	Pratappur	64
122.	Sonauhla Ramnagar	64
Sub-Total :		3256

1	2	3
District : <b>Etawah</b>		
123.	Achalda	112 256 P C-DOT
124.	Auraiya	400
125.	Bela	64
126.	Bharthana	232 256 P C-DOT x 2
127.	Bharthana	400
128.	Etawah	3000 RLU
129.	Jaswant Nagar	464 512 P ILT + 256 P C-DOT
130.	Umrain	64
Sub-Total :		4736

District : <b>Faizabad</b>		
131.	Ayodhya	1000 1 K C-DOT
132.	Faizabad	600 RLU + 1.4 K C-DOT
133.	Gosaiganj	1616 512 P ILT
134.	Haiderganj	64
135.	Khajurahat	64
136.	Maya Bazar	64
137.	Rampur Bhajan	64
Sub-Total :		3472

District : <b>Farrukhabad</b>		
138.	Chhibramau	264 512 P ILT
139.	Chhibramau	64
140.	Farrukhabad	1000
141.	Farrukhabad	176 2048 P ILT
142.	Farrukhabad	1000
143.	Farrukhabad	64
144.	Fatehgarh	848 256 P C-DOT
145.	Indergarh	64
146.	Jalalabad	64
147.	Kaimganj	64



1	2	3
148.	Kamalganj	24 256 P C-DOT + 128 P C-DOT
149.	Kampil	64
150.	Kannauj	600 1.4 K C-DOT + 1 K C-DOT
151.	Mohamdabad	64
Sub-Total :		4360

## District : Fatehpur

152.	Bindki	408 ESAX
153.	Chaudagra	112 256 P C-DOT
154.	Fatehpur	400
155.	Fatehpur	700 C-DOT + NEAX
156.	Fatehpur	600
157.	Khaga	616 512 P ILT
158.	Thariyawan	64
Sub-Total :		2900

## District : Ghazipur

159.	Bahadurganj	64
160.	Barasara	64
161.	Bhadaura	64
162.	Bhimapur	64
163.	Dullahpur	64
164.	Gahamar	64
165.	Gangauli	64
166.	Ghazipur	1000 RLU
167.	Hansrajpur	64
168.	Jakhania	64
169.	Jangipur	64
170.	Karimuddinpur	64
171.	Kundesar	64
172.	Mardah	64
173.	Mohamdabad	568 256 P C-DOT

1	2	3
174.	Nandganj	160 256 P C-DOT
175.	Nonahara	64
176.	Saidpur	600
Sub-Total :		3224

## District : Gonda

177.	Arya Nagar	64
178.	Balrampur	448 1.4 K C-DOT+256 P C-DOT
179.	Colonelganj	448 256 P C-DOT
180.	Dumaria Deeh	96 65 P MILT
181.	Gonda	1000
182.	Gonda	0 ILT + 1 K + 1.2 K C-DOT
183.	Katra Bazar	64
184.	Khargupur	64
185.	Mankapur	400
186.	Paraspur	112 256 P C-DOT
187.	Rehra Bazar	64
Sub-Total :		2760

## District : Gorakhpur

188.	Barhalganj	216 256 P C-DOT
189.	Bhathat	112 256 P C-DOT
190.	Chauri Chaura	144 512 P ILT + 256 P C-DOT
191.	Compeerganj	96 64 P MILT
192.	Gorakhnath	2000
193.	Mahadeva Bazar	96 64 P MILT
194.	Mahuwa Dabar	96 64 P MILT
195.	Nai Bazar	96 64 P MILT
196.	Pali	64
197.	Sahjanwa	416 256 P C-DOT
198.	Uruwa Bazar	64
Sub-Total :		3400

1	2	3
District : <b>Hamirpur</b>		
199. Biwar	64	
200. Gohand	64	
201. Hamirpur	400	
202. Ichana	64	
203. Jaitpur	64	
204. Kurara	24 256 P + 128 P C-DOT	
205. Mavanijar	64	
206. Sarila	64	
207. Srinagar	64	
Sub-Total :		872
District : <b>Hardoi</b>		
208. Baghauli	96 64 P MILT	
209. Gopamau	64	
210. Hardoi	200 1.4 K + 1.2 K C-DOT	
211. Hardoi C	1048 256 P C-DOT	
212. Harpalpur	96 64 P MILT	
213. Madhoganj	144 256 P C-DOT	
214. Pali	64	
215. Sandi	64	
Sub-Total :		1776
District : <b>Jalaun</b>		
216. Aia	64	
217. Bangra	64	
218. Baoni (Kadaura)	64	
219. Jalaun	400	
220. Kalpi	448 256 P C-DOT	
221. Kotra	64	
222. Kuthaund	64	
223. Nadigaon	64	
224. Orai	296 NEAX + 1 K + 1.4 K + 256 P x 2	

1	2	3
225. Orai	1000	
226. Sami	64	
227. Umari	64	
Sub-Total :		2656
District : <b>Jaunpur</b>		
228. Jaunpur	1000	
229. Kerakat	600	
Sub-Total :		1600
District : <b>Jhansi</b>		
230. Baragaon	64	
231. Barua Sagar	816 256 P C-DOT	
232. Bhel	576	
233. Bijauli	824 2 x 128 P C-DOT	
234. Garauta	8 64 P MILT	
235. Garautha	144 256 P C-DOT	
236. Mauranipur	0 RLU	
237. Moth	616 256 P C-DOT x 2	
238. Parichha	616 512 P ILT	
239. Sakrar	64	
240. Samthar	64	
241. Singarra	64	
242. Todi Fatehpur	64	
Sub-Total :		3936
District : <b>Kanpur</b>		
243. Kalyanpur	0 CRLU	
244. Lajpatnagar	2000	
245. Panki I.A.	500 CRLU	
246. Panki Power House	1000	
247. Vishnupuri	2000	
Sub-Total :		5500

1	2	3
District : <b>Kanpur Dehat</b>		
248. Akbarpur	112 256 P C-DOT	
249. Araul	96 64 P MILT	
250. Bhitargaon	64	
251. Bilhaur	576	
252. Ghatampur	24 256 P C-DOT + 128 P C-DOT	
253. Musanagar	56	
254. Marval	64	
255. Sarsaul	64	
256. Sikendra	64	
Sub-Total	1120	

District : **Lakhimpur**

257. Aira	64	
258. Aliganj	96 64 P MILT	
259. Bankeyganj	64	
260. Behjam	64	
261. Gola	400	
262. Isa Nagar	64	
263. Jasnagar	96 64 P MILT	
264. Kabirganj	96 64 P MILT	
265. Lakhimpur	1000	
266. Lakhimpur	1000	
267. Lakhimpur	388 512 P C-DOT+256 P C-DOT	
268. Nighasan	112 256 P C-DOT	
269. Phardhan	56	
270. Phool Behar	96 64 P MILT	
271. Piparia Dhani	96 64 P MILT	
272. Sharda Nagar	64	
**Sub-Total**	3986	

1	2	3
<b>**Distt : Lalitpur</b>		
273. Bansi	64	
274. Jakhaura	864 P MILT	
275. Jakhlaun	96 MILT	
276. Lalitpur	400	
277. Lalitpur	100 NEAX + 1.4K C-DOT	
278. Lalitpur	704	
279. Lalitpur	1000	
280. Mehrauni	56 128 P C-DOT + 256 P C-DOT	
281. Pali	64	
282. Rajghat	64	
**Sub-Total**	2556	

**\*\*Distt : Lucknow**

283. Ganga Sichai Puram	1000	
284. Indira Nagar	0 RLU	
285. Malihabad	-88 512 P ILT	
286. Rajajipuram	2000	
287. T.P. Nagar	2000	
**Sub-Total**	4912	

**\*\*Distt : Maharajganj**

288. Brijmanganj	56	
289. Kolhji	120 256 P C-DOT	
290. Maharajganj	88 256 P C-DOT	
291. Paniyara	64	
292. Puranderpur	64	
293. Siswa Bazar	520 256 P C-DOT	
294. Thootibari	96 64P MILT	
**Sub-Total**	1008	

1	2	3
<b>**Distt : Mahoba</b>		
295. Mahoba		368 ESAX
<b>**Sub-Total**</b>		368
<b>**Distt : Mainpuri</b>		
296. Aryanpur Khora		64
297. Bhogaon		616 2 x ESAX
298. Kathsori		96 64P MILT
299. Kishani		64
300. Nagla Gulal		64
301. Shikohabad		400 1.4 K C-DOT + 256 P C-DOT
302. Shikohabad		1000
<b>**Sub-Total**</b>		2304
<b>**Distt : Mau</b>		
303. Ghosi		440 256 P C-DOT
304. Kurthi Jafarpur		64
305. Mau		1000
306. Mau		1000
307. Mau		1000
308. Rajanpur		96 64 P MILT
<b>**Sub-Total**</b>		3600
<b>Distt : Mirzapur</b>		
309. Chunar		600
310. Imilia Chatti		64
311. Jamalpur		64
312. Kailahat		64
313. Mirzapur		1000
<b>Sub-Total **</b>		1792
<b>**Distt : Padrauna</b>		
314. Ramkola		144 256 P C-DOT
<b>** Sub-Total**</b>		144

1	2	3
<b>**Distt : Pratapgarh</b>		
315. Anioo		64
316. Diwanganj		64
317. Fatahpur		64
318. Garhi Manikpur		64
319. Kohdour		96 64 P MILT
320. Mandhata		64
321. Pithviganj		64
322. Pratapgarh		1000
323. Raniganj		112 256 P C-DOT
224. Raniganj Kanth		64
225. Sangipur		64
326. Sangramgarh		64
<b>**Sub-Total</b>		1784
<b>**Distt : Rae Bareli</b>		
327. Dalmau		112 256 P C-DOT
328. Deeh		96 64 P MILT
329. Harchandpur		64
330. Hathgaon		64
331. Krajuha		64
332. Nasirabad		64
333. Raebareli		1000
334. Saraini		64
335. Semari		64
336. Semrauta		96 64 P MILT
337. Shah		96 64 P MILT
338. Shivgarh		96 64 P MILT
<b>** Sub-Total**</b>		1880
<b>**Distt : Shahjahanpur</b>		
339. Khudaganj		64
340. Powayan		464 512 P ILT + 256 P C-DOT

1	2	3
341.	Shahjahanpur	1500
342.	Shahjahanpur	2000
343.	Sheramau	64
344.	Sindhauri	64
<b>**Sub-Total**</b>		<b>4156</b>

**\*\*Distt : Siddharth Nagar**

345.	Bansi	600
346.	Dumariaganj	600
347.	Itwa Bazar	104 ESAX
348.	Sohrajgarh	64
<b>**Sub-Total**</b>		<b>1368</b>

**\*\*Distt : Sitapur**

349.	Biswan	664 512 P ILT
350.	Laharpur	664 256 PC-DOT x 2
352.	Machhrehtha	64
353.	Meemsar	56 256 P C-DOT + 128 P C-DOT
354.	Sidhauli	616 512 P ILT
355.	Sittapur	344 256 P C-DOT x 3
356.	Sitapur	1000
357.	Sitapur	1000
<b>**Sub-Total**</b>		<b>4672</b>

**Distt : Sonabhadra**

358.	Anpara	400
359.	Bina	64
360.	Chopan	64
361.	Churk	56
362.	Madhupur	64
363.	Raigarh	64
364.	Robertsganj	400
365.	Shahganj	64
<b>**Sub-Total**</b>		<b>1176</b>

1	2	3
<b>Distt : Sultanpur</b>		
366.	Aliganj	96 64P MILT
367.	Badhukala	64
368.	Chanda	64
369.	Dammaur	64
370.	Gosaiganj	64
371.	J.I.A.	600
372.	Kakwa	64
373.	Katra Khanpur	64
374.	Sukul Bazar	96 64 P MILT
375.	Sultanpur	1000
376.	Sultanpur	1500
<b>**Sub-Total**</b>		<b>3676</b>

**\*\*Distt : Unnao**

377.	Achalganj	64
378.	Ajgain	64
379.	Bara	64
380.	Bhagwant Ngr.	64
381.	Bighapur	64
382.	Chakalbansi	64
383.	F-84	64
384.	Ganj Moradabad	64
385.	Miyaganj	64
386.	Sikendarpur Karan	64
387.	Sumerpur	64
388.	Thana	64
389.	UGU	64
390.	Unchagaon	64
391.	Unnao	1000 RLU
<b>**Sub-Total**</b>		<b>1896</b>

1	2	3
Distt : <b>Varansi</b>		
392. Ayar	64	
393. Baburi	64	
394. Barahuli	96 64 P MILT	
395. Chahania	64	
396. Chandauli	-72 256 P C-DOT x 2	
397. Chaubeypur	64	
398. Dhanapur	64	
399. Gorai Bazar	64	
400. Jagatpur	64	
401. Jansa	64	
402. Kamalpur	64	
403. Kotwa	64	
404. Mirzamured	64	
405. Naugarh	64	
406. Paharia	0 RLU	
407. Phoolpur	64	
408. Ramnagar City	600	
409. Sadalpura	64	
410. Sindhora	64	
<b>**Sub-Total**</b>		<b>1584</b>
<b>**Total</b>		<b>117484</b>

### Uttar Pradesh (West) Telecom Circle

*Details of Exchanges proposed to be extended during 1997-98*

S.No.	Name of Station	Name of Project
1	2	3
<b>Agra</b>		
1.	Ferozabad	Expn. of E-10B 8 K 8 K replacing 6 K RLU
2.	Tax Bhawan	Expn. of E-10B 11 K 12 K
3.	Agra Tax Bldg.	Expn. of EWSD 10 K 14 K

1	2	3
4.	Ferozabad	Expn. of E-10B 8 K 8 K
5.	Transport Nagar	Expn. of RLU 2 K 3 K
6.	Kheragarh	Expn. of C-DOT 612 P IK
7.	Fatehabad	Expn. of C-DOT 612 P IK
8.	Tundla	Expn. of C-DOT IK 14 K
9.	Shamshabad	128 Lines
10.	Saitpur Kalan	128 Lines
11.	Babuhahir	128 Lines
12.	Radat Nagar	128 Lines
13.	Anwal Khera	128 Lines
14.	Barhan	128 Lines
15.	Bichpuri	128 Lines
16.	Akola	128 Lines
17.	Dhimshri	128 Lines
18.	Khandoli	128 Lines
<b>Aligarh</b>		
1.	Atrauli	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P & 256 P by LM
2.	Sikandrabad	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P & 256 P by LMI
3.	Kasimpur	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P & 256 P by LMI
4.	Khair	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P & 256 P by LMI
5.	Andala	128 Lines
6.	Beswan	128 Lines
7.	Gabhana	128 Lines
8.	Cromat	128 Lines
9.	Hasaian	128 Lines
10.	Jalali	128 Lines
<b>Bareilly</b>		
1.	Rajinder Nagar	Expn. of RLU 4 K 6 K
2.	Aliganj	128

1	2	3
3.	Deorania	128
4.	Bhuriyan	128
5.	Nawabganj	128
6.	Rithaur	128
7.	Senthal	128
8.	Bhuta	128
9.	Kesarpur	128
10.	Deorania	128
<b>Dehradun</b>		
1.	Dilaram Bazar	Expn. of RSU 2 K 3 K
2.	Krishnanagar	Expn. of RSU 3 K 5 K
3.	Dilaram Bazar	Expn. of RSU 3 K 4 K
4.	Nathuwala	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P 1 K
5.	Doiwala	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P 1 K
6.	Prem Nagar	Expn. of C-DOT 1 K 1.4 K
7.	Doiwala	Expn. of C-DOT 1 K 1.4 K
8.	Chakrata	128 Lines
9.	Laltapapar	128 Lines
10.	Nayagaon	128 Lines
11.	Raiwala	128 Lines
12.	Ranipokhri	128 Lines
13.	Saiya	128 Lines
14.	Selakui	128 Lines
15.	Koil	128 Lines
16.	Shyampur	128 Lines
<b>Mathura</b>		
1.	Krishna Nagar	Expn. of RLU 1 K 3 K
2.	Krishna Nagar	Expn. of RLU 2 K 3 K
3.	Township	Expn. of RLU 1 K 2 K
4.	Sadabad	Expn. of RLU C-DOT 1.4 K
5.	Bajna	128

1	2	3
6.	Chhotikara	128
7.	Mugarra	128
8.	Navjheel	128
9.	Patlauni	128
10.	Sonkh	128
<b>Moradabad</b>		
1.	Sonakpur	Expn. of RLU 1 K to 2 K
2.	Delhi Rd Majhola	Expn. of 1 K to 2 K RLU
3.	Behjoi	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P IK
4.	Kanth	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P IK
5.	Thankurdwara	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P IK
6.	Pakwara	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P IK
7.	Amroha	Expn. of 512 PUM by UMI
8.	Hasanpur	Expn. of 512 PUM by UMI
9.	Dhanaura	Expn. of 512 PUMII by UMI
10.	Pajgementpur	128
11.	Bilari	Expn. of C-DOT 1 K 1.4 K
12.	Sarkarimandi	128
13.	Jamunakhas	128
14.	Rajabpur	128
15.	Sirsi	128
16.	Asmou	128
17.	Kailsa	128
18.	Surjan Nagar	128
19.	Narau	128
20.	Raja Ka Majhola	128
<b>Almora</b>		
1.	Almora	Expn. from 2 K to 8 K
2.	Dharchula	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P IK
3.	Bharari	128
4.	Someshwar	128

1	2	3
5.	Tarikhet	128
6.	Bhatraj Khan	128
7.	Jhulaghat	128
<b>Bijnore</b>		
1.	Bijnore	Expn. of C-DOT 2 K 4 K
2.	Nehtaur	Expn. of C-DOT 512 1 K
3.	Kiratpur	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P 1 K
4.	Nagina	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P 1 K
5.	Raipur Sadat	128 Lines
6.	Ganj	128 Lines
7.	Barahpur	128 Lines
8.	Chandak	128 Lines
9.	Guhawar	128 Lines
10.	Jhalu	128 Lines
11.	Sahaspur	128 Lines
12.	Gujraula Shive	128
<b>Etah</b>		
1.	Ganjdundwara	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P 1 K
2.	Aliganj	Expn. of C-DOT 512 1 K
3.	Jalesar	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P 1 K
4.	Etah	Expn. of C-DOT 2.4 K-2.1 K
5.	Sakeet	128 Lines
6.	Jaithara	128 Lines
7.	Amapur	128 Lines
8.	Unchgaon	128 Lines
9.	Mareh	128 Lines
10.	Wagusu	128 Lines
11.	Nioli	128 Lines
12.	Patiyali	128 Lines
13.	Sidhpur	128 Lines
14.	Nidhaulikalan	128 Lines

1	2	3
<b>District : Ghaziabad</b>		
1.	Noida Sector 19	Expn. of EWSD 15 K – 17 K
2.	Noida Sector 18	Expn. of EWSD 17 K – 22 K
3.	Shadhra East	Expn. of ESWD 0 K to 10 K
4.	Rajinder Nagar	Expn. of RSU 2 K – 4 K
5.	Rajinder Nagar	Expn. of RSU 4 K – 6 K
6.	Hapur	Expn. of NEC 7 K – 10 K
7.	Modi Nagar	Expn. of NEC 5 K – 7 K
8.	Bulandshahar	Expn. of NEC 5 K – 8 K
9.	Pilkhuwa	Expn. of RSU 3 K – 6 K
10.	Moradnagar	Expn. of RSU 2 K – 3 K
11.	Sikandrabad	Expn. of RSU 3 K – 3 K
12.	Khurja	Expn. of RSU 5 K – 6 K
13.	Nehru Nagar	Expn. of RSU 5 K – 7 K
14.	Dadri	Expn. of RLU 2 K – 3 K
15.	Noida Sector 39	Expn. of RLU 5 K – 10 K
16.	Kaushambi	Expn. of RLU 5 K – 7 K
17.	Pratab Vihar	Expn. of RLU 3 K – 5 K
18.	Loni	Expn. of RLU 1 K – 3 K
19.	Shikarpur	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P – 1 K
20.	Debai	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P – 1 K
21.	Siyana	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P – 1 K
22.	Jahangirabad	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P – 1 K
23.	Narora	Expn. of C-DOT 1 K – 1.4 K
24.	Farukhnagar	128 Lines
25.	Rauli	128 Lines
26.	Mandinshyamnagar	128 Lines
27.	Shahakarinagar	128 Lines
28.	Agota	128 Lines
29.	Belon	128 Lines
30.	Makhena	128 Lines



1	2	3
31.	Jargaon	128 Lines
32.	Karanwas	128 Lines
33.	Bibiyana	128 Lines
34.	Karora	128 Lines
35.	B.B. Nagar	128 Lines
36.	Bugrasi	128 Lines
37.	Khanpur	128 Lines
38.	Anoopshahar	128 Lines
39.	Dankaur	128 Lines
40.	Chhoias	128 Lines
41.	Bahadurgarh	128 Lines
42.	Faridnagar	128 Lines
43.	Patala	128 Lines
44.	Chhatari	128 Lines
<b>District : Srinagar</b>		
1.	Uttarkashi	Expan. of C-DOT 1.4 K-2 K
2.	Kotdwar	Expan. of C-DOT 3 K - 4 K
3.	Srinagar	Expan. of C-DOT 1.4 K-2 K
4.	B. Puram	Expan. of C-DOT 512 P-1 K
5.	Lansdown	Expan. of C-DOT 512 P-1 K
6.	Rudraprayag	Expan. of C-DOT 512 P-1 K
7.	Joshimath	Expan. of C-DOT 512 P-1 K
8.	Bhatwari	128 Lines
9.	Dunda	128 Lines
10.	Gairsain	128 Lines
11.	Lambgondi	128 Lines
12.	Narayannagar	128 Lines
13.	Naugoankhal	128 Lines
14.	Pipalkoti	128 Lines
15.	Pokhri	128 Lines
16.	Tharali	128 Lines

1	2	3
17.	Ranichauri	128 Lines
18.	Hindola Khal	128 Lines
19.	Mayapur	128 Lines
<b>District : Sharanpur</b>		
1.	Shivalik Nagar	Expn. of RLU 2 K - 3 K
2.	Deoband	Expn. of RLU 2 K - 3 K
3.	Mangalore	Expn. of C-DOT 1 K - 1.4 K
4.	Rampur Maniharan	128 Lines
<b>District : Nainital</b>		
1.	Nainital	Expn. of C-DOT 3 K - 4 K
2.	Lalpur	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P - 1 K
3.	Tanakpur	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P - 1 K C-DOT
4.	Lalkhan	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P - 1 K C-DOT
5.	Shaktifarm	128 lines
6.	Bhajwanagla	128 lines
7.	Kelakhera	128 lines
8.	Kotabagh	128 lines
9.	Bailparao	128 lines
10.	Kaladhungi	128 lines
11.	Dineshpur	128 lines
12.	Sisaya	128 lines
13.	Shanipuri	128 lines
14.	Pipalya	128 lines
<b>District : Rampur</b>		
1.	Budaun	Expn. of C-DOT 2.4 K - 4 K
2.	Pilibhit	Expn. of C-DOT 1 K - 2 K
3.	Milak	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P - 1 K
4.	Bisalpur	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P - 1 K
5.	Puranpur	Expn. of C-DOT 1 K - 1.4 K
6.	Ujhani	Expn. of C-DOT 1 K - 1.4 K

1	2	3
7.	Bhot	128 lines
8.	Gunnour	128 lines
9.	Alapur	128 lines
10.	Udaikakranpur	128 lines
11.	Saidpura	128 lines

**District : Meerut**

1.	Boundary Road	Expn. of EWSD 10 K – 18 K
2.	Brahampuri	Expn. of E-10B (M) 20 – 22 K
3.	Ganganagar	Expn. of RLU 1 K – 2 K
4.	Pallavpuram	Expn. of RLU 2 K – 9 K
5.	Shastrinagar	Expn. of RLU 10 K – 11 K
6.	Chhapravli	Expn. of C-DOT 512 P – 1 K
7.	Bamnauli	128 lines
8.	Daha	128 lines
9.	Debthuwa	128 lines
10.	Dhanora	128 lines
11.	Lawar	128 lines
12.	Saroorpur Khurd	128 lines

**District Muzaffarnagar**

1.	Shn. Bus Stand	Expn. of RLU 1 K – 2 K
2.	Gandhi Colony	Expn. of RLU 2 K – 3 K
3.	Jansath	Expn. of 512 P – 1 K
4.	Begrajpur	Expn. of 512 P – 1 K
5.	Kandhla	Expn. of 512 P – 1 K
6.	Shahpur	Expn. of 512 P – 1 K
7.	Miranpur	Expn. of 512 P – 1 K
8.	Garhipukhta	Expn. of 512 P – 1 K
9.	Budhana	Expn. of C-DOT 1 K – 1.4 K
10.	Barla	128 lines
11.	Hasanpur Luhari	128 lines
12.	Basera	128 lines

1	2	3
13.	Chausana	128 lines
14.	Nawal	128 lines
15.	Unn	128 lines
16.	Chappar	128 lines
17.	Rohana	128 lines
18.	Kakrauli	128 lines
19.	Morna	128 lines
20.	Babri	128 lines
21.	Baghra	128 lines

[Translation]

**Low Powered Doordarshan Kendras  
in Bihar**

279. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of low powered Doordarshan Kendras in Bihar which are not functioning satisfactorily at present;

(b) the details of existing transmission range along with their capacity;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase their transmission range ?

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) At present, thirteen Low Power TV transmitters (LPTs) are reported to be not functioning satisfactorily in the State of Bihar.

(b) The existing LPTs (100/300 watt), operating on UHF/VHF frequency band, have a range of about 15-25 Kms inclusive of fringe service areas where elevated antennae and boosters are required for satisfactory service.

(c) to (e) the existing Low Power TV transmitters at Motihari, Jamshedpur and Deoghar are envisaged to be replaced by High Power TV transmitters subject to approval of the schemes by competent authority, availability of resources and infrastructural facilities.

[English]

### Shortage of Power in Kerala

280. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of about the major Power cut in Kerala;

(b) if so, the percentage of power cut during last one year till date;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to overcome the crisis;

(d) the details of power projects submitted by the Government of Kerala and the target date of their clearance;

(e) whether the Government propose to clear Pooyamkutty project and Power Generation Projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) has

imposed 100% power cut in all EHT industries with effect from 9.6.1997. The power cut on HT and LT industries is 75% w.e.f. 12.6.1997. Now KSEB has relaxed power cut from 100% to 70% on all EHT industries from 1.7.1997.

(b) Details of power cuts in Kerala during last on year (July 1996 to June 1997) are given in the Statement attached.

(c) The Central Government has increased allocation of power of Kerala from 15% unallocated central sector generation in Southern Region from the level of 30% in May, 1997 to 50% on 12.6.1997. It was further increased to 65% on 1.7.1997.

(d) Only one project (Adirapally HEP – 2 x 80 MW) submitted to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has been cleared on 22.4.1996 subject to approval by Ministry of Environment and Forest. No other project is pending with CEA. However, seven schemes received from Kerala have been returned for want of various inputs like fuel and transport linkage.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forest has constituted a Committee in October, 1996 for indepth analysis of Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project. The Committee is yet to give its report.

### Statement

*The details of power cut in Kerala during the last one year (July 1996 to June 1997) are as follows :*

Period	Detail of energy cut/power cut
1	2
July, 1996 till date	Half an hour cyclic load shedding during evening peak hours from 1830 Hrs. to 2130 Hrs. throughout the year.
July, 1996	Power cut on HT consumers – 70% from 27.6.1996. Energy cut on HT consumers – 50% from 15.6.1997.
August, 1996	Energy cut on HT consumers – 30% from 1.8.1996.
September to December, 1996	Energy cut on HT and EHT consumers – 30%.
January, 1997	Energy cut of 30% on EHT and HT consumers having more than 10 KW load from 1.1.1997.
February and March, 1997	1. Energy cut of 30% on EHT and LT non-domestic consumers having more than 100 KVA load from 1.8.1996. 2. Energy cut of 30% on LT industrial consumers having connected load above 10 KW from 15.1.1997.

1

2

April and May, 1997

1. Energy cut of 50% on EHT, HT and LT non-domestic consumers having than 100 KVA load from 18.3.1997.

2. Energy cut of 50% on LT industrial consumers having connected load above 10 KW from 18.3.1997.

June, 1997

1. Energy cut of 30% on EHT and LT non-domestic and commercial consumers having more than 100 KVA load upto 8.6.1996.

2. Energy cut of 100% on EHT, HT and LT consumers having connected load above 10 KW from 9.6.1997 which has reduced to 75% on HT and LT consumers from 17.6.1997 and to 70% on all EHT industries from 1.7.1997.

#### Linking of International Airports with Railway Stations

281. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :  
KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO :  
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has decided to link the International Airports of all the major cities with the nearest railway station;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are planning to open booking offices at the Airports in order to mitigate the inconvenience being faced by the foreign tourists;

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

(d) whether the Railways have special quota for passengers paying in hard currency and the country's airports are expected to aid optimum utilisation of berths set aside for foreign tourists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Computerised reservation counters are available at the Delhi and Madras airports. Manual reservation facilities alongwith quotas in some selected trains have been provided at Calcutta airport. There is no other proposal under consideration.

(d) and (e) Depending upon the requirement, a few berths in various trains have been earmarked as Foreign Tourist Quota which is allotted to foreign tourists paying

in hard currency. With the provision of computerised reservation facility at airports, the utilisation of this quota is likely to pick up.

#### Installation of Heating System at AIR, Leh

282. SHRI P. NAMGAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the time by when the heating system of AIR, Leh was installed and the name of the Company to whom the contract was awarded;

(b) whether the system was non-functional from the day when it was supposed to be made functional;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the contractor was paid amount without commissioning the heating system;

(e) if so, the details of the payment made therefor, and the officer held responsible for making full payment to contractor; and

(f) the action taken against the guilty officials ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The heating system of AIR, Leh Transmitter was installed in October, 1991. The equipment of Heating Plant was supplied by M/s Delta T. Systems.

The Heating system at studios of AIR, Leh was installed in November, 1983 and the plant was supplied by M/s Bluestar Ltd.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) Does not arise.

#### **Scheduled Tribes Vacant Posts**

283. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the posts meant for scheduled tribes are lying vacant under different categories in the Ministry; State-wise;

(b) whether persons belonging to other castes have been working against those posts;

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

(d) the action taken by the Government to fill up the total backlog ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

#### **Development of Wind Energy**

284. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :  
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :

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

(a) whether any schemes has been formulated for the development of wind energy in view of the acute shortage of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up research centres for the development of wind energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount estimated to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) A total wind power capacity of 900 MW has been installed in the country. Over two billion units of electricity have so far been generated and fed to the grid from these projects. Wind power installation have come about mainly through private sector investments. Government support has been by way of wind resource assessment and demonstration projects

aggregating to 50 MW undertaken by State agencies and Electricity Boards.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has decided to establish a Wind Power Systems Development and Test Centre to undertake R&D, testing and to serve as the technical focal point for wind power development in the country. A Wind Turbine Test Station will be set up as an integral part of the Centre. Technical and partial financial support for the Test Station will be provided by the Government of Denmark. An amount of about Rs. 10 crore is likely to be incurred in the establishment of the Station.

[Translation]

#### **Construction of Railway Line**

285. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to construct railway line in the Adivasi areas of the country which have Mineral Wealth in huge quantity such as Garchilori in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several lines are under construction in the Adivasi areas of the country which have mineral wealth. These include Daitari-Banspani, Khurda Road-Bolangir. Construction of Dallirajahara-Jagdulpur line in such a area has also been approved and would be taken up in the coming years. As regards Garchilori, a survey for a new line from Wadsa to Garchilori has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

#### **Funds to Bihar for Employment Assurance Scheme**

286. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for non-availability of funds for district Begusarai in Bihar under the Employment Assurance Scheme during the current year; and

(b) the efforts being made to ensure that the funds are made available to the State timely ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Proposal for release of Central assistance under Employment Assurance Scheme has not been received for the current year from district Begusarai in Bihar. Central assistance is released only upon receipt of proposal from the district concerned indicating block-wise progress of expenditure and utilisation certificate in respect of the previous release.

The utilisation and releases are monitored periodically and State Governments reminded to submit the utilisation certificates and proposals for release of funds.

**Misues of Funds Allocated for Poverty Alleviation**

287. SHRI JAI PRAKASH HARDOI :  
SHRI CHITTA BASU :  
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that funds meant for poverty alleviation programme are being misused;

(b) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken to check the same;

(c) whether the Government propose to revamp antipoverty programmes during Ninth Plan;

(d) if so, the broad feature of the proposal;

(e) whether the Committee instituted to review and rationalise the schemes for poverty alleviation and employment generation has since submitted its report;

(f) if so, the main features of the report; and

(g) the main recommendations thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The schemes are being mentioned regularly by the Centre and State Govts. through monthly, quarterly & annual progress received from the implementing agencies and the spot visits of Senior Officers of the Ministries under Area Officers Schemes. A system of checks & balances is built in various schemes so that the funds meant for the scheme are properly utilised.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. The main features of the report regarding Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) are :

- (i) The quantum of subsidy by standardised for all individual beneficiaries at Rs. 7500/-
- (ii) The projects cost for individual beneficiaries sponsored under IRDP should range within the investment of Rs. 25,000/- to 50,000/-
- (iii) Effect should be made to move away from individual beneficiary approach to a group approach.
- (iv) It has also been recommended that Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Toolkits Programme should be merged with IRDP which are hitherto separate sub-schemes.

Ministry is seriously considering to take action on such issues.

[Translation]

**Power Generation Capacity of Hydel Power Projects**

288. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power generation capacity of hydel power projects in Maharashtra in megawatts;

(b) the State-wise names of hydel power projects sanctioned by Union Government so far;

(c) the number of Indian and Foreign firms which have invested in these projects;

(d) the names of projects for which applications from State Governments have been received; and

(e) the State-wise number of projects accorded approval during 1995-96 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The total power generating capacity of hydel power projects in Maharashtra is tentatively 1785.22 MW as on 31.3.1997.

(b) The state-wise hydel power projects sanctioned by the Union Government so far is at the attached Statement-I.

(c) M/s Jai Prakash Industries Limited have invested in Baspa Stage-II (3 x 100 MW) and Vishnu Prayag (4 x 100 MW) Hydroelectric Projects and M/s Maheshwar Hydel Power Corporation have invested in Maheshwar (10 x 40 MW) hydroelectric project.

(d) and (e) The names of projects for which applications from State Government have been received is at attached Statement-II and III.

### Statement-I

*State-wise details of Hydel Power Projects sanctioned by Union Government*

Sl. Region/State/Station	Likely Installed Capacity (MW) (As on 31.3.98)
1	2
3	
<b>Northern Region</b>	
<b>CENTRAL/COMMON</b>	
<b>BBMB</b>	
1. Bhakra (L&R)	1200.00
2. Gangwal & Kotla	154.50
3. Denar	990.00
4. Pong	360.00
<b>TOTAL BBMB</b>	<b>2704.50</b>
<b>NHPC</b>	
1. Baira Siul	180.00
2. Salal St. I (J&K)	345.00
3. Salal St. II (J&K)	345.00
4. Tanakpur (UP)	120.00
5. Chamera St. I (UP)	540.00
6. Uri (J&K)	360.00
<b>SUB TOTAL NHPC</b>	<b>1890.00</b>
<b>TOTAL CENTRAL</b>	<b>4620.30</b>
<b>HARYANA</b>	
1. Western Yamuna Canal-PH A	16.00
2. Western Yamuna Canal-PH B	16.00
3. Western Yamuna Canal-PH C	16.00
<b>TOTAL HARYANA</b>	<b>48.00</b>

1	2	3
<b>JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR</b>		
1. Lower Jhelum		105.00
2. Upper Sindh-I		22.00
3. Ganderbal		15.00
4. Chenani		23.30
5. Mohara		9.00
6. Stakna & Kargil		7.75
<b>TOTAL J&amp;K</b>		<b>182.05</b>
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b>		
1. Giri Bata		
2. Bassi		
3. Binwa		6.00
4. Andhra		16.95
5. Banjaya		120.00
6. Thiroth		4.50
7. Gaj		10.00
8. Baner		12.00
<b>TOTAL H.P.</b>		
<b>PUNJAB</b>		
1. Shanan		110.00
2. UBDC I & II		91.35
3. Mukerian		
4. AP Sahib		
<b>TOTAL PUNJAB</b>		
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>		
1. RP Sagar		172.00
2. Jawahar Sagar		99.00
3. Mahibajaj I & II		140.00
4. Annopgarh I & II		9.00
5. Suratgarh		4.00
6. Mangrol		6.00
<b>TOTAL RAJASTHAN</b>		<b>430.00</b>

1	2	3
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>		
1.	Rihand	
2.	Obra	
3.	Dhakrani	33.75
4.	Dhalpur	51.00
5.	Kulhal	30.00
6.	Chibro	240.00
7.	Ramganga	198.00
8.	Chilla	144.00
9.	Matatila	30.00
10.	Khatima	41.40
11.	Ganga Canal	45.20
12.	Khodri-I	120.00
13.	Maheri Bhali	90.00
14.	Khara	72.00
<b>TOTAL (NR)</b>		<b>7602.00</b>

**WESTER REGION  
GUJARAT**

1.	Ukai	300.00
2.	Ukai LBC	5.00
3.	Kadana (PSS)	240.00
<b>TOTAL GUJARAT</b>		<b>545.00</b>

**MADHYA PRADESH**

1.	Gandhi Sagar	115.00
2.	Bargi	90.00
3.	Pench	160.00
4.	Ban Sagar Tons	315.00
5.	Birsinghpur	20.00
6.	Hasdeo Bango	120.00
<b>TOTAL M.P.</b>		<b>820.00</b>

1	2	3
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>		
<b>TATA HYDRO</b>		
1.	Bhira	132.00
2.	Bhira (PSS)	150.00
3.	Bhivpuri	72.00
4.	Khopili	72.00
<b>TOTAL TATA HYDRO</b>		<b>426.00</b>

**MSEB**

1.	Koyana St. I & II	560.00
2.	Koyana St. III	320.00
3.	Koyana DPH	40.00
4.	Vaitarna & Dam PH	62.00
5.	Eldari	23.00
6.	Veer	2.00
7.	Bhatnagar	16.00
8.	Paithon (PSS)	12.00
9.	Tillari	60.00
10.	Bhira Tail	80.00
11.	Bhandardhara	10.00
12.	Pawana	10.00
13.	Radhanagari	5.00
14.	Khadakavasla I & II	16.00
15.	Bhatsa	15.00
16.	Kanher	4.00
17.	Ujjaini	12.00
18.	Surya	6.00
19.	Manikdoh	6.00
20.	Dhom (Warna)	2.00
21.	Dimbhe	5.00
22.	Bhandarhra II	34.00
23.	Varna	16.00



1	2	3
24.	Dudhganga	24.00
25.	Karanjvan	3.00
SUB TOTAL MSEB		1350.00
TOTAL MAHARASHTRA		1776.00
TOTAL WESTERN REGION		3141.00

SOUTHERN REGION  
ANDHRA PRADESH

1.	Machkind	120.00
2.	TB Dam & Ramp I	72.00
3	Upper Sileru I & II	360.00
4.	Donkarani	25.00
5.	Lower Sileru	460.00
6.	Srisailam	770.00
7.	Nagarjuna Sagar (PSS)	815.60
8.	N. Sagar (RBC)	91.80
9.	N. Sagar (LBC)	61.20
10.	Penna Ahobilam	20.00
11.	Poonampadu	27.00
12.	Nizam Sagar	10.00
13.	Singur	15.00
TOTAL A.P.		2847.60

KARNATAKA  
(KPCL)

1.	Sharavathy	1035.00
2.	Linganamakki	55.00
3.	Varahi	230.00
4.	Mani Dam PH	9.00
5.	Bhadra	33.20
6.	Kalinadi	825.00
7.	Supa Dam PH	100.00
8.	Ghatprabha	32.00
9.	Mallapur	9.00
10.	Kadra	50.00
11.	Kodasali	40.00
SUB TOTAL KPCL		2418.20

1	2	3
KEB		
1.	Jog	120.00
2.	Shivasamugram	42.00
3.	Shimsapura	17.20
4.	Manirabad	27.00
SUB TOTAL KEB		206.20

1.	Shivpur (Pvt. Ltd.)	18.00
TOTAL KARNATAKA		2642.40

KERALA .(KSEB)

1.	Kuttiadi	75.00
2.	Sholayar	54.00
3.	Poringalkuthu	32.00
4.	Pallivasal	37.50
5.	Bengulam	48.00
6.	Panniar	30.00
7.	Nariamangalam	45.00
8.	Iddukki	780.00
9.	Sabaragiri	300.00
10.	Idamalayar	75.00
11.	Khallada	15.00
12.	Kakkad	50.00
13.	Pappara	3.00
14.	Lower Periyar	180.00
15.	Mallarupaba	2.50
TOTAL KSEB		1727.00

1.	Manniar (Pvt.)	12.00
TOTAL KERALA		1739.00

TAMIL NADU

1.	Pykara	70.00
2.	Moyar	36.00

1	2	3
3.	Kundah IV	566.00
4.	Mettur Dam & Tunnel	240.00
5.	Lower Mettur	120.00
6.	Periyar	140.00
7.	Suriliyar	35.00
8.	Papanasam	28.00
9.	Servalar	20.00
10.	Sarkarpathy	30.00
11.	Aliyar	60.00
12.	Kadamparai (PSS)	400.00
13.	Sholyar I & II	95.00
14.	Kodayar I & II	100.00
15.	Sathnur	7.50
16.	Lower Bhawani (RBC)	8.00
17.	SMALL HYDRO	18.00
	(a) Pyakara Dam	
	(b) Bhawani Sagar	
	(c) Vaigai	
	(d) Poonadri	
TOTAL TAMIL NADU		1962.50
TOTAL SOUTHERN REGION		1991.50

## EASTERN REGION

## BIHAR

1.	Kobi	20.00
2.	Subernarekha	130.00
3.	Sone West Canal	6.60
4.	Eastern Gandak	15.00
5.	Sone East Canal	3.30
TOTAL BIHAR		174.90

## D.V.C.

1.	Maithon	60.00
2.	Panchet & Ext (PSS)	80.00

1	2	3
3.	Tilaiya	4.00
TOTAL D.V.C.		144.00

## ORISSA

1.	Rengali	250.00
2.	Upper Kolab	320.00
3.	Hirakund I & II	307.50
4.	Balimela	360.00
5.	Potteru	6.00
TOTAL ORISSA		1243.50

## WEST BENGAL

1.	Jaldhaka I & II	35.00
2.	Rammam II	50.00
3.	Hassanjock	4.00
4.	Teesta Canal Falls	22.50
TOTAL WEST BENGAL		111.50

## SIKKIM

1.	Lower Lagyap	12.00
2.	Myangchu	4.00
3.	Upper Rongchu	8.00
TOTAL SIKKIM		24.00
TOTAL EASTERN REGION		1697.90

## NORTH EASTERN REGION

## MEGHALAYA

1.	Umium-I	36.00
2.	Umium-II	18.00
3.	Umium-III	60.00
4.	Uminm-IV	60.00
5.	Umtru	11.20
TOTAL MEGHALAYA		185.20

## TRIPURA

1.	Gumti	15.00
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1	2	3
<b>ARUNACHAL PRADESH</b>		
1. Tago		4.00
<b>MANIPUR</b>		
1. Loktax (NHPC)		105.00
<b>NEEPCO</b>		
1. Khandong		50.00
2. Kopili		200.00
SUB TOTAL NEEPCO		250.00
TOTAL NORTH-EAST		559.70
TOTAL ALL INDIA		22199.12
CENTRAL SECTOR		5119.30
PRIVATE SECTOR		606.00

**Statement-II**

As on 30.06.1997

*Brief Status of Private Sector Schemes [for which DPRs have been received] awaiting Clarification/ Information from Project Authorities*

**A. Private Sector**

S. No.	Name of the Project/State Executing Agency	Installed Capacity [MW]
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>		
1.	Malana Hydro Electric Project Himachal Pradesh M/s Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills	2 x 43 = 86
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>		
Nil		
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>		
Nil		
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>		
Nil		
<b>NORTH EASTERN REGION</b>		
Nil		

**Statement-III**

As on 30.06.1997

*Brief Status of State/Central Sector Schemes which are under Examination in Central Electricity Authority*

S. No.	Name of the Project/State Executing Agency	Installed Capacity [MW]
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>		
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>		
1.	Budhil Hydro Electric Project Chamba,	2 x 35 = 70
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>		
2.	Dhauliganga Hydro Electric Project [Intermediate Stage] Uttar Pradesh National Hydroelectric Power Corporation	3 x 70 = 210
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>		
Nil		
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>		
Nil		
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>		
Nil		
<b>NORTH EASTERN REGION</b>		
<b>Assam</b>		
3.	Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Mizoram	3 x 50 = 150
4.	Tuivai Hydro Electric Project North Eastern Electric Power Corporation	3 x 70 = 210

**Employment To Handicapped Persons  
in Railways**

289. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :  
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated by the Government to provide jobs to the handicapped persons on priority basis

in railways and the extent to which the success achieved under these schemes;

(b) the number of handicapped persons provided employment on priority basis during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(c) the names of the departments of the railways where handicapped persons have been appointed during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) In the matter of provision of jobs to Physically Handicapped persons, Ministry of Railways follow the instructions of the Department of Personnel & Training, which is the nodal Department, for this purpose, which provide for reservation of 3% direct recruitment vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' to Physically Handicapped persons (1% each for Visually handicapped, hearing impaired and Orthopaedically handicapped persons) with the appointments being given against the posts identified as suitable for them. As a result of implementation of these instructions, a large number of handicapped persons have already found employment in the Railways. The information on the number of handicapped persons who got employment on the Railways during the years 1994-95, 1995-96, and 1996-97 and the Departments to which they have been appointed during these years is being collected from the Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

#### Noise Pollution

290. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a technique has been developed by Central Road Research Institute, Delhi for reducing noise pollution on Indian roads; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No technique has been developed as yet by Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) for reducing noise pollution on Indian Roads.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations in Orissa

291. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA :  
SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :  
SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of assistance provided to the voluntary organisations of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh through Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology during 1996-97, 1997-98 so far, with location of such organisations;

(b) the details of complaints received so far against these organisations; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) District-wise details of the number of projects sanctioned and the amount sanctioned by CAPART to voluntary organisations in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh during the year 1996-97 & 1997-98 so far are given in Statement I and II.

(b) CAPART has reported that for various acts of omission and commission it has blacklisted 4 voluntary organisations of Orissa and 7 voluntary organisations of Madhya Pradesh. Also, CAPART has imposed 'fund release restrictions' on 22 voluntary organisations of Orissa and 8 voluntary organisations of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) CAPART is at present investigating a complaint received against one voluntary organisation of Madhya Pradesh.

#### Statement-I

*District-wise details of number of projects sanctioned and the amount sanctioned to voluntary organisations of Orissa by CAPART during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 so far.*

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	District	1996-97		1997-98	
		No. of Projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	No. of Projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Dhenakal	38	71.42	02	0.76
2.	Mayurbani	02	0.51	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Khurda	08	13.68	02	0.52
4.	Keojhar	02	0.64	01	3.03
5.	Baleshwar	01	0.26	—	—
6.	Nayagarh	08	7.36	—	—
7.	Sundargarh	02	0.52	—	—
8.	Puri	18	5.26	01	0.26
9.	Gajapati	04	1.04	—	—
10.	Cuttack	06	8.43	01	0.26
11.	Baragarh	03	2.41	—	—
12.	Kalahandi	01	0.80	—	—
13.	Jajpur	01	0.26	—	—
14.	Bolangir	04	5.95	—	—
15.	Raigarh	05	101.96	—	—
16.	Phulbani/ Kandhawal	03	5.27	—	—
17.	Ganjam	02	2.26	01	4.47
18.	Nuapara	06	17.31	—	—
19.	Angul	03	1.34	—	—
20.	Sambalpur	01	2.70	—	—
21.	Jagatsinghpur	01	1.63	—	—
22.	Koraput	03	3.13	—	—
23.	Kendrapara	04	3.08	02	3.39
24.	Jharsuguda	—	—	01	2.89
25.	Bhubaneswar	02	14.73	—	—
Total		128	271.95	11	15.58

Note : Provisional

#### Statement-II

*District-wise details of number of projects sanctioned and the amount sanctioned to voluntary organisations of Madhya Pradesh by CAPART during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 so far.*

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	District	1996-97		1997-98	
		No. of Projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	No. of Projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bilaspur	5	12.46	1	3.80

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Gwalior	9	14.64	—	—
3.	Bhind	1	1.04	—	—
4.	Morena	3	5.68	—	—
5.	Raipur	1	0.27	2	2.86
6.	Bhopal	6	16.86	—	—
7.	Jahalpur	4	7.48	—	—
8.	Panna	2	7.89	—	—
9.	Satana	2	7.31	1	3.33
10.	Guna	1	1.37	—	—
11.	Indore	7	18.24	1	2.19
12.	Hosangabad	1	4.33	—	—
13.	Balaghat	2	3.51	—	—
14.	Mandla	1	3.98	—	—
15.	Durg	2	4.73	1	2.24
16.	Datia	1	1.20	—	—
17.	Ujjain	1	1.09	—	—
18.	Reewa	3	6.15	—	—
19.	Dewas	1	59.78	—	—
Total		53	178.01	6	14.42

Note : Provisional

#### Central Allocation to States

292. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria and the present norms followed by the Central Government for allocation of funds to States for the development of rural areas, especially in Gujarat;

(b) whether present system is neither scientific nor realistic in terms of the solution of problem now being faced by the States, like Gujarat, and

(c) whether the Union Government propose to revise it to tackle specific problems in various difficult areas in the State by allocating more funds ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The resources under majority of poverty alleviation and rural development schemes are allocated to the states

including the State of Gujarat in proportion of rural poor in the State to the total poor in the country. This criteria is scientific & realistic and has been approved by the Planning Commission.

No proposal to revise the above criteria is under consideration with the Government at present.

### Loss Suffered by HCL

293. SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH :  
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down the non-product and uneconomical copper Mines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by the Hindustan Copper Limited as a result thereof for the last three years till date; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the situation arising out of the closure of mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) The mining operation at Mosaboni mines are highly uneconomical and as Hindustan Copper Limited is incurring heavy losses in operating these mines, the Board of Directors of HCL has in principal approved the proposal for closure of Mosaboni mines and the Company has sought permission from the Government for closure under Section 25 (o) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Losses suffered by Hindustan Copper Limited in operating the Mosaboni mines during the last three years are given below :

Year	Net losss (Rs. lakhs)
1994-95	2350.67
1995-96	2837.17
1996-97	3458.52

[Translation]

### Uttar Railway Jaanch Report

294. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister

of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Uttar Railway : Jaanch Report Raddi Ki Tokri Main" appearing in the 'Rastriya Sahara' dated June 24, 1997; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All complaints including the reports published in the newspapers are duly examined/investigated by the competent authority and the remedial action including taking up the staff responsible for causing the complaints is taken. During 1994-95 & 1995-96, 2,407 and 2,252 members of railway staff respectively were taken up. In the specific instance referred to in the newspaper item, the enquiry was promptly conducted by Northern Railway and prima facie, no railway staff was found responsible.

[English]

### VSNL Investment

295. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has made some investment in the India Telecom Ltd;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the investment is as per the norms laid down in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the action taken or proposed to be taken against the officials of the VSNL for flouting the existing norms in the regard;

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, VSNL has made a secured advance payment of Rs. 50 cores to Iridium India Telecom. Ltd. for purchase of gateway equipments.

(c) to (e) The mater is being looked into, It is not possible to comment at this stage.

[Translation] -

### Funds Sought By Rajasthan for Rural Development

296. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL : Will the

Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has sought additional allocation of funds for completing the rural development schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the additional amount of funds allocated to Rajasthan during year 1995, 1996 and 1997; and

(c) whether the amount allocated during the said period has been in consonance with the demand made by the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government released the additional funds on demand of Government of Rajasthan in the following schemes during 1995-96 :-

(i) **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)**

The demand for additional Central funds amounting to Rs. 792 lakhs was received during 1995-96 and Rs. 215 lakhs during 1996-97. Against this, Central Government has released Rs. 342 lakhs during 1995-96 only to those DRDAs who have fulfilled all conditions laid down for release of additional funds. During 1996-97, no additional fund was released as none of the DRDAs have fulfilled the conditions for release of additional funds.

(ii) **Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY)**

During 1995-96, a proposal for release of additional JRY funds amounting to Rs. 332.16 lakhs for construction of 307 Primary School Buildings under operation 'Block Board' was received from Government of Rajasthan. The said amount i.e. Rs. 332.13 lakhs was released in March, 1996 under JRY as an additional fund.

(iii) **Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM)**

During 1995-96, Rs. 35.50 lakhs were released as on additional funds based on the demand of the State Government of Rajasthan. During 1996-97, no additional funds were released since the DRDAs had not fulfilled conditions for release of funds.

[English]

**PCO Booths in Delhi**

297. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Telephone booths functioning as on date in the Capital Delhi;

(b) whether these booths are not functioning smoothly and satisfactorily;

(c) the number of public telephone booths closed down in the capital Delhi during the last three years;

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

(e) the loss sustained as a result thereof; and

(f) the concrete steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for smooth functioning of these booths in Delhi particularly at ISBT/Railway Stations/other public place;

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Number of Public Telephone booths working in Delhi are 32105.

(b) By and large, these PCO Booths are working smoothly and satisfactorily.

(c) 1502 PCOs have been closed during the last three years.

(d) Number of PCOs disconnected	Reasons for disconnection
605	Due to non-payment
197	Due to misuse.
690	On request from PCO frenchises.
10	Due to low revenue.

(e) Nil.

(f) The PCOs are tested regularly and the faults rectified promptly. The field staff check these PCOs during the day for their proper functioning. The senior officers of the department are also checking the functioning of these booths during surprise inspections and routine inspection.

**Fire at MTNL Office, Delhi**

298. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :  
 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
 SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :  
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the enquiry conducted into the sabotage of the devastating fire at Chandralok building in the capital on June 17, 1997 top one and half floor occupied by the MTNL;

(b) the nature of the records destroyed in this fire and the steps taken to reconstruct them;

(c) the preventive measures taken to check the fire in future;

(d) whether papers containing 30 lakh tender scam and being probed by CBI were also destroyed in the fire; and

(e) if so, the disciplinary action taken against the delinquent officials of the MTNL, who had been named by the CBI and what would be the fate of enquiry now?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the enquiry is not yet completed.

(b) The office records of the Chief Engineer (BW), superintending Engineer Civil (South), Superintending Engineer Civil (Central), Superintending Engineer (Elect.), Senior Architect, Chief Accounts Officer (BW) and Executive Engineer (Elect) Central have been destroyed. Steps are being taken to reconstruct the files and other records by collecting copies from other offices.

(c) Chandralok building is NDMC building, MTNL's departmental buildings have been inspected by Senior Officers and Fire Safety measures are being taken in the building as per the fire protection safety requirements.

(d) No, Sir. The concerned documents required by the CBI had been seized by them and the same are under their charge.

(e) The case is still under investigation.

[Translation]

**STD/ISD/PCO in Madhya Pradesh**

299. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister

of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO installed and working properly in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of booths not working properly, district-wise;

(c) the number of applications pending in this regard, district-wise;

(d) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared and the time by which all the village Panchayats are likely to be provided telephone facility;

(e) the number of telephone connections which are out of order in the State and the steps taken by the Government to repair them and the time by which these connections are likely to be repaired; and

(f) the details thereof, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The information is given in the attached Statement.

(b) Nil

(c) The information is given in the attached Statement.

(d) The pending applications are likely to be cleared progressively by March, 98. All the village panchayats are likely to be provided telephone facilities by the year 2000.

(e) and (f) By and large telephone connections are working satisfactorily. As and when any telephone is reported faulty it is repaired faulty it is repaired at the earliest possible.

**Statement**

Telecom District (SSA)	STD PCOs Installed (a)	No. of application pending (c)
1	2	3
1. Bhopal	1189	172
2. Indore	1744	—
3. Jabalpur	1272	106
4. Gwalior	891	11
5. Raipur	816	43



1	2	3
6. Bilaspur	336	—
7. Ujjain	315	—
8. Mandsaur	301	05
9. Khargone	214	67
10. Morena	156	82
11. Khandwa	285	03
12. Hoshangabad	230	10
13. Durg	431	—
14. Ratlam	349	11
15. Dhar	162	12
16. Sagar	234	50
17. Vidisha	154	25
18. Shajapur	91	14
19. Rajgarh	92	17
20. Dewas	162	—
21. Chhattarpur	251	156
22. Guna	118	20
23. Shivpuri	109	25
24. Balaghat	139	18
25. Narsinghpur	177	28
26. Chhindwara	172	18
27. Betul	94	04
28. Shahdol	197	—
29. Raigarh	99	—
30. Satna	262	10
31. Rewa	239	—
32. Jagdalpur	85	49

[English]

#### Construction of Dancing Musical Fountain in Bangalore

300. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment made by the Railways and

its associates for the construction of dancing musical fountain in Bangalore;

(b) whether the above fountain is under the control of Railways;

(c) if not, whether the Government are aware that the Government of Karnataka has been collecting entrance fee from the public in view the dancing musical fountain;

(d) if so, whether the Railways are likely to get its share from the entrance fee; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Railways have not made any investment on the dancing fountain at Bangalore.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### Menace of Touts

301. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item captioned "Touts business continues unabated" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 5th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Railway Administration to check the menace of touts and help the poor passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item has highlighted the operation of touts in cornering of reserved accommodation in trains originating from Delhi and selling the same at premium.

(c) Regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments with the assistance of Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police staff to check the activities of touts and other anti-social elements in and around the reservation offices. The drives against touts were intensified and during April to June, 1997, 174 touts were apprehended by Northern Railway. Action has been taken against them under the provisions of Railways Act, 1989. Railway staff found involved in or abetting such activities are severely taken up for penal action.

[Translation]

### Additional Power Generation Capacity

302. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for the additional power generation capacity in terms of thousand Megawatt for Ninth Plan;

(b) whether there is a proposal to make the constitution of Power Regulatory Board in States compulsory so that the rates of power in the States be kept atleast at the level which do not adversely affect the financial position of power sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The Capacity Addition Programme for the Ninth Five Year Plan is under finalisation by the Planning Commission.

(b) to (d) In accordance with Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power adopted after extensive consultations with States Governments, the Government of India is examining the issue of setting up of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity

Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) enabling fixation of tariffs in an optimal and transparent manner.

[English]

### Subsidies for Renewable Energy Projects

303. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidies available for renewable energy projects;

(b) the total quantum of energy produced so far in the country; and

(c) the target fixed for the last financial year and the level of achievement made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The details of subsidies available under various renewable energy programmes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, are given in attached Statement-I.

(b) The total capacity of various renewable energy projects, systems and devices installed so far in the country, as on 31st March, 1997, is given in attached Statement-II.

(c) The details of target fixed for the last financial year and the level of achievement made, is given in attached Statement-III.

### Statement-I

#### Subsidies available under various programmes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

Sl.No.	Programme	Subsidies available from the Ministry
1	2	3
<b>1. Biomass Combustion-based Power :</b>		
(i)	Capital Subsidy for Taluka level biomass based power plants (1 MW and above) in Co-operatives/State/Joint sector preferably with the involvement of NGOs (Under Demonstration Scheme).	Rs. 1.0 crore per MW. Subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 crores per project.
(ii)	Interest Subsidy for Biomass Combustion-based Electrical Power Plants for captive Biomass Projects (2 MW & above).	Maximum of Rs. 30 lakh per MW
(iii)	Interest subsidy for Biomass combustion based	Maximum of Rs. 45 lakh per MW.

1	2	3
	Electrical Power Plants for field based Biomass Projects (2 MW & above).	
2.	<b>Bagasse based Co-generation :</b>	
(i)	Capital Subsidy in Co-operatives/Public/Joint Sector Sugar Mills (Under Demonstration Schemes).	Rs. 2 crores/MW of surplus power comprising of Rs. 70 lakh/MW of subsidy subject to maximum of Rs. 6 crores per project and balance as soft loan at 9% annual rate of interest.
(ii)	Capital Subsidy in other Sugar Mills (Under Demonstration Schemes).	Rs. 70 lakh/MW subject to a maximum of Rs. 6 crores/project.
(iii)	Interest Subsidy for Projects of 1-4 MW surplus power generation capacity.	Maximum of Rs. 15 lakh/MW of surplus power fed into the grid.
(iv)	Interest Subsidy for Projects of more than 4 MW surplus power generation capacity.	Maximum of Rs. 35 lakh/MW of surplus power fed into the grid.
3.	<b>Small Hydro Power :</b>	
(i)	Capital Subsidy for Small Hydro projects executed by State Nodal Agencies/State Government Departments in the North-Eastern States.	Up to Rs. 3 crores/MW or 50% of the cost of the project, whichever is lower.
(ii)	Capital Subsidy for Small Hydro Projects upto 100 KW capacity executed by State Nodal Agencies/State Government Departments/NGOs/Local bodies in Hilly Regions and Andaman & Nicobar Islands; and by NGOs, Local Bodies, Local Communities in the North-Eastern Region.	@ Rs. 15,000/- per KW.
(iii)	Capitalised Interest Subsidy for Small Hydro Power Projects in Hilly Areas. North-Eastern States and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.	Upto Rs. 1.12 Crores per MW
(iv)	Capitalised Interest Subsidy for Small Hydro Power Projects in other regions.	Upto Rs. 18.30 lakhs per MW
(v)	Assistance for Survey and Investigation.	100% of the cost Subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.5 lakh.
(vi)	Assistance for DPR Preparation.	50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh per DPR
(vii)	Subsidy for the development and upgradation of water mills.	
	(a) Mechanical output.	Upto Rs. 30,000/-
	(b) Mechanical and electrical output.	Upto Rs. 60,000/-
4.	<b>Solar Photovoltaic Grid-connected Power Project for niche applications namely voltage support systems at the tail-end of the grid in rural areas and peak-sharing systems in Urban Centres :</b>	2/3 <sup>rd</sup> of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 crores per 100 KW.

1	2	3
<b>5. Solar Thermal Systems :</b>		
Interest Subsidy through IREDA and selected Banks to provide soft loans to users.		
(a) For domestic users and non-profit making institutions.		5% annual rate of Interest.
(b) For commercial users		8.3% annual rate of Interest.
<b>6. Solar Cookers :</b>		
Loans available to bulk users through IREDA and to individual user through selected Banks.		Interest free
<b>7. Solar Photovoltaic Systems :</b>		
(i) Domestic Lighting Systems		50% of ex-works cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 6,000/- per system.
(ii) Street Lighting systems :		50% of ex-works cost subject to Rs. 12,000/- per system.
(iii) Small Solar PV Power Plants :		50% of ex-works cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.0 lakh per Kwp.
(iv) Solar Lanterns		Rs. 1,500/- per Solar Lantern.
(v) Solar PV Pumps		(a) Subsidy of Rs. 125 per peak Watt subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,50,000/- per system; and (b) Loan of Rs. 50,000/-, to 1,00,000/- depending on size of Solar PV array & capacity of Pump, at 5% annual rate of interest.
<b>8. Wind Pumps :</b>		Rs. 16,000-32,000 per Wind Mill depending on design of Wind Mill.
<b>9. Wind Battery Chargers :</b>		80% of ex-works cost.
<b>10. Energy from Urban, Municipal : and Industrial Wastes.</b>		
(i) Capitalised Interest Subsidy,		upto 10% of the loan amount subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.0 crore/MW
(ii) Investment Subsidy		50% of the direct equity stake of the promoter in the project cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.0 crore/MW
(iii) Assistance for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR).		50% of the cost. subject of a maximum of Rs. 2 lakh
(iv) Assistance for site clearance/facilitation to Municipal Corporation/Urban Local Bodies.		Rs. 15 lakh per MW (equivalent).
(v) Assistance for site clearance/facilitation to State Nodal Agencies and/or other Appropriate Agencies.,		Rs. 5 lakh per MW (equivalent)

1	2	3
(vi)	Financial Support for Innovative Demonstration Projects.	Upto 50% of the project cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 3.0 crore per MW.
(vii)	Financial Support for carrying out the assessment of Waste for Energy Recovery.	100%
(viii)	Financial Support for mounting Energy and Resource Recovery Components in the Sewage Treatment Plants.	50% of the cost.
<b>11. Biomass Gasification :</b>		
(i)	Biomass Gasification for Thermal Applications.	30% of the cost.
(ii)	Biomass Gasification for both Mechanical and Electrical applications.	60% of the cost.
(iii)	Biomass Gasifier Systems for Community/Institutional cooking in :	
	(a) Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Schools Hostels,	75% of the cost.
	(b) Government hostels, charitable trusts, and Mess Rooms of the Army, and the Para-Military forces.	50% of the cost.
(iv)	Biomass Gasifier for Village Electrification.	75% of the project cost.
	(b) Interest subsidy for Biomass Briquetting Units	Upto 10%
<b>12. Biogas Plants :</b>		
(i)	Family Type Biogas Plants (1-10m <sup>3</sup> capacity per day)	Rs. 2,000/- to 5,000/- per plant.
(ii)	Community biogas Plant (15-85m <sup>3</sup> Capacity per day)	Rs. 44,000/- to 2,00,000/- per plant.
(iii)	Institutional Biogas Plants (15-85m <sup>3</sup> capacity per day)	Rs. 15,000/- to 150,000/- per plant.
(iv)	Night Soil based Biogas plants (15-60 m <sup>3</sup> Capacity per day)	Rs. 70,000/- to Rs. 8,00,000/- per plant.
<b>13. Improved Chulhas</b>		
(a)	Fixed Chulha	
	(i) Without Chimney	Rs. 20/- per chulha
	(ii) With Chimney	Rs. 40/- per chulha
(b)	Portable Chulha	Rs. 40/- per chulha for general category; Rs. 50/- per chulha for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes; Rs. 75/- per chulha for North-Eastern States, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir.
(c)	High Altitude Chulha	Rs. 250/- per chulha subject to a maximum of 50% of the cost.
<b>14. Battery Powered Vehicles</b>		50% of the cost excluding excise duty. Sales tax, etc.

**Statement-II**

*Total installed capacity of various renewable energy systems and devices in the country*

Source/Technology/ Applications	Unit	Installed capacity (upto 31.3.97)
1	2	3
1. Biogas Plants	Nos.	25 lakhs
2. Improved Chulhas	Nos.	257 lakhs
3. Biomass Gasifiers (Standalone)	MW	31
4. Solar Lanterns	Nos.	1,31,190
5. Domestic Lighting Systems	Nos.	52,330
6. Street Lighting Systems	Nos.	31,527
7. Community Lighting/TV Systems	Nos.	875

1	2	3
8. Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants (Stand-alone and Grid connected)	Nos./ Kwp	189/1510
9. Water Pumping Wind Mills	Nos.	263
10. Solar Thermal Systems	Sq. m. collector area	3,80,000
11. Solar Cookers	Nos.	4,34,754
12. Small Hydro Power	MW	144
13. Wind Power	MW	900
14. Biomass based Power	MW	84
15. SPV Water Pumping Systems	Nos.	2,153

**Statement-III**

*Programme-wise targets and achievements during the year 1996-97*

S.No.	Name of the Programme	1996-97	
		Target	Achievement
1		2	3
<b>Rural Energy</b>			
1.	Family Size Biogas Plants (lakh)	1.65	1.70
2.	CBP/IBP/NBP (Nos.)	250	345
3.	Improved Chulha (lakhs)	25.00	29.30
4.	Biomass Gasifiers (Standalone) (MW)	4.00	6.00
5.	Renewable Energy Parks (Nos.)	70	8
<b>Solar Energy</b>			
6.	Solar Photovoltaic Programme		
	(a) Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	35,000	50,131
	(b) Domestic Lights (Nos.)	10,000	14,971
	(c) Street Lights (Nos.)	500	528
	(d) SPV Power Plants (Kwp) (Standalone)	50	84
7.	SPV Irrigation Pumps (Nos.)	1,000	610
8.	Solar Thermal Energy Programme (in m <sup>2</sup> collector area)	35,000	40,000
9.	Solar Cookers (Nos.)	25,000	26,000

1	2	3
10. Wind Pumps & Wind Battery Chargers (Nos./KW)	100/10	99/14
<b>Power Generation</b>		
11. Wind Power (MW)	100	169
12. Small Hydro Power (MW)	30.00	16.00
13. Biomass Power (MW)	55.00	37.00
(a) Biomass Co-generation (MW)	45.00	25.00
(b) Biomass Combustion based Power (MW)	10.00	12.00
14. Solar Photovoltaic Power (KW) (Grid connected)	250	300
15. Energy from Urban & Industrial Waste (MW)	10	3.7 (8.75*)
16. Alternate Fuels for Surface Transportation (Nos.)	200	13

\* Total Capacity sanctioned during 1996-97.

#### Assessment of Stone Reserved Areas

304. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of gold, diamond and different precious and semi-precious stone reserved areas on the Mahanadi basin and other places in Orissa;

(b) whether the extraction of these metals have not been done in that region in a systematic manner; and

(c) if so, the steps taken for the proper exploitation of these precious metals ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is conducting investigation for gold and precious/semi-precious stones in the Mahanadi basin and other parts of the State of Orissa.

(b) and (c) The geological investigation in the region is in preliminary stage and therefore, question of exploitation of these prospects does not arise.

#### Direct Rail Service from Mumbai to Hubli

305. SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce direct rail service between Mumbai and Hubli; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction stating the period by which

such rail service is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal for introduction of a direct train between Mumbai and Hubli. However, 1017/1018 Mumbai CST-Bangalore Express already provides a direct service between Mumbai and Hubli on 4 days in a week.

[Translation]

#### Modernisation of SEBs

306. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide assistance for streamlining and modernisation of State Electricity Boards;

(b) whether any efforts have been made for the proper monitoring of the expenditure being incurred by the State Electricity Boards; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The Government has finalised a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power based on the consensus reached at the Chief Ministers' Conferences held on 16.10.1996 and 3.12.1996. The Action Plan provides for autonomy to the State Electricity Boards.

Improvement in the management practices and of physical parameters of SEBs for making them more effective and viable. Financial assistance is available under different schemes for streamlining and modernisation of State Electricity Boards.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Power and its agencies viz., Central Electricity Authority, Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation are involved in monitoring the physical progress of projects of SEBs, their financial performance and the progress in rural electrification respectively. The plan programmes of the SEBs are monitored by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Power. Annual accounts are also being submitted to CEA under Section 69 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

[English]

#### Extension to Directors in CSIR

307. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Abid Hussain Committee Report on CSIR strictly says that no Director of CSIR Laboratory will be given extension beyond first term i.e. for six years; and

(b) the number of the Directors given extensions after first term along with the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee regarding extension of tenure of Directors of CSIR Laboratories/Institutes were reviewed at the CSIR Society meeting held in February, 1988 under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister of India in capacity as Ex-Officio President of CSIR and it was decided that the term of Directors may be extended in exceptional cases. Performance of Directors is accordingly reviewed; and extension has been granted to 15 (fifteen) Directors on the basis of their performance with approval of the president, CSIR.

#### Construction of Over-Bridge

308. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the

enormous difficulties being faced by the local population due to the inordinate delay in the construction of Railway-over-bridge at Kot-Kapura in Punjab;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in this regard;

(c) the present status of this project; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to complete this over-bridge expeditiously ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Road Over Bridge in lieu of existing level crossing at Kot-Kapura (Punjab) was approved during 1996-97. Tenders have been invited for Railway's portion of work which is likely to be taken up after Monsoons. The work on approaches is yet to be started by State Govt.

#### Royalty on Coal and Increasing Hydel Power Rate

309. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :  
SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE :  
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'Empowered Committee/Group on Energy Policy' has made radical recommendations including the fixing of royalty on coal an advalorem basis and increasing hydel power rates;

(b) if so, the details of their recommendations;

(c) whether the Government propose to lay their report on the Table of the House for its consideration; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be laid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Telephone Lok Adalats in Gujarat

310. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :  
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :



- (a) whether any telephone Lok Adalat has been held in Gujarat Telecom circle during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; district-wise; and
- (c) the number of cases settled during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Telephone Adalats are being held in Gujarat Telecom. Circle.

(b) and (c) Details of Telephone Adalats are given in the attached Statement.

### Statement

*Details on Telephone Adalats held in Gujarat Telecom Circle during 1994-95 to 1996-97.*

Sl. No.	Name of District	Year 1994-95	Cases Settled	Year 1995-96	Cases Settled	Year 1996-97	Cases Settled
1.	Ahmedabad & Gandhinagar	3	283	2	120	4	172
2.	Vadodara	4	68	4	21	4	17
3.	Surat	1	70	1	86	2	141
4.	Rajkot	4	52	4	44	4	102
5.	Kheda	1	10	1	15	2	15
6.	Mehsana	4	6	2	2	2	52
7.	Bhavnagar	—	—	1	44	1	—
8.	Junagarh & UT of Diu	1	4	1	2	—	—
9.	Jamnagar	1	4	2	27	2	25
10.	Kutch-Bhuj	1	10	—	—	—	—
11.	Valsad, Dang-Ahwa & UT of Daman, Dadra Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Surendra Nagar	—	—	—	—	1	21
13.	Panch Mahal	—	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Sabarkantha	—	—	—	—	1	33
15.	Banaskantha	—	—	1	7	1	7
16.	Baruch	—	—	—	—	1	1
17.	Amreli	—	—	1	18	—	—
		20	507	20	386	25	586

### Telephone Facility in Post Offices In Gujarat

311. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :  
DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a number of post offices in Gujarat have

not been provided with telephone facility;

- (b) if so, the details of such post offices;

(c) the steps taken/to be taken to provide the basic telephone facility there; and

(d) the number of panchayats where no telephone with STD facility has been provided so far and the steps

being taken for providing STD facility in all the Panchayats in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of post offices in Gujarat which have not been provided with telephone facility so far, District-wise is given in attached Statement.

(c) Action to provide telephones in Departmental Sub-Post Offices is continuous process for which matter is taken up with Department of Telecom. There is, however, no provision to provide telephones in Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices.

(d) The total number of Gram Panchayats in Gujarat is 13510 out of which 12456 have been provided with Telephones. No Panchayat has been provided with STD facility so far. However, this facility shall be provided on demand and wherever it is technically feasible.

#### Statement

##### Details of Post Offices without Telephone facility

S. No.	Name of District	Number of post offices without telephone facility
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	489
2.	Gandhinagar	57
3.	Mahesana	356
4.	Sabarkantha	403
5.	Banaskantha	324
6.	Bharuch	377
7.	Dang	49
8.	Kheda	484
9.	Panchmahals	400
10.	Surat	505
11.	Vadodara	536
12.	Valsad	428
13.	Amreli	227
14.	Bhavnagar	332
15.	Jamnagar	251
16.	Junagarh	345

1	2	3
17.	'K' Bhuj	343
18.	Rajkot	315
19.	Surendranagar	225
Total		6446

[Translation]

#### Caving-in of Land and Fire

312. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Mining Research Institute has developed any technology to protect the coal caves from caving-in of land and fire;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for utilising that technology for Jharia; and

(d) if so, the expenditure to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Central Mining Research Institute (CMRI), Dhanbad, is developing technology for controlling of Mine Subsidence and fires based on back-filling and cutting off of the oxygen supply.

(c) CMRI has done a general study on stability of land and buildings in Jharia affected by land subsidence and fire. Based on the study the Institute has submitted a proposal to Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for further study to assess the feasibility of controlling the land subsidence and fires in the area.

(d) Till and indepth study is carried out it may not be possible to estimate the expenditure involved.

[English]

#### Tapping of Cellular Phones

313. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether various security forces, including CBI and RAW proposed to introduce a tapping system with respect of cellular phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far it is legally and aesthetically maintainable and justifiable ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As per provisions contained in Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, subject to conditions/situation laid down, the Central Government or a State Government or any officer specially authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or a State Government may intercept or detain a message or a class of messages. While R&AW is not concerned with the subject, in the case of CBI the operational requirement necessitates collecting of intelligence on crime including through tapping of phone/cellular phones, after following the due procedure established by law.

(b) All the licensees of Cellular Mobile Telephone Services are governed by the provisions mentioned at (a) above.

(c) As long as the interception/tapping of cellular phones is under the specified provisions contained in Section 5(2) of the said Act viz. on the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of the public safety, it would be legal, maintainable and justifiable.

#### DOT – Bankrupt

314. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "TRAI order will make DOT bankrupt" appeared in the 'News Times' dated 20.5.97;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check the loss of revenue pointed therein ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Tariff order of 29.1.97 was for call charges from Fixed to Mobile Telephone subscribers and this was quashed as per judgement of TRAI. Since fixation of Tariff is one of the function of TRAI, Government have filed a Review Petition before TRAI.

[Translation]

#### Schemes for Supplying Drinking Water with Foreign Assistance

315. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries assisting the schemes of drinking water and cleanliness in the country and the names of States, with location, where these schemes are being implemented; and

(b) the present status of each of the schemes, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The required information is given in the enclosed Statement.

#### Statement

##### *Schemes for Supplying Drinking Water with Foreign Assistance*

S. No.	Name of the State	Name of the project and location (District)	Name of the foreign country/agency assisting the scheme	Present status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	AP-II Kurnool, Prakasam, Madak, Mahaboobnagar	Netherlands	Nearing physical completion.
2.	Gujarat	(i) Sami Harij, Mehsana (ii) Santalpur-II Banaskanta	Netherlands -do-	Partially completed -do-

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Karnataka	(i) RWS-I Dharwad Bijapur  (ii) IRS & WS Phase-II Kolar Chitradurga Bijapur  (iii) IRWSS Bangalore (Rural) Mandya Mysore Shimoga Bellary Gulbarga Dakshin Kannada Raichur Bider Belgaun Tumkur and Hassan	Netherlands  DANIDA  World Bank	Contracting procedures are to be concluded and construction to be commenced.  Preparatory activities taken up.  On-going in Phas-I and preparatory activities are being carried out in Phase-II
4.	Kerala	(i) Kundra Kollam Pattinamihitta  (ii) RWSS Pavaratthy Thrissur Palaghat	Netherlands  -do-	Nearing completion  Nearly half of the project completed.
5.	Maharashtra	(i) MRWSES Thane Pune Satara, Ahmednagar Aurangabad Beed, Latur Buldana Chandrapur  (ii) MRWSS Nasik Jalgaon	World Bank  ODA	Nearly half completed.  Two out of three schemes nearing completion by Sept., 97
Orissa		Community managed water supply improvement. Kalahandi Water supply and sanitation improvement. Phulbani Ganjam	Deptt. of International Development, Water Sanitation office of British High Commision British High Com- mission (WSO) through UNICEF	On-going  On-going

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Rajasthan	IWSSCPP Churu Hanumangarh	KFW, Germany	On-going
8.	Uttar Pradesh	(i) UP-SP-IV Allahabad Bhadohi Varanasi	Netherlands	On-going
		(ii) UP-P-VI Lakhimpur Bahraich Gonda Basti Balua Siddharthnagar	-do-	-do-
		(iii) UP-SP-V (Phase-B) (Cleanliness/Sanitation project) Varanasi Raebareli	-do-	-do-
		(iv) UP-SP-VIII Aligarh Moradabad Badaun Unnao Ballia, Kanpur	-do-	-do-
		(v) RWSES Nanital Pithoragarh Dehradun Chamoli Uttar Kashi Pauri Tehri Lalitpur Jalaun Almora Jhansi Hamirpur (include. Mahoba) Banda Udham Singh Nagar	World Bank	under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Tamil Nadu	IRS & WS South Arcot Villupuram	DANIDA	Just commenced.
10.	West Bengal	Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Midnapur	British High Com- mission (WSO) through UNICEF	On-going

#### Inadequate Postal Network

316. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties encountered by the people of Mumbai and Suburban areas due to grossly inadequate postal network, for want of space and lack of resources with the Deptt. for undertaking construction activities for establishing new Postal outlets offices;

(b) if so, the actual demand for established Post offices, Area-wise and actual number of New Post offices established during the last three years, area-wise against the demand;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken a review of the position on short term and long term basis keeping in view the prospective need of the people; and

(d) if so, the agenda of action for the current year including setting up Mobile Post offices in areas with grossly inadequate postal facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Demand for opening a post office in the following areas had been received during the past three years;

Sl.No.	Name of proposed post offices
1.	Evershine Nagar, Malad (W) Mumbai
2.	Poonam Nagar, Jageshwari (W) Mumbai
3.	Kasturkar Park, Boriwali (W) Mumbai
4.	P.M.G. (P) Colony, Mumabi
5.	S.R.P.F. Camp, P.O. Goregaon (E) Mumbai

Out of these, S.R.P.F. Colony, P.O. Goregaon (E) was opened 31.3.97. The other four Post offices were sanc-

tioned but could not be opened for want of accommodation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Position is reviewed periodically, Post Offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of resources. In Metropolitan cities, acquiring of accommodation on reasonable rent for housing a post office is a major problem.

During the Annual Plan, 1997-98, it is proposed to set up three Departmental Sub Post Offices in Maharashtra Postal Circle. There is no policy to provide Mobile Post Offices at present.

#### Complaints received by Department of Posts

317. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts received complaints from the senders of Registered AD Letters and Registered Letters about the non receipt of Acknowledgement Receipts for which they pay extra money; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures Government contemplate to take to ensure that the Acknowledgment Receipts are delivered to the senders ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Instructions are issued from time to time to ensure proper delivery of the Registered letters/Acknowledgment Card for which a record is kept. The Department has improved upon the size and thickness of the Acknowledgement Card to enable quick identification and easy handling. Customer Care Centres have been set up in important cities to monitor and ensure prompt redressal of grievances including those relating to delivery of Registered letters with Acknowledgments Receipts.

#### Licences to I.I.T.L., Mumbai

318. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the

Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) has paid Rs. 50 crore during last October to a Mumbai based Iridium India Telecom Ltd. but the Department of Telecommunications has not yet issued licences to the IITL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for making payment in advance for purchase of equipment;

(d) whether the matter has been enquired into and the officials responsible for this apathy identified and booked; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) VSNL made a secured advance payment of Rs. 50 crores to Iridium India Telecom. Ltd. for purchase of the gateway equipment after obtaining approval from VSNL Board and after entering into MOU with IITL.

(c) to (e) The matter is being looked into. It is not possible to comment at this stage.

#### **Telephone Factories**

319. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names and locations of the departmentally run factories and units producing telephone and telecom related equipments;

(b) the total value of the out put of each of these establishments during the last three years;

(c) the details of the profits losses made by these companies during the above period;

(d) whether the Government have any plans to corporatise or privatise these units;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have any plans to modernise these units; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Following are the departmentally run Factories under DOT.

1. Telecom Factory, Bombay.
2. Telecom Factory, Alipore, Calcutta.
3. Telecom Factory, Gopalpur, Calcutta.
4. Telecom Factory, Kharagpur.
5. Telecom Factory, Wright Town, Jabalpur
6. Telecom Factory, Richhai, Jabalpur.
7. Telecom Factory, Bhilai.

(b) The total value of the output of each of these Factories during the last three years is given in the attached Statement-I

(c) Telecom Factories are departmental Factories and not Companies. Hence no profit & loss statements are prepared as done in case of PSUs. However, in order to judge the operational efficiency of the units, a proforma profit & loss statement is prepared every year. The same is placed at Statement-II for three years.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) During the past years many obsolete products have been phased out and the following new products have been productionised, as part of the modernisation programme.

- (g) 1. C.T. Boxes LSA Plus
2. D.P. Boxes with LSA Plus Modules.
3. Pay Phone (CBT-95).
4. 15 and 40 metres Mast for MARR System.
5. Line Jack Units.
6. MDF for C-DOT Exchanges.
7. Repair of Telephone Instruments and C-DOT Cards.
8. Modems.
9. Electronic Relay Plates for Trunk Exchanges.
10. Triangular Tubular Hybrid Towers.

**Statement-I***Total value of the output of the Factories*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Units	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1.	Bombay	26.27	43.26	41.44
2.	Alipore, Cal	47.04	55.72	55.97
3.	Gopalpur Cal			
4.	*Kharagpur	2.43	2.98	2.51
5.	Wright Town Jabalpur	37.15	41.04	44.04
6.	Richhai, Jabalpur	20.50	16.00	27.05
7.	Bhilai	6.27	8.43	10.27
Total		139.66	167.43	181.28

\* Telecom Factory at Gopalpur, Calcutta was set up in 1995-96

**Statement-II***Statement of Profit/Loss in Telecom Factories*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Unit	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Bombay	(-) 27	(-) 354	(-) 665
2.	Alipore, Cal.	104	271	(-) 530
3.	Gopalpur, Cal.			
4.	Kharagpur	Not yet prepared	Not yet prepared	Not yet prepared
5.	Wright Town, Jabalpur	117	413	591
6.	Richhai, Jabalpur	115	07	124
7.	Bhilai	55	26	12

Notes :

1. The reason for losses by Telecom Factory, Bombay is mainly due to non-receipt of acknowledged challans for the stores supplied to various store depot and the wages paid to idle work force. It is added that there are 333 idle work force in Telecom Factory, Bombay.

2. The reason for losses shown against Telecom Factory, Calcutta during 1995-96 is mainly on account of challenging rates for Mests & IJU being less than the estimated rates and the wages paid to idle work force. It is added that there are 209 idle work force in Telecom Factory Calcutta as on 1.4.96.

[English]

**Amount Spent on Publicity**

320. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the money spent on making publicity through various newspapers to apprise the rail users about opening of new Railway Zone, inauguration of newly converted rail lines and introduction of Rajdhani, Shatabdi trains, etc. July, 1994 till date;

(b) the money spent during the said period on publicity to inform the rail users about the cancellation, diversion and change in the arrival/departure timings and the routes of the trains;

(c) the specific reasons for negligible or nil amount of money spent on informing the rail users about frequent cancellation, diversion and change in the routes of the trains putting them to great hardships particularly like losing the opportunities of taking examinations and attending the interviews; and

(d) the number and nature of complaints received by the Government about the sudden cancellation and diversion, etc. of the trains without informing the rail users ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Setting up of Post Office/Sub P.O.**

321. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for setting up of Post Office/sub-post office in Metropolitan areas;

(b) whether the Saket, New Delhi-17 area fulfil the required conditions for setting up of a Post office/sub post office; and



(c) if so, the time by which a post office is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The criteria fixed for opening post offices in Urban areas are applicable to Metropolitan areas also. A copy of the norms for opening post offices in Urban areas is given in the Statement attached.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A post office at Saket, New Delhi-110017 has been opened on 15th July, 1997.

#### Statement

##### *Norms for Opening Departmental Sub Post Office in Urban Areas*

1. In urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.
2. The distance between two Post Offices should not be less than 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 kms. in other urban areas. If it is a Delivery Post Office, the distance from the nearest Delivery Post Office should not be less than 5 Kms.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

3. A Delivery Post Office in urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postman's beats.

#### Representation of Women in Panchayats

322. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Panchayati Raj System giving 33 percent representation to women has not been functioning in a number of States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to undertake a detailed study of the various problems being faced by women sarpanches in different States; and

(d) the other steps being made to ensure meaningful participation of women in Panchayati Raj system ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) As per the provision of Article 243 D of the Constitution, not less than one-third of the total number of seats and offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats are to be reserved for women. These are mandatory provisions which have to be complied with scrupulously.

(c) and (d) The working of Panchayati Raj Institutions including the participation of women sarpanches are reviewed by the Government of India from time to time, and remedial measures to improve the panchayati raj system have been recommended to the States. Training of PRI representatives, with special focus on women is also being taken up for meaningful participation of women in the Panchayati Raj system.

[Translation]

#### Hampering in power production

323. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether power production is hampering due to the shortage of fuel;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action to meet the shortage of fuel; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) There is no disruption in power generation due to shortage of coal. However, the coal stock position in respect of a few station becomes critical mainly on account of the inability on the part of the SEB's to make advance payment to the Coal Companies and Railways for supply and movement of coal under the new cash and carry scheme.

(b) and (c) For the new thermal power projects, Government is considering to encourage coal mining by private developers in addition to the increase in coal production by the Government owned coal companies.

[English]

### Setting up of Power Project

324. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number and details of Power Projects recommended by the Government of Gujarat in public or private sector;

(b) the fuels suggested for these proposed 'Power Projects; and

(c) the number out of these projects to whom fuel linkage has been granted by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Use of Energy

325. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India energy consumption large. . ." appeared in the daily 'Statesman' dated 22.5.1997 wherein it is stated that 'India uses energy relatively inefficiently';

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken during Ninth Plan period to meet the growing demand of energy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due attention is being paid to increase the efficiency of use of various forms of energy and to limit the pollution and other environmental fall-outs of energy production, processing, conversion and supply.

### Sukhinda Chrome Ore Mines

326. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :  
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has recommended for leasing out of Sukhinda's Chrome ore mining area to private sector companies;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have now received the recommendations of the State Government for approval;

(c) whether huge kickbacks have been involved in leasing out the land to private companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mineral Concessions are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. Any decision on proposal of the State Government in the instant case has to be taken in accordance with the judgement dated 4.4.1995 of Hon'ble High Court of Orissa in O.J.C. Nos. 7729/93, 4701/94, 3825/94, 5422/94 and 7054/94 etc. and Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement dated 23.7.96 in S.L.P. Nos. 10838/95, 11391/95, 11392/95 etc.

(c) As per records available no such information has been received by the Central Government.

(d) Does not arise.

### Migration from Western Orissa due to Drought situation

327. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the unprecedented drought situation in Western Orissa and the consequent migration of people to the township in search of employment;

(b) if so, the proposals before the Government to provide job avenues for the rural unemployed persons and to remedy the situation; and

(c) the quantum of funds allotted to Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar to provide job opportunities to the rural unemployed youths during 1995-96, 1996-97 and in 1997-98 so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOY-

MENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b)  
Yes, Sir. Comments of the Government of Orissa in this regard are given below :

"Migration of labourers to nearby states in search of better wages is not an unusual feature. Therefore, the allocation that the people have migrated due to Government's failure to provide them work is not correct. A large number of employment oriented works are under execution in drought affected areas of the State through anti-poverty programmes particularly Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme in addition to labour intensive works executed with Calamity Relief Fund.

The State Government is quite alive to the situation prevailing in the State and has taken all steps to

prevant migration & starvation deaths. Adequate employment opportunities have been created through massive launching of labour intensive works. Provision of Gratuitous Relief, Emergency feeding, Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, disability pension and various other feeding programmes have also been made".

(c) The quantum of funds allotted (central allocation) to Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 under the wage employment programmes viz. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS); Self Employment Programme viz. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM); and Rural Housing Scheme viz. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) are given below :

(i) JRY & EAS (Rs. in lakhs)

	JRY			EAS (release)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Orissa	24514.35	11274.49	12597.20	11460.00	16427.55	3164.58
Madhya Pradesh	40895.57	17611.61	19677.78	22940.00	22670.17	4722.25
Bihar	62878.54	27260.46	30458.60	16230.00	21245.00	4570.00

(ii) IRDP & IAY (Rs. in lakhs)

	IRDP			IAY		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Orissa	3381.92	3381.92	3993.81	7873.25	7195.91	6534.30
Madhya Pradesh	5282.69	5282.69	5457.47	14172.99	11240.56	10207.08
Bihar	8109.12	8102.12	8377.41	21349.01	17398.92	15799.23

(iii) TRYSEM (Rs. in lakhs)

	(Central release)		Recurring Expenditure
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (upto July 31,97)
Orissa	202.47	199.51	100.92
Madhya Pradesh	505.57	360.40	189.45
Bihar	424.99	248.30	17.80

**Railway Projects**

328. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the railway projects for which foundation stones were laid and inauguration ceremonies held since the inception of the United Front Government;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon so far on advertisements in various news papers, Printing of posters making arrangements for each of the foundation and inauguration ceremonies;

(c) whether there is any outstanding payments to be made on accounts of (b) above.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Introduction of OCB Exchanges

329. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce OCB exchanges to replace E 10-B exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria on which locations of new OCB exchanges are determined; and

(d) the number of OCB exchanges functioning/under installation in various circles, circle-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir.

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

(c) New Technology exchanges including OCB are planned for locations where the present demand is generally 10,000 or more and is likely to grow around 50,000 in next three to four years.

Remote line units parented to main OCB exchange are planned within 30 Km. of the main exchange if demand is 2000 or more.

(d) As on 31.3.97 eighty five OCB telephone exchanges are functioning in the country. Circle-wise details are placed at Statement-I

OCB telephone exchanges have been planned for sixty five cities in the country for the year 1997-98. Circle-wise details are placed at Statement-II and III.

#### Statement-I

List of number of extra Large OCB telephone exchanges functioning in the country as on 31.3.97.

S.No.	Circle/District	No. of Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Calcutta	3
3.	Chennai	2

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat	1
5.	Himachal Pradesh	4
6.	Haryana	1
7.	J & K	4
8.	Karnataka	5
9.	Kerala	5
10.	Maharashtra	8
11.	Madhya Pradesh	4
12.	North East	1
13.	Punjab	2
14.	Rajasthan	1
15.	Tamil Nadu	2
16.	U.P. (East)	5
17.	U.P. (West)	2
18.	West Bengal	2
19.	Mumbai	21
20.	Delhi	10
Total		85

#### Statement-II

	S.No.	Station
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Hyderabad
	2.	Calcutta
	3.	Chennai
	4.	Panipat
Himachal Pradesh	5.	Dharmasala
	6.	Mandi
	7.	Solan
J & K	8.	Srinagar
	9.	Jammu
Karnataka	10.	Belgaum

1	2	3
	11.	Hubli
	12.	Bangalore
	13.	Mysore
	14.	Tirur
	15.	Manjery
	16.	Tellicherry
	17.	Tiruchur
	18.	Trivandrum
Madhya Pradesh	19.	Bhopal
	20.	Gwalior
	21.	Jabalpur
	22.	Raipur
Maharashtra	23.	Nasik
	24.	Aurangabad
	25.	Dombiville
	26.	Kolapur
	27.	Pune
	28.	Solapur
North East	29.	Aizwal
	30.	Ludhiana
Rajasthan	31.	Jodhpur
	32.	Erode
	33.	Pondicherry
U.P. (East)	34.	Gorakhpur
	35.	Varanasi
U.P. (West)	36.	Dehradun
	37.	Durgapur
	38.	Siliguri
	39.	Mumabi
	40.	Delhi

**Statement-III**

*Details of City-wise New OCB exchanges planned for 97-98.*

Circle	S.No.	Station
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Nellore
	2.	Vishakhapatnam
	3.	Kakinada
	4.	Rajamundhary
Assam	5.	Guwahati
Bihar	6.	Jamshedpur
Gujarat	7.	Vadodara
Karnataka	8.	Davengere
	9.	Shimoga
	10.	Badogara
Kerala	11.	Kasaragod
	12.	Irinjalkuda
	13.	Ernakulam
	14.	Cannanore
	15.	Muvathupuzha
	16.	Nileshwar
	17.	Quilon
Maharashtra	18.	Bassein
	19.	Bhiwandi
North East	20.	Dimapur
Tamil Nadu	21.	Vellore
	22.	Pallipalayam
Uttar Pradesh (E)	23.	Faizabad
Uttar Pradesh (W)	24.	Muzaffar Nagar
West Bengal	25.	Asansol

[Translation]

**Modernisation of Telegraph Service  
in Maharashtra**

330. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for the modernisation of telegraph services in Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether any budget allocation has been made for this purpose in the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the modernisation of the telegraph services is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI

PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The micro-processor based Store & Forward Message Switching Systems (SFMS), Formatted Terminal Concentrators (FTCs), Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EKBCs), FAX and Electronic Terminals have been provided in Maharashtra Circle. District-wise details are given in attached Statement.

(c) and (d) No Separate budgetary allotments are made for telegraph services.

(e) The modernisation has already started as per reply to the (b) above.

### Statement

#### Maharashtra Telecom. Circle (Districtwise position of Modern eqpts)

Sl. No.	District	SFMS	EKBC/EKB		FAX	FTCs/FTs	
			Wkng.	Pland.		Wkng.	Pland.
2		3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ahmednagar	-	1/10	2/22	3	-	1/18
2.	Akola	-	1/-	2/27	3	-	1/18
3.	Aurangabad	1-SFMS 32 Lines	1/22	2/37	3	-	1/18
4.	Amravati	-	-	1/13	2	-	-
5.	Beed	-	-	-	1	-	-
6.	Bhandara	-	-	2/18	2	-	-
7.	Mumbai	2-SFMS 128 Lines	-/1	4/33	28	-/8	-/8
8.	Buldana	-	-/2	1/7	2	-	-
9.	Chandrapur	-	-	1/11	1	-	-
10.	Dhule	-	1/4	1/10	1	-	-
11.	Garchiorli	-	-	-	1	-	-
12.	Jalna	-	-/5	1/7	1	-	-
13.	Jalgaon	-	1/14	2/40	2	-	1/18
14.	Kolhapur	1-SFMS 32 Lines	-/1	1/15	3	-	1/18
15.	Lature	-	-/4	1/25	1	-	-
16.	Nagpur	1-SFMS 64 Lines	-	3/24	6	-	-
17.	Nanded	-	-/7	1/18	1	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Nasik	-	1/-	3/31	4	-	-
19.	Osmanabad	-	-	-	2	-	-
20.	Parbhani	-	-7	1/12	1	-	-
21.	Pune	1-SFMSS 64 Lines	2/2	4/49	14	-	-
22.	Raigad	-	-	1/18	2	-	-
23.	Ratnagiri	-	-	2/22	2	-	-
24.	Sangli	-	-	1/15	2	-	-
25.	Satara	-	1/5	2/38	2	-	-
26.	Sindhudurg	-	1/1	1/4	2	-	-
27.	Sholapur	1-SFMSS 32 Lines	-4	4/38	7	-	1/18
28.	Thane	-	-	-4	6	-	-
29.	Wardha	-	-	1/12	1	-	-
30.	Yeotmal	-	-	1/9	2	-	-

SFMSS - Store and Forward Message Switching System.

EKBC - Electronic Key Board Concentrator.

EKB - Electronic Key Board.

FTC - Formatted Terminal Concentrator.

FT - Formatted Terminal.

Wkng. - Working

Pland - Planned

[English]

#### Speed Post Facilities

331. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices wherein the speed post facilities are available in Maharashtra, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which the remaining post offices are likely to be provided with this facility ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) District wise number of post offices wherein Speed Post facility available are given in attached Statement.

(b) Provision of Speed Post facility to more towns/cities is an ongoing process. It is provided on the basis

of business potential and operational feasibility.

#### Statement

*The number of Post Offices wherein the Speed Post facility are available in the State of Maharashtra District-wise as below :*

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Speed Post Centres
1	2	3
1.	Mumbai	66
2.	Thane	18
3.	Raigad	04
4.	Pune	58
5.	Satara	04

1	2	3
6.	Ahmednagar	02
7.	Solapur	02
8.	Kolhapur	04
9.	Sangli	03
10.	Ratnagiri	03
11.	Sindhudurga	Nil
12.	Aurangabad	03
13.	Jalna	Nil
14.	Osmanabad	01
15.	Latur	01
16.	Beed	Nil
17.	Nanded	01
18.	Parbhani	Nil
19.	Nasik	07
20.	Dhule	01
21.	Jalgaon	02
22.	Nagpur	31
23.	Bhandara	02
24.	Chandrapur	02
25.	Wardha	01
26.	Yeotmal	01
27.	Amravati	01
28.	Akola	01
29.	Buldhana	Nil
30.	Gadchiroli	Nil
Total		219

#### Employment Generation in Allahabad

332. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to S.Q.No. 168 on 05.03.1997 regarding development work and to state :

(a) the quantum of employment generated under

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme and the families benefited under IRDP during 1995-96 and 1996-97 in U.P., district-wise; and

(b) the expenditure incurred under each of the above heads during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The details of the quantum of employment generated under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme and the families benefitted under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and expenditure incurred under these schemes in the districts of Uttar Pradesh during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given in the attached Statements I to III.

#### Statement-I

*Performance under Employment Assurance Scheme during 1995-96 and 1996-97 in Uttar Pradesh*

Sl. No.	District	1995-96		1996-97	
		Funds Utilised (Rs. in lakhs)	Employment Generated (Lakh Mandays)	Funds Utilised (Rs. in lakhs)	Employment Generated (Lakh Mandays)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Agra	—	—	0.00	0.00
2.	Aligarh	—	—	251.51	3.08
3.	Allababad	74.80	1.37	523.04	8.19
4.	Almora	869.92	15.87	503.50	10.67
5.	Ambedkar Nagar	—	—	198.62	4.63
6.	Azamgarh	677.53	9.16	593.70	8.69
7.	Badaun	—	—	15.81	0.21
8.	Bahraich	1174.24	18.34	1209.23	22.58
9.	Ballia	0.00	0.00	328.00	6.85
10.	Banda	1081.05	16.39	816.77	9.75
11.	Barabanki	339.22	8.27	241.35	4.50
12.	Basti	468.37	8.52	427.15	6.48
13.	Bhadoi	179.17	4.94	286.28	4.37



1	2	3	4	5	6
14. Bijnaur	—	—	45.38	0.50	
15. Bulandshare	—	—	23.33	0.47	
16. Chamoli	572.66	11.81	631.17	8.78	
17. Dehradun	348.88	6.05	357.80	4.36	
18. Deoria	384.49	7.89	296.35	3.79	
19. Etah	—	—	38.47	0.63	
20. Etawah	—	—	66.12	1.10	
21. Faizabad	286.89	6.16	331.50	4.23	
22. Farrukhabad	—	—	22.66	0.23	
23. Fatehpur	—	—	3.10	0.01	
24. Firozabad	—	—	10.01	0.14	
25. Ghazipur	0.00	0.00	696.10	18.17	
26. Gaziabad	—	—	22.00	0.27	
27. Gonda	807.23	18.97	756.78	12.99	
28. Gorakhpur	576.25	10.80	221.79	3.42	
29. Hamirpur	143.47	3.52	297.47	4.11	
30. Hardoi	0.00	0.00	777.85	10.98	
31. Haridwar	—	—	178.89	2.11	
32. Jalaun	241.54	4.17	522.50	6.93	
33. Jaunpur	374.20	9.52	447.92	8.02	
34. Jhansi	382.01	6.85	391.20	6.87	
35. Kanpur (Dehat)	—	—	0.00	0.00	
36. Kanpur Nagar	—	—	38.60	0.52	
37. Lakhimpur Kheri	336.01	8.15	159.57	3.12	
38. Lalitpur	157.19	3.04	218.16	3.20	
39. Lucknow	—	—	95.49	2.14	
40. Maharajganj	313.75	5.07	211.88	3.95	
41. Mahoba	133.86	2.03	104.17	1.60	

1	2	3	4	5	6
42. Mathura	—	—	10.30	0.04	
43. Mau	228.32	4.12	237.00	3.55	
44. Meerut	—	—	0.00	0.00	
45. Mirzapur	249.94	5.58	407.47	6.20	
46. Moradabad	—	—	4.00	0.03	
47. Muzaffar- nagar	—	—	24.00	0.31	
48. Nainital	703.85	13.10	258.53	4.02	
49. Pandrauna	385.30	7.01	434.32	7.60	
50. Pauri Garhwal	611.34	10.11	409.30	7.20	
51. Pilibhit	—	—	21.06	0.30	
52. Pithoragarh	422.46	7.68	665.78	10.74	
53. Pratapgarh	340.86	6.95	346.80	6.58	
54. Rae Bareli	402.35	8.20	503.42	7.01	
55. Rampur	—	—	41.35	0.51	
56. Saharanpur	—	—	102.11	1.25	
57. Shahjahan- pur	—	—	12.19	0.09	
58. Sidharth- nagar	522.61	9.51	320.32	6.46	
59. Sitapur	260.90	5.67	647.69	9.91	
60. Sonbhadra	543.53	11.74	632.08	10.67	
61. Sultanpur	383.63	6.64	540.78	8.73	
62. Tehri Garhwal	649.72	12.18	448.05	6.70	
63. Udhasingh Nagar	—	—	261.46	3.74	
64. Unnao	378.89	8.69	484.09	7.02	
65. Uttarkashi	278.84	5.49	251.62	2.60	
66. Varanasi	446.71	8.67	408.09	6.04	
Total	16731.98	318.23	19833.03	319.94	

— EAS not implemented during 1995-96.

**Statement-II***District -wise Performance under JRY during 1995-96 and 1996-97 in Uttar Pradesh*

Sl. No.	Name of the District	1995-96			1996-97		
		Expenditure (Rs: Lakhs)	Physical Performance		Expenditure (Rs. Lakhs)	Physical Performance	
			Target	Achievement (Lakhs Mandays)		Target	Achievement (Lakh Mandays)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Uttar Kashi				1194.16	15.82	16.94
2.	Chamoli				989.19	16.17	16.84
3.	Tehri Garhwal				949.82	16.16	15.75
4.	Dehradun				384.86	5.86	6.23
5.	Garhwal				897.57	16.23	16.30
6.	Pithoragarh				672.73	16.77	10.88
7.	Almora				1230.98	17.49	14.70
8.	Nainital				131.06	5.17	2.12
9.	Bijnor				545.28	7.45	6.05
10.	Morabadad				649.08	9.63	9.47
11.	Rampur				279.08	4.46	4.92
12.	Saharanpur				463.49	7.29	6.94
13.	Hardwar				275.70	3.84	3.30
14.	Muzaffarnagar				383.72	5.70	5.71
15.	Meerut				484.23	6.64	5.95
16.	Ghaziabad				394.62	5.57	4.80
17.	Bulandshahr				591.95	9.22	8.75
18.	Aligarh				644.92	11.68	11.97
19.	Mathura				348.07	7.00	5.46
20.	Agra				420.10	7.36	6.50
21.	Firozabad				369.93	5.51	5.63
22.	Etah				684.40	11.25	10.04
23.	Mainpuri				351.06	5.33	4.58
24.	Badaun				501.55	8.74	7.37
25.	Bareilly				344.63	6.34	4.26
26.	Pilibhit				287.21	4.00	4.12
27.	Shahajahanpur				351.97	5.79	5.22

District-wise details was not monitored during 1995-96.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28.	Lakhimpur Kheri				649.51	10.68	10.68
29.	Sitapur				890.21	15.67	13.79
30.	Hardoi				871.96	15.26	15.93
31.	Unnao				804.51	13.88	13.64
32.	Lucknow				600.73	11.25	9.77
33.	Rae Bareli				700.56	14.83	12.90
34.	Farrukhabad				541.81	7.90	7.90
35.	Etawah				608.86	9.77	9.16
36.	Kanpur Dehat				667.87	11.06	10.22
37.	Kanpur Nagar				445.50	5.34	7.21
38.	Jalaun				495.89	7.94	7.40
39.	Jhansi				458.37	8.30	7.31
40.	Lalitpur				520.66	8.35	7.20
41.	Hamirpur				386.35	6.48	6.49
42.	Banda				570.92	11.20	9.37
43.	Fatehpur				652.89	10.25	9.56
44.	Pratapgarh				674.84	11.78	10.90
45.	Allahabad				1266.81	21.07	21.09
46.	Bahraich				752.29	12.95	13.05
47.	Gonda				720.53	13.02	13.06
48.	Barabanki				846.33	12.95	11.75
49.	Faizabad				475.94	13.11	6.82
50.	Sultanpur				699.48	12.98	11.10
51.	Siddharthnagar				358.91	6.87	6.58
52.	Maharajganj				445.66	—	5.97
53.	Basti				736.56	10.63	10.98
54.	Gorakhpur				602.66	10.65	9.22
55.	Deoria				475.75	7.41	6.32
56.	Mau				460.54	7.26	6.47
57.	Azamgarh				771.79	13.52	12.80
58.	Jaunpur				877.24	13.38	13.82
59.	Ballia				1011.65	17.65	15.89
60.	Ghazipur				1102.62	—	18.07

District-wise details was not monitored during 1995-96.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
61.	Varanasi				1205.30	21.62	18.50
62.	Mirzapur				701.29	17.34	11.08
63.	Sonbhadra				1027.27	17.89	16.58
64.	Padrauna				502.35		7.59
65.	Bhadoi				795.08		16.27
66.	Mhaoba				409.74		5.8
67.	Ambedkar Nagar				287.23		6.7
68.	Udham S. Nagar				169.46		2.44
Adm. Amt Hills					0.00		
Adm. Amt State Hills					58.21		
Total		83562.16	1320.56	1532.46	42123.49	709.73	658.18

District-wise details was not monitored during 1995-

### Statement-III

*D.R.D.A.-wise Families Assisted and Expenditure Incurred under I.R.D.P. during 1995-96 & 1996-97 in Uttar Pradesh*

Sl. No.	Name of D.R.D.As.	1995-96		1996-97	
		Total Families Assisted (No.)	Total Expenditure Incurred (Rs. Lakhs)	Total Families Assisted (No.)	Total Expenditure Incurred (Rs. Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Agra	5634	313.19	7120	404.11
2.	Aligarh	7354	377.88	7833	482.33
3.	Allahabad	11938	650.52	11050	705.34
4.	Almora	3444	188.01	3223	185.55
5.	Ambedkar Ngr	*	*	3955	220.35
6.	Azamgarh	8893	502.16	8821	454.39
7.	Badaun	6263	352.55	6970	388.92
8.	Bahraich	7874	400.59	7673	436.21
9.	Ballia	6026	339.53	5565	366.21
10.	Banda	4826	263.53	4827	300.26
11.	Barabanki	8518	438.68	9610	482.98

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Bareilly	5464	273.67	5076	344.25
13.	Basti	7970	388.21	7640	441.74
14.	Bhadohi	2648	165.88	3188	189.01
15.	Bijnaur	5059	304.50	5054	309.69
16.	Bulandshahar	6606	360.44	6663	379.01
17.	Chamoli	2207	123.46	2000	133.26
18.	Dehradun	2066	120.24	2410	136.81
19.	Deoria	6328	323.60	5543	309.19
20.	Etah	5753	328.67	6765	396.55
21.	Etawah	5926	340.32	6043	352.35
22.	Faizabad	6564	344.88	4653	299.17
23.	Farrukhabad	5599	279.60	5174	299.15
24.	Fatehpur	5832	289.72	5512	383.40
25.	Firozabad	3524	228.36	3466	201.49
26.	Ghazipur	5882	331.50	6237	390.30
27.	Gaziabad	4335	237.91	5032	268.41
28.	Gonda	10052	528.06	10475	735.17
29.	Gorakhpur	7491	384.01	7497	400.54
30.	Hamirpur	2449	137.52	2510	173.32
31.	Hardoi	7785	388.88	9453	543.74

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Haridwar	2517	133.12	2349	126.44
33.	Jalaun	3289	176.70	3313	220.39
34.	Jaunpur	9042	551.59	9212	585.46
35.	Jhansi	3497	199.44	3493	232.23
36.	Kanpur Dehat	7521	410.04	7520	500.70
37.	Kanpur Nagar	981	55.43	977	69.66
38.	Lakhimpur Kheri	6186	344.75	7223	425.57
39.	Lalitpur	1631	116.36	1858	109.14
40.	Lucknow	4728	252.20	4477	245.93
41.	Maharajganj	5967	303.76	5320	282.70
42.	Mohaba	1734	138.39	1502	89.07
43.	Mainpuri	3367	182.90	3408	201.10
44.	Mathura	4279	234.36	4466	258.36
45.	Mau	3910	222.57	3636	227.67
46.	Meerut	7661	382.96	8710	415.56
47.	Mirzapur	4845	265.60	6401	359.27
48.	Morabadad	6856	378.20	7198	464.59
49.	Muzaffar Ngr	6828	335.26	6282	325.03
50.	Nainital	4211	228.94	2319	102.70
51.	Padrauna	5118	235.54	5510	279.72
52.	Partapgarh	6858	319.31	6518	327.14
53.	Pauri Garhwal	2666	147.22	2499	158.64
54.	Piliphit	3094	178.99	2897	183.13
55.	Pithoragarh	2540	153.98	2634	179.07
56.	Raibareilly	7886	402.58	7344	403.81
57.	Rampur	2425	146.26	2347	156.47
58.	Saharanpur	4883	304.84	5027	314.14
59.	Shahjanpur	5885	321.14	5850	330.79
60.	Sidharth Ngr	4875	289.90	4920	239.77
61.	Sitapur	8918	474.05	8514	588.64
62.	Sonbhadhara	3338	211.44	3379	220.43

1	2	3	4	5	6
63.	Sultanpur	10391	492.08	10090	471.14
64.	Tehri Garhwal	2336	125.76	2677	136.84
65.	Udham Singh Ngr.	'	'	2244	124.80
66.	Unnao	6580	331.11	6750	403.89
67.	Uttarkashi	1288	72.45	1169	89.10
68.	Varansi	7475	441.68	7481	494.26
Total		355916	19266.97	364552	21456.55

\* = These are new D.R.D.As created during 1996-97.

[Translation]

#### International Tender for Thermal Power Project

333. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any international tender was invited for coal based thermal power project at Navinagar by Power Grid Corporation of India on August 30, 1996;

(b) whether any objection was filed by developers in regard to the quality of coal in the said tender;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Navinagar Thermal Power Project of 2000 Megawatt has been shelved;

(e) if so, whether there is any other scheme in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Powergrid floated enquiry for 'Prequalification' of project developers for Nabinagar Power Project through International Competitive Bidding. The notice was issued on the 30th of August. 1996.

(b) No, Sir. However, apprehensions were expressed by some of the prospective developers about the availability of coal from the linked mine and the commercial viability of the linked mine block. Subsequently, a new mine block has been allocated for the project.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) The project has not been shelved. It is proposed to recast the project to a capacity that is commensurate with the reserves in the mine block now allocated for the project.

[English]

### Reserve of Minerals in Orissa

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

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has undertaken any survey on the total reserve of different mineral in Orissa;

(b) if so, the areas surveyed by GSI in the State during the last three years;

(c) the total deposits of different minerals revealed from the survey; and

(d) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of the minerals in the above State ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted survey in the State of Orissa during the last three years. The details of the areas surveyed and the prospect identified are given in the attached Statement.

(d) Any exploration/exploitation agency is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting prospecting licence/mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act (1957) and rules made thereunder and in the light of the National Mineral Policy 1993.

### Statement

Area	Ore Reserves/Resources	Average Grade
1	2	3

### Orissa

i. Sukinda

Chromite

145.03 m.t.

30 to 43% Cr 203

Ultramatic Complex

Cuttack distt.

### iii. Manganese

(a) A Bonai-KEONJHAR Belt in Sundargarh & Keonjhar distt.

Resources augmented by 2.0 m.t. The total reserves stand at 33.377 m.t.

25 to 46% Mn.

(b) Kutinga Nishikhal Kalahandi-Patna Areas in Raigarh, Kalahandi and Bolangir distt.

(c) Talshodshi Block Koraput distt.

(d) Ghoría Jhor Manomunda, Sundergarh distt.

(e) Biarpalli Tabalbhanjhi-Khagsabhal North Dungripalli Block, Bolangir distt.

0.162 m.t.

20% Mn.

### Platinum

(a) Nilgiri-Boula Nuasahi area

6 million tonnes (possible + probable reserves)

2 gm/tonne

1	2	3
<b>Gold</b>		
Gorumahisani Belt	Poor mineralisation	—
<b>Diamond</b>		
Suktel Udanti Area Padampur distt.	Result are not encouraging	—
<b>Dimension Stone</b>		
Ganjam, Cuttack and Keonjhar distt.	1.1 million Cubic meters (upto a depth of 6 meters)	—
<b>Coal</b>		
Talchar-Chendipada (W) & Patrapara Blocks	2633 million tonnes	—
North of Akhrapal & Srirampur	1318 million tonnes	—
Bagaria-Aunli Kosala (East)	Exploration is in progress. Reserve not yet estimated.	—
Ib-River Tangardih East,	74 million tonnes	—
Budhajhoria	Exploration is in progress. Reserve not yet estimated.	—

[Translation]

#### Vacant Posts of T.T.A.

335. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of T.T.As lying vacant in various divisions in the department as on 30 June, 1997;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to fill the vacant posts;

(c) whether the Government propose to promote phone mechanics as T.T.A. on the basis of seniority;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As in Annexure.

(b) Eligible candidates are being trained gradually to fill up the vacant posts.

(c) No Sir.

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

(e) There is no provision in the existing Recruitment Rules.

#### Statement

Name of Circles	No. of posts lying vacant as on 30.06.97
1	2
Andman & Nickobar	21
Andhra Pradesh	87
Assam	99
Bihar	476
Calcutta Distt	152
Gujarat	865
Haryana	314
Himachal Pradesh	Nil
Jammu & Kashmir	41
Karnataka	1609
Kerala	66
Chennai	Nil

1	2
Maharashtra	996
Madhya Pradesh	191
MTNL Mumbai	Nil
MTNL New Delhi	556
Punjab	1009
North East	99
Orissa	37
Rajasthan	686
Tamil Nadu	1370
Uttar Pradesh (East)	293
Uttar Pradesh (West)	519
West Bengal	105

**Utilization of Non-Conventional Energy  
Sources in Gujarat**

336. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken so far to encourage the utilisation of non-conventional energy sources in Gujarat;

(b) the total amount spent thereon during the last three years;

(c) whether satisfactory achievement has been made in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government review it from time to time; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the last review ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a wide range of programmes to generate and utilise non-conventional energy such as; the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP), the setting up of Biogas plants, Improved Chulhas, Biomass Gasification and Briquetting plants, Solar Thermal

Water Heating, Both domestic and industrial, Solar Photovoltaic energy based rural home-lighting, lanterns, water pumping for irrigation and village level power plants, grid connected power from Wind Energy. Small Hydro, Biomass Combustion, Bagasse-based Co-generation and Solar Photovoltaic Energy and electrical power from urban and Industrial Wastes, throughout the country including in the State of Gujarat.

(b) The total amount released by this Ministry to the State of Gujarat, during the last three years, is Rs. 2257.81 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. The achievements made under the various programmes of the Ministry are reviewed from time to time.

(f) the details of the physical achievements for 1996-97 under various major programmes of the Ministry, in the State of Gujarat, is given in the attached Statement.

**Statement**

*Physical Targets and Achievements under Major  
Renewable Energy Programme in the State  
of Gujarat, for 1996-97*

S. No.	Name of the Programme	1996-97	
		Target	Achievement
1.	Biogas		
	(i) NPBD (Nos.)	19,000	18,019
	(ii) CBP/IBP (Nos.)	5	2
2.	Improved Chulha (Nos.)	43,000	71,176
3.	Biomass Gasifier (KW)	No targets fixed	160
4.	Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	2,000	1,400
5.	SPV Water Pumping Systems (Nos.)	No targets fixed	15
6.	Water Pumping Wind Mills (Nos.)	No targets fixed	36
7.	Wind Energy (MW)	No targets fixed	31.137

NPBD = National Project on Biogas Development



CBP = Community Biogas Plants  
 IBP = Institutional Biogas Plants  
 KW = Kilo watt, MW = Mega watt  
 SPV = Solar Photovoltaic

**Misuse of Indira Awas Yojana Funds  
 In Bihar**

337. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of funds disbursed under Indira Awas Yojana in Bihar during 1996-97;

(b) whether the Government are aware that not a single house has been constructed till date in some of the districts of the State under Indira Awas Yojana;

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

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons held responsible for misuse of the IAY funds in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) During 1996-97, Rs. 157.38 crore were released to Bihar as Central Assistance under Indira Awas Yojana.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Committee Constitution of SEBs**

338. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Committee has been Constituted for making State Electricity Boards more effective and for removing prevailing corruption therein;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to hand over the SEBs to Private Sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) & (b) No, Sir. However, the Government has

finalised a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNPP) on the basis of a consensus reached at the Chief Ministers, Conferences held on 16.10.1996 and 3.12.1996. The Action Plan provides for autonomy to the State Electricity Boards, improvement in the management practices and of physical parameters of SEBs. The Action Plan has already been circulated to all the State/UT Governments for implementation of the proposals contained therein.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

**Upgradation of LPT to HPT in Karnataka**

339. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering for upgradation of Raichur Doordarshan Kendra in Karnataka from LPT to HPT; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be accorded approval and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) A High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) is envisaged to be set up in replacement of the existing Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) at Raichur in Karnataka, subject to approval of the scheme by the competent authority, availability of resources and inter-se-priorities. The normal lead time in the implementation of a project of this magnitude is about 2-3 years, from the date of start of civil works at the site.

**Satellite Communications Sector to Private Sector**

340. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to open up the Satellite Communication Sector to private sector as well as privatise INSAT; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Satellite communications for Closed Users Groups is being provided by Indian registered companies leasing INSAT capacity. INSAT is a

Government owned satellite system and the transponder on INSAT is being used by both Government and Private users.

Licences are being given by DOT to the Indian registered companies for providing "64 Kbps Domestic Data Network Closed Users Group Service by using VSATs (Very Small Aperture Terminals)" over the INSAT satellite system. So far thirteen (13) licenses have already been awarded to various companies from 3.8.94 onwards. Nine (9) companies have started the service.

#### **Poverty Alleviation Programme in Rajasthan**

341. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 39.28% rural people of Western Rajasthan are living below poverty line;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate some crash programme to improve their living conditions;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to declare 'Helments' & Dhanis of desert areas a Revenue villages to enable them to reap the benefits of development programmes which are presently restricted to Revenue villages only; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) As per estimates of poverty for 1993-94 released by planning Commission, the percentage of rural poor living below poverty in Rajasthan is 26.46.

(b) No proposal for formulating crash programme is under consideration with the Govt.

(c) and (d) The subject matter does not come within the purview of the Central Government.

#### **Fire in Chennai Telephone Exchange**

342. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a major fire accident in

Chennai Telephone Exchange;

(b) if so, the number of lines affected and the amount of loss suffered thereto;

(c) whether any enquiry in the matter has been made;

(d) if so, the details and causes of the accident; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such accidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. On 23-6-97 a major fire took place in Anna Road Telephone Exchange Complex in Chennai.

(b) About 32,357 telephone lines were affected due to this fire. Total loss suffered on account of this fire is estimated to the tune of Rs. 6.5 crores (approx).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Technical and Development Circle Jabalpur is investigating the cause of fire and the enquiry is in final stage.

(e) Standing instructions on the subject have been re-iterated to all the field units for strict compliance to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

#### **Delhi Telephone Directory**

343. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Telephone Directory was last issued at the end of 1994;

(b) if so, how many new telephone connections have been provided to the subscribers in Delhi after the issue of Directory;

(c) whether any arrangements have been made to provide service to the subscribers in the absence of a Telephone Directory;

(d) the time by when the new telephone Directory is proposed to be issued; and

(e) the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 556320 telephone connections have been provided to the subscriber in Delhi upto 31.3.97 since issue of the last directory.

(c) Yes, Sir. The following arrangements have been made to provide Directory Service to the subscribers :-

- (i) Non-metered Directory Enquiry Service 197 is operating from six Directory Enquiry Centres in Delhi.
- (ii) Directory Dial Up Service for Computer and Intel Users.
- (iii) Computerised Changed Number Announcement Service (Non-metered) is available through IVRS on 1951 (Hindi) and 1952 (English).
- (iv) Walk in Directory enquiry at Head Quater and Area Customer Service Centres (CSC).
- (v) Telephone Directory in CD ROM is available on sale at Darya Ganj, K.L. Bhawan, Shakti Nagar, Bhikaji tama Place, Nehru Place, Maya Puri, Rajouri Garden and Laxmi Nagar Telephone Exchange/Customer Service Centres (CSC).

(d) Tenders are under evaluation. The telephone Directory for Delhi is likely to be issued by March, 1998.

(e) The delay in printing of Delhi Telephone Directory was due to contractor's problems.

[Translation]

#### **Increase in Train Accidents on Bhopal-Jhansi route**

344. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been spurt in the number of train accidents on the Bhopal – Jhansi route during each of the last two years.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the increasing number of accidents on this route ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) There were 13 train accidents on Bhopal – Jhansi route during 1996-97 as compared to 9 during 1995-96.

(c) Some of the measures taken to improve safety and prevent accidents are as under :-

- (i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.
- (ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human errors in causing accidents.
- (iii) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie damping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.
- (iv) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
- (v) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (vi) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axle.
- (vii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.
- (viii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a state crossing are conducted.
- (ix) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (x) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of simulators for training of drivers.
- (xi) Refresher courses regularly organised at specified intervals.
- (xii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.
- (xiii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

[English]

### Telephone waiting list in Gurgaon

345. SHRI R. DEVADASS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cleared the telephone waiting list upto 1.1.96 in Gurgaon;

(b) if so, the present position of allotting telephone connections to the people who have got themselves registered in Gurgaon after 1.1.96;

(c) whether the Government have suspended the work of giving telephone connections to the people enlisted after 1.1.96;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the number of telephones released to the persons enlisted after 1.1.96 and the time by which the connections are likely to be provided to them ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The waiting list upto 1.1.96 has been cleared except a few technically non-feasible cases.

(b) The status of clearance of waiting list, in various categories, is as follows :

Sl. No.	Category	Cleared upto
1.	OYT	15.7.1997
2.	N-OYT (Special)	10.7.1997
2.	N-OYT (General)	1.1.1996

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) 2200 telephone connections stand provided, to those applicants who got themselves registered after 1.1.1996. Rest of the applicants are being provided the connections progressively and a substantial waiting list is likely to be cleared before 31.3.98.

### Power Allocation Formula

346. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power allocation formula is followed

by the Government uniformly for all central sector power stations;

(b) if not, the logic of deviations from the formula.

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan requested the Union Government to review the formula for allocation of power from the central generating power stations based on projected shortage of power; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be reviewed to ensure additional power to the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) By and large the power allocation formula has been followed by the Government for all central sector power stations except in the case of Kayamkulam in Kerala, Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh and Faridabad in Haryana. which are exclusively dedicated to the respective states. For a variety of reasons including NTPC not having sufficient project units portfolio, it was decided to consider setting up a few projects like Kayamkulam, Simhadri and Faridabad exclusively for individual states. It has also been decided that such projects be set up as separate subsidiary companies of NTPC in which the concerned State Governments/SEBs should have an equity.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The present formula is being examined in consultation with CEA. CPSU's and State Governments/ State Electricity Boards.

### Mehta Committee Report

347. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since received Mehta Committee Report on rural areas and development;

(b) if so, the salient features of the reports; and

(c) the details of the recommendations accepted and rejected, separately, alongwith the reasons of rejections ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee has submitted interim report to Reserve Bank of India.

(b) The salient features of the interim report and the recommendations accepted by the Government are :-

- (i) Greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institution in the implementation of IRDP.
- (ii) Selection of the families below poverty line for assistance under IRDP should be from those with skills, aptitude and experience in handling assets. Others would also be provided assistance under IRDP, subject to acquiring or upgrading their skills under TRYSEM or other related training programmes.
- (iii) Switchover from present front end subsidy to back-end subsidy.

- (iv) Measures for better recovery of IRDP loan.
- (v) Realistic repayment schedules and increasing the security free limits.
- (vi) Need to meet Working capital requirement.
- (vii) Stress on better Planning and development of infrastructure.
- (viii) Increase in the level of per family assistance by providing larger credit and higher subsidy.
- (ix) Encouragement of group activities.
- (x) Modification of traditional target oriented approach.
- (c) Details in the Statement attached.

#### Statement

##### *Recommendations made by the expert Committee and Action Taken thereon*

Recommendations	Action Taken
1	2
1. The poor without skills and experience in handling assets should be segregated into a separate category by a Committee comprising the representatives of blocks, Panchayat, lead banks, school masters, postmasters, prominent villagers and grass-root NGOs; such poor people should be initially provided wage employment under wage employment under various schemes of State Governments and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. They should also be supported by providing for greater social consumption expenditure. They would be provided with assistance under IRDP subject to their acquiring or upgrading their skills. The other segment of the poor i.e. families above the poor IAF of the poor which has reasonable measure of skills and experience may be provided assistance under IRDP straightaway. The relatively new entrants to job market may be provided training under TRYSEM or other programmes followed by assistance under IRDP.	The Ministry is of the view that all the BPL families should be covered under IRDP. Whenever required beneficiaries will be given training according to their skill and aptitude. A new category of trained literate youth who will get higher subsidy has been introduced.
2. For doing away with leakages and malpractices, the Committee recommends switchover from front-end to backend system of subsidy. The benefit of subsidy should also be available to borrowers who prefer to avail themselves of working capital finance.	Necessary instructions have been issued.

1

3. For improving recovery. Government of India may consider linking of certain percentage of subsidy allocation to recovery performance. Special recovery officers may be appointed by Govts. Enactment of Model Bill as recommended by Talwar Committee by remaining State Governments may be expedited. Loan waivers may not be declared. DRDAs, Vos and SHGs may help banks in recovery, Utilisation-Reporter-Cum-Recovery facilitators may be appointed on commission basis.
4. The work relating to identification of investment opportunities and preparation of project profiles may be undertaken by district level Technical Group to be set up by DRDAs.
5. DRDAs must prepare a prospective plan of infrastructure in consultation with DCC and BLBC. The limit of expenditure for setting up of infrastructure may be raised to 20% of budgetary allocation. Atleast one mini ITI or Rural Polytechnic may be set up in each block for imparting training to poor rural youth. Private sector may be associated with the task of setting up such institutions. Additional shifts for TRYSEM should be opened to all ITIs and other training institutions.
6. Democratic character of IRDP should be restored and strengthened by ensuring greater involvement of Panchayats and village population as also be imparting to the process of identification of beneficiaries a greater degree of transparency.
7. Banks may be authorised to finalise targets in respect of IRDP under service area plans on the basis of previous years' actual figures after adding 10% for cushioning, without waiting for targets from Government of India.
8. Banks should fix realistic repayment schedules and provide for gestation period where required. Working capital assistance in the form of cash credit limits may also be provided where necessary. The repayment period of IRDP loans should not be less than 5 years. Banks may encourage group loans for various activities under IRDP. The limit of non-obtention of mortgage may be fixed at Rs. 25,000/- for all activities under IRDP. Collateral security may not be insisted for loans upto Rs. 50,000/-. Banks may be given freedom to select the beneficiaries from BPL list on a pilot basis.

2

Instructions have been issued by the RBI. State Governments have also been requested to take appropriate action.

Instructions have been issued by the RBI. Separate instructions have also been issued by the Ministry.

RBI has issued instructions. Instructions have also been issued by this Ministry to the States/UTs, and also for setting up of Mini ITI and-and also for opening additional shifts for TRYSEM. Ceiling on infrastructure development has been raised to 25% in North Eastern States including Sikkim and 20% in other States/UTs.

Provision already exists under the IRDP manual. Separate instructions issued by RBI to financial institutions.

Instructions to this effect have been issued by this Ministry.

Instructions have been issued by the RBI.

1	2
9. The level of per family/enterprise investment under IRDP should be enlarged by providing larger credit as also higher amount of subsidy.	Decisions have been communicated to all concerned to encourage group activities and for provision of higher subsidy for trained educated rural youth. Further emphasis has been laid on credit mobilisation.
10. Non-farm tiny/small enterprise and services sector may be further promoted under IRDP.	Necessary instructions have been issued by the RBI.
11. DRDAs must be reorganised into compact teams of professional and technical experts.	Instructions have been issued to the State Governments in this regard.
12. Voluntary organisations and Self-Help-Groups may be associated with the implementation of IRDP. In the case of projects approved by CAPART a few V.O.s can be on pilot basis given list of BPL families for identification of borrowers, ensuring availability of backward/forward linkages, as also verifying end use of credit.	Instructions have been issued by the RBI. Provisions for associating the V.O.s already exists in the IRDP Manual.
13. Banks should provide loans under IRDP for acquisition of land.	Necessary instructions have been issued by the RBI.
14. Cash disbursement under IRDP may be extended throughout the country. Family Credit Plan Scheme should also be further encouraged.	Necessary instructions have been issued by the RBI.
15. Supplementary doses of assistance under IRDP may be provided to beneficiaries who have not crossed the poverty line with initial assistance.	Provisions exist under the IRDP Manual.
16. Panchayati Raj Institutions at grass-root or middle levels should be involved in the implementation of IRDP.	Provisions already exist under IRDP Manual.
17. A new dimension should be added to IRDP through Information Education and/Commission budget should be provided.	Separate budget provision already exists.

#### Railway facilities in Orissa

348. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the steps are being taken to provide better rail communications facilities between Paradeep and Cuttack in Orissa;

(b) if so, the projects launched for the purpose; and

(c) the expected time of the completion of the on-going projects ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of doubling of Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep section has been taken up.

(c) Within the 9th Plan period.

#### Generation of Power

349. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether less power has been generated during

the Eighth Five Year Plan as compared to the Seventh Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the quantum of power generated against the target set therefor during the Eighth Five Year Plan alongwith the reasons of such shortfall, if any;

(d) whether the Government have made the mid term appraisal of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(e) if so, the reasons of the failure of the said plan in the power sector; and

(f) the measures contemplated for not repeating such failure in the Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The total power generated during the 8th Plan and 7th Plan are 1750.5 billion units and 1025.8 billion units respectively.

(c) The total power generated during the Eighth Five Year Plan was 1750.5 Billion Units. A five year plan only gives capacity addition targets and generation target for terminal year and not five years.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) According to the Mid Term Appraisal of Eighth Five Year Plan, the main reasons for shortfall in the target of capacity addition were constraints of resources, law and order problems, problems related to externally aided projects, deficiencies in project management and in the case of private sector the delay in decision making by the State Governments.

(f) For the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan brought out by the Planning Commission the following strategy has been suggested for achieving the desired results in the power sector :

1. Speedy completion of the on-going and approved power projects; taking steps for new projects;
2. Transparency in selection of private parties and speedy decision making for enlisting private sector participation in a significant manner;
3. Providing adequate outlets for hydel power sector for completion of on-going projects within shortest possible time; cost benefit analysis on the relative

advantage of mega project versus small project together with environmental considerations in selection of new projects; considering provisions of fiscal incentives and concessions enlisting the private sector for hydro projects; State Governments to ensure full investigations of hydro projects before they are offered to private parties

4. Adequate attention to new capacity addition of nuclear power;

5. Promotion to domestic manufacturing capability for power equipment.

#### **Survey for Tellicherry-Mysore Railway Line**

350. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey work on Tellicherry-Mysore railway line has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the survey is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has given any representation to include above railway line in the Government projects on priority basis; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The field work of the survey has been nearly completed and the report is under preparation. The report is now likely to be received by 30.9.97. The difficult terrain encountered has been the reason for delay of the report.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Action could be taken after the survey is completed.

#### **Payment to Hindustan Cable Ltd.**

351. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) is holding back payments to Hindustan Cable Ltd.;



(b) if so, the total amount payable by the DOT to the Hindustan Cable Ltd. (HCL) as on 30.6.1997 and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether HCL is starved of orders from DOT; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the nature and extent of the held up orders ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Barring orders placed in the current years there is no admissible claim pending.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

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

#### Introduction of Passenger Trains

352. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to fulfil the demand of the people of North-Eastern States by introducing the passenger trains from different parts of North-Eastern States to Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to run Saraighat Express daily as a first step; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Provision of additional services is a continuous process on Indian Railways subject to the availability of resources, operational feasibility and traffic justification. During 1997-98 extension of 5659/5660 Kamrup Express to Dibrugarh and extension of 6511/6512 Bangalore-Howrah weekly Express to Guwahati will provide additional services from the North-Eastern States to Calcutta. There is, however, no proposal to run Saraighat Express as a daily train.

#### Construction of Fly Overs

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

(a) whether the Government have since taken any steps to increase the speed of the trains between Howrah and Bandel and between Howrah and Kharagpur by constructing few fly-overs and removing the rail gates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress, made in this regard, so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Three busy level crossings are sanctioned for replacement with Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges. In addition the State Government has been asked to sponsor proposals on two busy level crossings i.e. Bagnan and Ramrajatala.

(c)(i) Road Under Bridge at Konnagar sanctioned in 1995-96 has progressed upto 50%.

(ii) Road Over Bridge at Liluah sanctioned in 1988-89 but the State Govt. has not fulfilled the conditions to take up the work.

(iii) Road Over Bridge at Maurigram sanctioned during 1997-98. The State Govt. is yet to confirm site to enable Railway to start the work.

#### Wages to E.D. Employees

354. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts had issued orders on November 27, 1996 condoning the period of absence from October 23, 1996 to October 29, 1996 of Postal Employees including the Extra-Departmental Employees;

(b) whether the Departmental Employees were paid the wages after treating the period of absence as on leave;

(c) whether in spite of the period of absence having been condoned, the extra-departmental employees have been denied wages for the period of absence;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether representations have been received for payment of wages for the period of absence to the extra-departmental employees; and

(f) if so, whether the Government are favourably considering the request for payment of wages for the period of absence to the extra-departmental employees ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Extra-Departmental Agents are not entitled to wages for the period of absence from duty, on leave or otherwise, under the existing EDA (Conduct & Service) Rules, 1964. Therefore, no payment of wages was made to Extra Departmental Agents for their period of absence as this would tantamount to giving duty pay.

(e) and (f) A few representations have been received in the matter. Some officials have also to Court, and the matter is currently subjudice.

#### **Doubling of Rail Line between Seoraphuli and Tarakeswar**

355. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that line utilisation capacity of Seoraphuli and Tarakeswar Section have reached on saturated point;

(b) if so, whether Government have since considered for construction of double line between this section;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A techno-economic survey was conducted for augmentation of line capacity of Seoraphuli-Tarakeswar section and this section was not recommended for doubling. However, some EMU trains are being augmented from 9 to 10 coaches and there is likelihood of increasing EMU train formation further by 2 coaches, thereby bringing about a significant increase in passenger carrying capacity of trains. There is hardly any goods traffic on this section.

#### **Telephone Connections in Bardhaman**

356. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several persons have got their names registered for telephone connections at Rasulpur under Bardhaman Telephone Exchange but they are not getting connection for a long time;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to

provide telephone connections to all waiting list persons of Rasulpur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The number of prospective Registered subscribers in the Waiting List of Rasulpur Telephone Exchange is 83 only as on 30.6.97

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The present Telephone Exchange at Rasulpur with a capacity of 368 lines is having 319 working connections, and the same is planned to be replaced by 1000 C-DOT to cater the existing waiting list and the future demands of telephone connection during the current financial year.

#### **Telecommunication services in Tripura and West Bengal**

357. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :  
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to improve the functioning of Telecommunication services in Tripura and in the District of Birbhum, West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken to improve the services :-

(A) TRIPURA :

(i) There are 47 electronic exchanges, 44 exchanges are having STD facility. The remaining three exchanges viz. Hmanpui, Kanchanpur and Manubazar will be provided STD facility during 97-98.

(ii) The capacity of existing telephone exchange at Agartala is being further augmented by additional 4000 lines.

(iii) 55% villages are provided with public telephones. The remaining villages will be provided with telephone facility during the 9th Five Year Plan.

- (iv) The present analog microwave link between Agartala to Silchar is planned to be replaced by digital media to further improve the STD service.

B. BIRBHUM : The following development activities have been planned during 97-98.

- (i) Total capacity expansion by 5000 lines.
- (ii) Provision of 4500 new telephone connections.
- (iii) Provision of 550 village public telephones.
- (iv) Provision of 150 STD PCOs and 80 local PCOs.
- (v) Commissioning of 8 new telephone exchanges.
- (vi) Extension of STD facility to 11 more exchanges through reliable media.

#### Telecast of Matches at DD

358. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan is giving less importance to telecast football and Hockey matches of the country as well as international matches;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps to be taken to allot more time to telecast these matches ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) It is Doordarshan's endeavour to telecast all major National and International sporting events including hockey and football matches where-ever telecast rights are made available to it. As a result of signing an agreement with the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) and acquiring telecast rights, Doordarshan has been able to telecast almost all major hockey matches/tournaments played in the country in the recent past. Earnest efforts are being made by Doordarshan to sign similar agreements with All India Football Federation (AIFF) and other Sports Associations.

#### Gauge Conversion

359. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names and length of the narrow/metre gauge sections under Northeast Frontier Railway converted into broad-gauge so far;

(b) whether all the converted lines gets clearance for running of goods and passenger trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of those sections where passenger as well as goods trains have started plying;

(e) whether the Government are considering for introduction of passenger services from those section to other parts of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASVAN) : (a) (i) Guwahati-Dibrugarh (559 kms.)

(ii) Tinsukhia-Lekhapani (64 kms.)

(iii) Chaparmukh-Haibergaon (25 kms.)

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) and (d) Goods trains are running on all the above converted sections. But Passenger trains are running only on Guwahati-Dibrugarh and Chaparmukh-Haibergaon sections.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) 1. 4055/4056 Delhi-Dimapur Brahmaputra Mail has been extended to Dibrugarh Town/Tinsukia.

2. 2423/2424 Guwahati Rajdhani will also be extended to Dibrugarh Town once a week.

3. 5659/5660 Howrah-Guwahati Kamrup Express will be extended to Dibrugarh Town.

4. An overnight service will be introduced between Guwahati and Tinsukia.

#### Attachment of AC-II Coaches with Howrah-Chennai Mail

360. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase AC-2 coaches with Howrah-Chennai Mail;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that passengers are not getting more accommodation due to less number of quota allotted to and from Calcutta in the AC-2 class;

(d) if so, whether the Government are going to fulfill

the demand by attaching AC-3 coach with this train and convert the rake into air-brakes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) An additional A.C. 2-Tier Sleeper coach is being provided on 6003/6004 Mail from 1.8.97.

(c) Few passengers remain on waiting list.

(d) to (f) Conversion of long distance trains into air-brake and deployment of AC 3-tier sleeper coaches are being done in a phased manner. Conversion of 6003/6004 Mail into air-brake and deployment of A.C. 3-tier sleeper on this train will also be considered alongwith similar demands in later years.

#### Telephone Bills

361. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Rent Rebate and RNP charges and surcharges waived by GM (North) MTNL during 1995-96 on account of dead telephones have not been adjusted in Telephone Bills till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps proposed to be taken in regard thereto; and

(c) the reasons for adding the amount of REDU, FRECAL in the telephone bills for the period when the phone was lying dead for months together ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As per records, no rent rebate is pending. Some cases of RNP charge and surcharge waived are pending for adjustment.

(b) As mentioned above, no rent rebate case is pending. Regarding RNP charges & surcharges waived, only a few cases are pending. In these cases either a declaration from the subscriber or original bill is requested for stamping with a view to safeguarding the Government revenue. The efforts are being made to clear these cases also within one month.

(c) The free calls are permitted for each Bi-monthly

Billing Cycle. Prorata free calls for the period of rebate are reduced from the total free calls or in other words amount on account of these free calls is reduced from the amount of rental rebate allowed.

#### Replacement of Railway Tracks

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pathetic condition of the outdated and very old rail tracks causing frequent derailing and accidents of trains between Kasaragod and Cannanore sector in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to replace such tracks ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) In the past three years there was no accident due to track defects in Cannanore-Kasaragod section. This section is 85.6 km in length and the track consists of 90R rails laid on CST-9 sleepers. The rails have carried a total GMT of 164 only as against the safe limit of 300.

(b) However on condition basis, 34 km. length of rail renewals and 31 km sleeper renewals have been sanctioned. During 1997-98, 17 kms of rails and sleepers are planned for renewal.

#### Telephone service in Dharwad District

363. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages which have been provided telephone facility and the villages not connected with telephone service in Dharwad district of Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any proposal for expansion of communication services in this district; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 1221 Nos. of villages have been provided telephone facility and 123 Nos. of villages are without telephone facility in Dharwad District of Karnataka.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The remaining 123 villages are planned to be provided with telephone facility during the current financial year.

### Procurement of EMU Coaches

364. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of EMU coaches procured by the Railways during each of the last three years;

(b) the distribution of these coaches during the above period, zone-wise

(c) whether the Government are considering to provide more EMU coaches to Eastern Railway;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The details of total no. of EMU coaches procured for last three years are as follows :-

1994-95	:	161
1995-96	:	269
1996-97	:	228

(b) Railway-wise distribution of EMU coaches for last 3 years is as under :-

	1994-85	1995-96	1996-97
CR	54	82	33
ER	37	57	84
NR	15	30	44
SR	9	27	29
SER	24	27	38
WR	22	46	NIL

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Eastern Railway has been allotted 177 EMU coaches for the year 1997-98.

(e) Does not arise.

### Vacant Posts of SC/ST

365. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vacancies reserved for Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes in his Ministry, Departments and the Public Undertakings as on June 30, 1997;

(b) the time from which these vacancies exist and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to fill up these vacancies ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The number of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Ministry proper including its attached offices and autonomous bodies as on 30.6.97 is given in the Statement attached. The vacancies exist due to various reasons such as resignation, retirement, creation of new posts etc.

(c) Action to fill up the vacancies has already been initiated.

### Statement

*Total vacancies of SCs/STs in the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, including its attached offices and Autonomous Bodies as on 30.06.97*

Group	Posts SC	Vacant ST	Since when Vacant
Group 'A'	09	03	2 since - 1992 3 since - 1993 5 since - 1994 -95 2 since - 1996 -97
Group 'B'	25	11	1 since - 1993 4 since - 1994 8 since - 1995 4 since - 1996 19 since - 1997
Group 'C'	19	16	6 since - 1993 4 since - 1994 21 since - 1996 4 since - 1997
Group 'D'	07	05	1 since - 1993 7 since - 1996 4 since - 1997
Total :	60	35	95

### Drinking Water Problem in A.P.

366. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
 SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :  
 SHRI K.S. RAYADU :  
 SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :  
 SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :  
 SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :  
 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of villages in Andhra Pradesh including East Godavari district where problem of drinking water is being felt;

(b) the details of schemes/projects that are being undertaken and the districts to be covered thereunder to overcome the problem in the State;

(c) the quantum of funds spend thereon during each of the last three years and the amount to be spent during 1997-98 and the share of Centre therein;

(d) the details of the agencies engaged in assisting the supply of drinking water in the State; and

(e) the time by which the drinking water is likely to be provided in all the villages of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The details of 'not covered' and 'partially covered' habitations in Andhra Pradesh including East Godavari district are given in the Statement attached.

(b) Schemes/projects are being taken up in all the districts in the State under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, the Basic Minimum Services and the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme. The State Govts. are implementing the schemes as per their MNP norms.

(c) The details of quantum of funds employed during the previous three years were as under :

(Rs. in crore)			
Year	ARWSP (Centre)	MNP (State)	Total
1994-95	40.65	67.08	107.73
1995-96	60.27	60.27	120.54
1996-97	80.335	88.950	169.285

The amount likely to be spend during 1997-98 is Rs. 79.64 crore each under the ARWSP and the MNP.

(d) The implementing Department in the State is assisted by the State Ground Water Department, Central Ground Water Board, State Remote Sensing Agency, National Geophysical Research Instt., Non-Governmental Organisations, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, etc.

(e) Safe drinking water facilities are likely to be provided in all the 'not covered' habitations by 1997-98 and in partially covered habitations by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

### Statement

S.No.	District	No. of habitations	
		Not Covered (NC)	Partially Covered (PC)
1.	Srikakulam	—	1595
2.	Vizianagaram	13	989
3.	Vishakhapatnam	—	2602
4.	East Godawari	24	1492
5.	West Godawari	—	891
6.	Krishna	—	1199
7.	Guntur	57	862
8.	Prakasam	—	763
9.	Nellore	—	1679
10.	Chittoor	39	2816
11.	Cuddapah	8	769
12.	Anantapur	—	1031
13.	Kurnool	—	1263
14.	Mahboobnagar	—	1590
15.	Ranga Reddy	—	1171
16.	Nalgonda	4	2132
17.	Medak	17	1073
18.	Nizamabad	57	1229
19.	Warangal	62	1904
20.	Khammam	99	1288
21.	Karimnagar	—	1231
22.	Adilabad	—	1051
		380	30600

### Telecom Centes in Karnataka

367. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Telecom Centres working in Karnataka, as on June 30, 1997 District-wise;

(b) whether the Government have given any directions for operation of Telecom Centres for twenty four hours;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to open some more Telecom Centres in Karnataka during 1997-98; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) District-wise number of Telecom. Centres working in Karnataka as on 30th June, 1997 is given below :

District	No. of Telecom Centres
Bangalore	02
Belgaum	08
Dharwad	07
Mysore	01
Dakshina Kannada	01
Bellary	01
Gulbarga	01
Raichur	01
Total	22

(b) to (d) No, Sir. No specific directions have been given. However, where there is public demand and financial viability, the Telecom. Centres are kept open for 24 hours.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. During the year 1997-98, four telecom centres are planned to be opened one each in Dakshina Kannada, Dharwad, Mysore and Bangalore Districts.

### Allotment of Funds by Doordarshan for Production of Tele-films

368. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure for allotment of funds by Doordarshan for production of tele-films under Commissioned Category which are passed/sanctioned and Budget allotted by concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India;

(b) the time taken by Doordarshan for allocation of funds for such telefilms;

(c) the number of cases in which sanction letters were issued by Doordarshan on March 31, 1997 but the funds not allotted upto June 15, 1997;

(d) the reasons for delay in allotment of funds; and

(e) the time by which the funds are likely to be allocated for production of such telefilms ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The proposals received from concerned Ministries/Departments are placed before the Costing Committee of Doordarshan headed by DG, Doordarshan for allotment of funds. Funds to the producers of such telefilms are given keeping in view the budget details submitted by them alongwith their proposals and as approved by the Costing Committee.

(b) Funds are allocated as and when they are made available by the concerned Ministries/Departments.

(c) As per available records, no sanction was issued by Doordarshan on 31.3.1997.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

### Posting of Train Superintendents

369. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not selecting the trains to post train superintendents in North Frontier Railway;

(b) whether the Government are considering to select some trains of North Frontier Railway now;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) 50 trains on Indian Railways have been nominated for posting of train superintendents out of which 5 trains, viz, 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail, 5645/5646 Dadar-Guwahati Express, 6519/6520 Bangalore-Guwahati Express, 6321/6322 Trivandrum-Guwahati Express and 6313/6314 Cochin-Guwahati Express run on N.F. Railway.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Advertisement for Calling Tenders

370. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hyderabad Telecom Department has issued an advertisement in various editions of an English daily calling tenders for works worth lakhs of rupees;

(b) if so, whether the last date for submission of the tenders have already expired when the advertisement published;

(c) if so, whether it has been alleged that it was a pre-determined bid by the Telecom Department to allot civil works at various places in the State running into several lakhs of rupees to their own men;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted as to how tenders have given when the expiry date has already expired;

(e) if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and

(f) the action taken against those held responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Advertisements are issued to Newspapers of different languages such as English, and other languages with specific stipulations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. In specific circumstance, such as when a reasonable notice is not available between the date of publication in Newspaper and stipulated date of receipt of Tender requisite action is taken to consider postponing the date of receipt of tenders. Requisite Public Notifications are issued accordingly.

(d) to (f) In view of the reply to Para (a) to (c), this does not arise.

#### Subsidised STD Calls

371. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have subsidised the STD calls recently;

(b) if so, whether this facility is available to Armed forces and Para Military personnel posted in boarder districts of North Eastern Region;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Jawans are not able to avail of this facility due to lack of basic infrastructure in border districts; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make STD facilities available in border districts of North Eastern region keeping in view the hardships of Jawans ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. STD Tariff was restructured with effect from 15.2.97 to ease the traffic congestion.

(b) and (c) The restructured STD tariff is applicable to the entire country including border districts of North Eastern Region.

(d) and (e) In the seven North Eastern States, Government have already taken action to provide STD to all the District Headquarters.

STD facility will be made available to all the Sub-Divisional Headquarters and Tehsil Headquarters with telephone exchanges in the border areas of the North Eastern States during 1997-99 subject to availability of equipment.

[Translation]

#### Halt of trains at Tundla Junction

372. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide a halt of Nilanchal Express at Tundla and Jaleshwar, Purva Express at Firozabad, Marudhar Express, Jodhpur Howrah Express and Vaishali Express at Tundla Junction, Jaleshwar Road Station and Firozabad Station (Uttar Pradesh) Keeping in view the demand of the public of those places;



- (b) if so, the details thereof; and  
(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) 4863/4864 Marudhar Express and 2553/2554 Vaishali Express are already stopping at Tundla. 4863/4864 Marudhar and 2307/2308 Jodhpur-Howrah Expresses do not touch Jalesar Road. However, the feasibility of providing stoppages of Neelachal and Jodhpur-Howrah Expresses at Tundla; Neelachal & Vaishali Expresses at Jaleshar Road and Poorva, Marudhar, Jodhpur-Howrah & Vaishali Expresses at Firozabad has been examined but not found justified at present.

[English]

#### Rural Welfare Schemes in Andhra Pradesh

373. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology has expressed satisfaction over the various schemes implemented by voluntary organisations in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Guntur District;

(b) if so, the present status of sanitation, drinking water supply and housing schemes in the district; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be implemented in the district fully ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) CAPART has reported that by and large it is satisfied with the implementation of the projects sanctioned by it to the voluntary organisations in Andhra Pradesh, including those in Guntur District. However, in Andhra Pradesh 23 voluntary organisations have been blacklisted and temporary funding restrictions have been imposed on 31 voluntary organisations by CAPART. Out of these, 3 blacklisted organisations and 5 voluntary organisations placed under 'temporary funding restrictions' are in Guntur District.

(b) and (c) The number of projects sanctioned under Central Rural Sanitation Programme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and Rural Houseing Scheme by CAPART in Guntur District are as under :

Scheme	No. of projects sanctioned
CRSP	55
ARWSP	22
Rural Housing	16

The sanctioned projects are at various stages of implementation.

#### Requirement and Poduction of Steel

374. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the requirement and production of steel in the country as at present and extent of imports;

(b) the authentic projections regarding demand and production for the next 5 years in the country;

(c) the capacity added during the last three years by new units/existing projects in steel sector both in public and private sector;

(d) the details of major steel proposals cleared by the Government during the last one year and their present status in terms of execution of project;

(e) the details regarding the projects likely to be completed during 1997-98 including modernisation of PSUs; and

(f) the details of ongoing and new steel projects approved upto 30.6.97 in Maharashtra and their project-wise profile ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The estimated demand and availability of finished steel during the year 1997-98 are as follows :

(In million tonnes)

Demand	Availability
24.72	23.84

On an average India imports about 1.5 million tonnes of finished steel per annum.

(b) The Working Group for IX Plan has estimated the demand and availability of finished steel upto the year 2001-02, the terminal year of the Plan, as under :-

(In million tonnes)

Year	Domestic Demand	Export Demand	Availability	Gap
2001-02	32.68	6.00	38.01	0.67

(c) A capacity of about 4.635 million tonnes of Saleable steel has been added during the last three years by new units/existing projects in steel sector both in public and private sector.

(d) As per present policy, Government clearance is not required for setting up new steel plants, except when they are proposed to be set up in certain locations. According to information submitted by All India Financial Institutions, the following proposals have been cleared by them for setting up of greenfield steel plants during the last one year :-

Sl. No.	Name of Unit	Item	Capacity	Status
1.	Nilachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. Duburi, Jajpur Distt. Orissa.	Steel	6.20	Under Implementation
2.	Bhuwalka Industries Ltd. Bellary, Karnataka	Steel billets	2.7	Under implementation

(e) Projects likely to be completed in 1997-98 including modernisation of PSUs are as under :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit/Plant	Capacity/Increased Capacity (Lakh Tonnes)
1	2	3

**Public Sector****SAIL**

1.	Durgapur Steel Plant (Modernisation)	18.02
2.	Rourkela Steel Plant (Modernisation)	19.00
3.	Bokaro Steel Plant (Modernisation)	43.60

**Private Sector**

1.	Rajendra Steel Ltd. (New)	3.00
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1	2	3
2.	Nova Udyog Ltd. (New)	2.00
3.	Malvika Steel Ltd.	6.00
4.	Jindal Vijaynagar (New)	15.70
5.	Southern Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (New)	2.20
6.	Kumar Met. Corpn. Ltd. (New)	1.25
7.	Ispat Industries Ltd. (New)	30.00

(f) New Steel Plants approved in Maharashtra upto 30.6.1997 are as under :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit and Location	Process Route Production	Capacity (Lakh tonnes)	Investment (Rs. Crores)
1.	Indian Seamless Steel and Alloys, Pune.	EAF B&R/ Seamless BAR	1.50	175.00
2.	Lloyds Steel Ind. Ltd., Wardha.	EAF HRC/ CRC/GPCC	4.00	1100.00
3.	Ispat Ind. Ltd. Raigad, Maharashtra	EAF HRC	30.00	4792.00
4.	Usha Ispat Ltd. Satarda, Maharashtra	BF-BOF LP	6.00	1400.00
5.	Grand Foundry Ltd., Pune.	EAF B&R, WR	1.20	260.00

**Import of Gene Patenting**

375. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the Newsitem captioned "Scientists concerned over ethical impact of gene patenting" appearing in the "Business Standard", New Delhi Dated May 27, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the outcome of the discussion held by a meeting of experts in New Delhi on June 10, 1997 on the proposed

legislation aimed at the implementation of the biodiversity convention; and

(d) the reaction of the Government to the genetic patenting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During an international symposium titled "Bimal K. Bachhawat Symposium on Genome Research Emerging Ethical, Legal, Social & Economic Issues" organised by the National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad from 22nd-25th May, 1997 at Goa, leading biomedical and social scientists, lawyers, journalists from India and some experts from abroad participated. The objectives, origin, current achievements and societal implications of the genome research were discussed. The concern was on the impact of genome research on clinical subjects as well as on population with special reference to the respective countries; and how to draw guidelines for deriving benefits or stopping misuse of research findings.

The recommendations of the symposium would be brought to the notice of the concerned authorities. It was also the aim to create public awareness on the subject.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had organised national level consultations of representatives of State Governments, experts and others in New Delhi on 10th June, 1997 to discuss inter alia, the issues relevant to developing a legislation on biodiversity. The consultations acknowledged the complexities in developing a legislation on the subject and suggested that a broad and simple legislation on biodiversity should be formulated with possibilities of delegated legislation. This legislation should be an umbrella legislation with flexibility and transparency. This would cover aspects of gene patenting, definitions and other IPR related issues.

#### **Development of Panchayats**

376. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared special schemes for all round development of Panchayats in Scheduled Areas as envisaged under Article 243 and the Central Act relating to Fifth Scheduled Areas;

(b) if so, the total number of Panchayats at all level, State-wise particularly in Fifth scheduled Areas; and

(c) the details of special schemes prepared by the States having Scheduled Areas for development of Scheduled Tribes there ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNIDU) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The concerned State Governments are required to legislate and take action for all round development of Panchayats in the Fifth Schedule Areas in consonance with the 'Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996. Details of schemes prepared by the States having Scheduled Areas for development of Scheduled Tribes these are not centrally maintained.

[Translation]

#### **Ozone Layers**

377. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the studies conducted by the Indian Team in the Antarctica region since 1981 indicate any change in the Ozone layer;

(b) whether some holes have developed into the Ozone layer over the world causing the danger of ultraviolet radiation; and

(c) the details of the studies conducted in the Antarctica region and the amount spent by India thereon so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ozone observations indicate a decrease in ozone in the stratosphere between 12 to 21 km every year during September-October over Antarctica Region. Since ozone layer absorbs ultraviolet radiation, the ozone-hole has led to increased amount of solar ultraviolet radiation reaching earth.

(c) India Meteorological Department (IMD) is participating in Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica since 1981. Vertical Profile of atmospheric ozone over Antarctica has been made using Indian ozonesondes. Analysis of these observations has confirmed the existence of ozone-hole. The total expenditure incurred by India Meteorological Department is around Rs. 50.0 lakhs for its scientific

programme including ozone measurement in Antarctica since 1981.

[English]

#### Exploration and Extraction of Minerals

378. SHRI DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the air survey work has been expedited to boost exploration and extraction of minerals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the exploration work of minerals has been assigned to some foreign companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) is engaged in airborne geophysical surveys to boost exploration of mineral deposits including hydrocarbons and groundwater. The airborne survey maps are also utilised to refine the geological maps. Multisensor and aeromagnetic surveys using GSI's Twin Otter Aircraft has been taken up in parts of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh covering a total of 1,91,929 line km. from 1988 till June, 96. There are three types of airborne surveys conducted by GSI (i) multi-sensor surveys in selected blocks using Twin Otter Aircraft to GSI; (ii) Aero-magnetic survey for refinement of geological database and oil exploration by GSI's Twin Otter Aircraft; and (iii) Regional Aeromagnetic surveys under National Programme.

In order to give further impetus to exploration through aerial survey the Government has issued guidelines in October, 1996 under which large areas upto 5000 sq.km. for a single Prospecting Licence Subject to the condition that total aggregate area held by one single Company should not exceed 10,000 sq.kms. for the whole country can be granted. The grant of large area for such aerial prospecting is linked with schemes for relinquishment and to a minimum expenditure commitment or specific physical targets. The Government has recently granted 9 (Nine) Prospecting Licences for large areas to 3 Companies (Hindustan Zinc Ltd./multinational companies.

[English]

#### Power Production in Private Sector

379. SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered to review a Private Sector Power Policy which has failed to take of in any significant manner;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether any overhauling of power policy is being considered; and

(d) if so, the main changes that are being considered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) In the context of scarcity of resources in the State/Central public sector for capacity addition in power generation, a policy to encourage private sector participation was formulated in 1991 and is currently under implementation. The policy is reviewed from time to time to make it more effective.

(c) At present, the Government is not contemplating any overhauling of the private power policy.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Setting Up of Power Project with German Assistance

380. SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major German power giants have offered to set up two show case 1000 MW power projects in India with German Export credit at competitive tariff rates and fuel supply arrangements;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accepted the offer;

(c) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached;

(d) if so, the details of terms and conditions thereof; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be finalised and the power to be generated from these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (e) The offer made by the German companies is under examination.

#### Train Accidents

381. SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA :  
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of train accidents and derailments took place during the months of May and June, 1997 zone-wise;

(b) the reasons for such accidents and derailments; and

(c) the steps taken to minimise the recurrence of such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Zone-wise information regarding number of consequential train accidents during May and June, 1997 is as under :

Central 21 (17), Eastern 6 (5), Northern 12 (6), N.E. 5 (3), N.F. 1(1), Southern 10(8), S.C. 12(10), S.E. 14(12), Western 6(6), Konkan 2(2), Total 89 (70).

Note : Figures within brackets pertain to derailments.

(b) Main causes of these accidents were human failure, equipment failure, sabotage and incidental factors.

(c) Some of the measures taken to improve safety and prevent accidents are as under :-

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human errors in causing accidents.

(iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.

(iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

(vi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vii) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axle.

(viii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(x) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

(xii) Refresher courses regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xiv) Periodical safety drivers are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

### World Bank Loan

382. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank and Asian Development Bank are keenly interested in providing fresh line of credit to India for power sharing;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to accept the offer to meet the electricity shortage in the country particularly in Northern States; and

(c) if so, the quantum of funds proposed to be provided to India by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) ADB have offered Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) to finance a feasibility study regarding possibility of electricity exchange between Indian and Bangladesh.

A proposal for sale of power from Pakistan to India has been received. Some World Bank funded power projects are under implementation in Pakistan. The last unit of 1300 MW World Bank funded. Hub River Power Project near Karachi has been commissioned. With this and other projects becoming operational, Pakistan is likely to have surplus power. So far, no feasibility study of the sale of power from Pakistan to India has been undertaken to decide about the exact quantum of the power available. The matter is presently limited to the exchange of basic technical information relating to matters such as minimum quantum of power guaranteed, number of power feeding points to India and their proposed locations, compatibility of power systems in India and Pakistan, cost of electricity, power purchase agreements, etc.

[Translation]

### Increase in Fuel Charge

383. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board has increased the fuel charge adjustment amount from existing rate of 51 paise to 80 paise per unit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the above increase is being protested at wide scale; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board has finalised Fuel Cost Adjustment Charges for the quarter October–December, 1996 at 79.83 Paise per unit as against the Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) charge of 50.91 paise per unit for the previous quarter ending September, 1996.

(b) The reason for increase in the Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) charge as mentioned above is attributed to increase in fuel cost & fuel related cost, for the fuel delivered at bunkers of thermal power stations and reduction in gross heat value in kilo calories of the fuels delivered at thermal power stations because of climate condition of monsoon period.

(c) Majority of the consumers on whom fuel cost adjustment charge is leviable, have paid amount of FCA @ 79.83 paise per unit. However, a few consumers & their associations have protested against above increase and out of them some consumers have filed writ petitions in High Court at Jabalpur challenging the increase where the matter is pending.

(d) As per the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the responsibility of fixing electricity rates including fuel cost adjustment charge lies with the respective State Governments/SEBs.

[English]

### Setting Up of Transmitters in U.P.

384. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :  
DR. BALIRAM :

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

(a) whether the telecast/broadcast of Doordarshan/AIR programmes are not received clearly in some parts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken

by the Government to increase the number of transmitters during the Ninth Plan;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a Doordarshan telecast centre in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this centre is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir. Whereas, terrestrial TV coverage is available to 80.4% of area in U.P., certain hilly areas in the state of U.P. do not receive satisfactory radio signals.

(b) to (d) Non-availability of Radio/TV coverage is primarily due to terrain conditions, etc. It is the constant endeavour of the Govt. to increase both Radio and TV coverage in the State. Details of projects under implementation are in the Annexure attached Statement.

#### Statement

##### ALL INDIA RADIO

Under Implementation	Target date of completion
1	2
Chamoli	1997-98
Uttarkashi	1997-98

##### DOORDARSHAN

##### Transmitters Under Implementation in U.P.

##### HPT

Banda	1998-99
Mussoorie (DD II)	1999-2000

##### LPT

Almora	1997-98
Haldwani	1997-98
Rudauli	1997-98
Barakot	1997-98
Dhunaghat	1997-98
Narora	1997-98
Rudhauli	1997-98

1	2
Rath	1997-98
Talbehat	1997-98
Mahroni	1997-98
Chhibramau	1997-98
Amroha	1997-98
Karwi	1997-98
Dudhinagar	1997-98
Khetikhan	1997-98
Mau (DD II)	1998-99
VLPT	
Chamoli	1997-98
Binsar	1997-98
Basot/Bhikhiasen	1997-98
Fateh Parbat	1997-98
Khait Parbat	1997-98
Rajgarhi	1997-98
Sirakota/Vaikunthdham	1997-98
Saahiya	1997-98
Maneshwar	1997-98
Dhausi	1997-98
Manila	1997-98
Tharali	1997-98
Rudraprayag	1997-98
Manikpur	1997-98
Naugaonkhal	1997-98
Kedarnath	1997-98
Badrinath	1997-98
Gaurikund	1997-98
Dugadda	1997-98

#### Clearance of Power Project

385. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :  
DR. GIRIJA VYAS :

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAUHAN :

KUMARI FARIDA TOPNO :

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the power projects sanctioned to boost the power sector during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the funds set apart for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government proposed to evolve a fresh power policy to cover the entire gamut of power sector including generation, transmission and distribution;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also propose to involve representatives from various sectors of economy in the framing of this policy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Power projects which were accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission during the last three financial years are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of Project (Capacity in MW)	State	Est. Cost (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Rayalseema TPS St-II (2x210)	A.P.	1273.00
2.	Purulia PSS (900)	W.B.	1456.56
3.	Kothagudem TPS St-V (2x250)	A.P.	1890.00
4.	Diesel Generating Power Station at Kozhikode (6x20)	Kerala	355.00
5.	Muzaffarpur TPS Extn. (2x250)	Bihar	1452.13

In so far as State projects are concerned, the Central Government has been providing Block Plan assistance to the States for their Plans according to the formula approved by National Development Council.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power adopted by the Government after extensive consultation with the State Governments, fresh initiatives have been taken to improve the performance of the power sector and to make it viable. The broad features of the programme inter-alia, are as follows :

- Finalising the National Energy Policy.
- Creation of Regulatory Commissions at the Centre and in the States ensure rationalisation of tariffs etc.
- Review of the Role of Central Agencies to facilitate speedy approval of projects.
- Encouragement of private sector participation.
- Providing autonomy to the State electricity Boards, their professionalisation and improvement in physical parameters.
- Encouragement to co-generation/captive and mega power projects.
- Developing a National Policy on Hydro Power.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. National Energy Policy is being formulated by the Committee set up in the Planning Commission. The Committee has representatives from various energy related institutions and experts in the power sector. The details of the policy on power are also scheduled to be discussed in the Consultative Committee of Parliament of the Ministry of Power.

[Translation]

#### Complaints against Employees and Officers of SAIL

386. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the complaints received against employees and officers of Steel Authority of India Ltd. during the last three years;

(b) the names of the employees and officers against whom charges were framed as a result of the said complaints; and

(c) the action taken against them ?



THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) 3329 complaints were received against various employees and officers of SAIL, with vigilance angle, in different Plants and Units during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, out of which in 603 complaints Regular Departmental Action was initiated. The compilation of the information regarding the complaints and names of the employees and officers against whom chagres were framed etc. asked for would involve considerable time and labour which may not be commensurate with the results achieved.

#### **Rail Passes to Employees**

387. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Section Officer and Assistant both are group 'B' employees in Railway Board;

(b) if so, whether as per the railway pass rules all the group 'B' employees get 6 sets of facility passes;

(c) if so, the reasons for issuing 6 sets of facility passes to Section Officers and 3 sets of passes to Assistants; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the disparity and to ensure that the Assistants also get 6 sets of facility passes like Section Officers ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Section Officers are Group 'B' (Gazetted) and Assistants are Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted).

(b) to (d) Six sets of passes are issued to group 'A' and Group 'B' Gazetted Officers only. Since Assistants are Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted), they are not eligible for six sets of privilege passes.

#### **Functioning of Telephones**

388. SHRI VIDYASAGAR SONKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of telephones in villages that are functioning properly;

(b) the number of sets which are repaired or maintained by the Department;

(c) whether the priority is given to Multi Access Rural Radio telephones;

(d) if so, the criteria adopted for deciding such priority; and

(e) the criteria followed for installation of rural PCOs and the position in regard to their functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### **Post Offices in Rental Buildings**

389. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI

CHIKHALIA :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices in Gujarat functioning in rental buildings, Distt-wise;

(b) the details of post offices shifted from these private buldings during the last three years, Distt-wise;

(c) the details of schemes for construction of buildings for post offices in the State;

(d) the rent paid by the Government for hiring private buildings during 1996;

(e) the details of the schemes completed during the last three years, Distt-wise;

(f) the details of the schemes not taken up, though sanctioned for construction so far with reasons therefor, Distt-wise; and

(g) the time by which all the schemes sanctioned for construction of Post office/sub-post office buildings are likely to be completed, Distt-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As per Statement I 'A'.

(b) As per Statement II 'B'.

(c) As per Statement III 'C'.

(d) The rent paid by the Government for hiring private buildings during 1996 – Rs. 55,62,233.64 (Rupees Fifty five

lakhs sixty two thousand two hundred thirty three and paise sixty four only).

(e) As per Statement IV 'E'.

(f) As per Statement V 'F'.

(g) All the projects once construction is commenced, their completion depend on availability of funds.

#### Statement-I

*The number of Post Offices in Gujarat functioning in rental buildings, Distt-wise.*

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total
1.	Ahmedabad	154
2.	Gandhinagar	16
3.	Sabarkantha	49
4.	Banaskantha	29
5.	Mehsana	68
6.	Bharuch	61
7.	Dang	5
8.	Kheda	118
9.	Panchmahal	46
10.	Surat	104
11.	Vadodara	90
12.	Valsad	62
13.	Amroli	33
14.	Bhavnagar	61
15.	Jamnagar	57
16.	Junagadh	72
17.	Kachchh	54
18.	Rajkot	80
19.	Surendranagar U/T	38
20.	Diu/Daman	5
21.	Dadra N. Haveli	1
Total		1203

#### Statement-II

*The details of Post Offices shifted from these private building during the last three years, Distt wise.*

Name of District	Post Office vacated during last three years
1	2
AHMEDABAD	SURAT
1. Air Port PO Bldg.	1. Karcholia
2. Gujarat Vidyapath PO Bldg.	2. Sugar Factory
3. Memnagar PO	3. Vyara RS
4. Maninagar PO	ANAND
5. Chaloda PO	1. Boria
6. LBRS PO	2. Vadasinor
7. Jalila PO	BHARUCH
8. Sanand PO	1. Hansot
9. Choksi Bazar PO	2. Bharuch City
GANDHINAGAR	3. Amod
1. Sector-16 PO	4. Kora
2. Sector-22 PO	5. Dediapada
3. Sector-17 PO	GODRA
4. Sector-28 PO	Nil
5. Sector-29 PO	KHEDA
6. Sector-30 PO	1. Salun
7. Sector-6 PO	2. Dabhan
8. Sector-7 PO	VALSAD
9. Rupal PO	1. Valsad D.O.
MEHSANA	2. Navsari HO
Nil	3. Chikhli PO
PALANPUR	AMRELI
1. Palanpur DO	Dhari PO
2. Palanpur Palance Road	BHAVNAGAR
3. Palanpur HO	1. Boatad RS

1	2
PALANPUR	2. Botad HO
4. Palanpur Kirtistambh	3. Ningala
5. Kanddara	4. Sanosara
6. Vadgam	5. Bhavnagar HO
7. Danta Bhavangadh	RAJKOT
HIMATNAGAR	Jetpur
1. Tintoi	JAMNAGAR
2. Chitroda	1. Jamvanthli
3. Khadbrahma RS	2. Jam Jodhpur DG
4. Sathamba	JUNAGADH
VADODARA	Junagadh DO
1. Chhani Road	Veraval HO
2. Race Course PO	KACHCHH
3. Samlaya RS	Gadhada Khadir PO
4. Savli Town PO	Bitta PO
5. Bodeli PO	Gandhidham
6. Vadodara D.O.	
SURENDRANAGAR	
Nil	

**Statement-III**

*The details of schemes for construction of buildings for Post Offices in the State.*

As on 31.3.1997, the following Post Office buildings are under construction in the Circle :-

Name of Post Office building	Name of District
1.	2
1. Post Office Building Maroli Bz.	Valsad
2. Post Office Building Raigadh	Sabarkantha
3. Post Office Building Bapunagar	Ahmedabad
4. Post Office Building Viramgam	Ahmedabad

**Statement-IV**

*The details of the Schemes completed during the last three years, Distt-wise*

The Departmental Buildings completed during the year 1994-95.

Postal Net. Work.

Sl No.	Post Office Building	Name of District	Date of Completion
1	2	3	4
1.	Ambawadi Vistar	Ahmedabad	4.7.94
2.	Sector-16, G.Nagar	Gandhinagar	14.6.94
3.	Sector-22 G.Nagar	"	12.10.94
4.	Vertical Extn. Modasa	Sabarkantha	15.10.94
5.	Vadgam	Banaskantha	1.9.94
6.	Palanpur H.O.	"	5.8.94
7.	Jagudan	Mahasana	15.9.94
8.	Nardipur	"	23.9.94
9	Unawa	"	14.10.94
10.	Dadia Pada	Bharuch	6.2.95
11.	Boria	Khoda	23.8.94
12.	Mosali	Surat	9.8.94
13.	Race Course P.O.	Vadodara	30.1.95
13A.	Samlaya	"	9.11.94
14.	Bhilad	Valsad	8.9.94
15.	Khumba	Amreli	10.10.94/ 17.1.95
16.	Botad H.O.	Bhavnagar	17.6.94
17.	Bhavnagar H.O.	-do-	02.1995
18.	Bhachau	Kuchchh	4.10.94
19.	Jetpur	Rajkot	17.8.94
20.	Kalol	Panchmahal	25.5.94
21.	Sant Road	"	-do-

1	2	3	4
<b>STAFF QUARTERS 1994-95</b>			
1.	Vankanar Type F-3, Ty-II-3	Rajkot	5.7.94
2.	Rajkot Ty.IV-3	Rajkot	15.7.94
3.	Keshod Type.I-3 Ty.II-3	Junagadh	14.8.94

The Departmental building completed during the year 1995-96

#### Postal Net Work

1.	Sector-29 Gandhinagar	G. Nagar	17.4.95
2.	Sector-17	-do-	-do-
3.	Sector-28	-do-	-do-
4.	Chaloda	-do-	10.8.95
5.	Mehsana H.O.	Mehsana	25.5.95
6.	Vadasinor	Kheda	3.4.95
7.	Dabhan Vertical Extn.	-do-	9.2.96
8.	Mandhvi (Bardoli)	Surat	17.6.95
9.	Dipad	Surat	4.9.95
10.	Chikhli	Valsad	11.3.96

Department building completed during the year 1996-97

#### POSTAL NET WORK

1.	Sector-30, G. Nagar	G. Nagar	30.4.96
2.	Lothal Bhurkhui	-do-	11.11.96
3.	Danta B.G.	Banaskantha Dn.	22.4.96
4.	Vasai Dabhla	Mehsana	22.4.96
5.	Langhaaj	-do-	27.4.96
6.	Navsari H.O.	Valsad	19.8.96

#### (B) STAFF QUARTERS

1.	Kim 3 Nos Ty. II	Surat	4.2.97
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1	2	3	4
<b>(C) OTHER BUILDING</b>			
1.	Seputara Holiday Home	Ahwa-Dang	15.11.96

#### Statement-V

*The details of the Schemes not taken up though sanctioned for constructions so far with reason therefor, Distt-wise.*

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Name of Distt.	Reason for not start the constructions.
1	2	3	4
1.	Paladi PO	Ahmedabad	Due to
2.	Anandnagar PO	-do-	nonavailability
3.	Maninagar PO	-do-	of Funds
4.	M.M.S. Ahd.	-do-	-do-
5.	C.S.D. Ahd.	-do-	-do-
6.	Elisbridge PO Ahd.	-do-	-do-
7.	Gandhinagar PO	Gandhinagar	-do-
8.	Sector-19 PO GNR	-do-	-do-
9.	Sector-20 PO GNR	-do-	-do-
10.	Sector-23 PO GNR	-do-	-do-
11.	Sector-9 PO GNR	-do-	-do-
12.	UN PO	Banaskantha	-do-
13.	Chhapi PO	-do-	-do-
14.	Vav PO	-do-	-do-
15.	Sami PO	Mahesana	-do-
16.	Patan City	-do-	-do-
17.	GIDC Mahesana	-do-	-do-
18.	Ankleshwar PO	Bharuch	-do-
19.	Valia PO	-do-	-do-
20.	Rajpipla PO	-do-	-do-
21.	Sarbhan PO	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4
22. Vahai PO	Lang	Due to	
23. Sarsa PO	Kheda	nonavailability	
24. Thamna PO	-do-	of Funds	
25. Limkheda PO	Panchmahal	-do-	
26. Garbada PO	-do-	-do-	
27. Sanjeli PO	-do-	-do-	
28. Delol PO	-do-	-do-	
29. Limdi PO	-do-	-do-	
30. Nanpura HO	Surat	-do-	
31. Bardoli HO Extension	-do-	-do-	
32. Kukarmunda PO	-do-	-do-	
33. Vadodara HO Extension	Vadodara	-do-	
34. Pavagadh PO	-do-	-do-	
35. Subhanpura PO	-do-	-do-	
36. Kayaborohan PO	-do-	-do-	
37. Chhani PO	-do-	-do-	
38. Valsad HO Extension	Valsad	-do-	
39. Daman PO	-do-	-do-	
40. Killa Pardi PO	-do-	-do-	
41. Atul PO	-do-	-do-	
42. Sarigam PO	-do-	-do-	
43. Chikhli PO	-do-	-do-	
44. Dungri PO	-do-	-do-	
45. Nargol PO	-do-	-do-	
46. Khambha PO	Amrali	-do-	
47. Liliya PO	-do-	-do-	
48. Dhari PO	-do-	-do-	
49. Begasari PO	-do-	-do-	
50. Chital PO	-do-	-do-	
51. Gariyadhar PO	Bhavnagar	-do-	
52. Bhavnagar Chitra PO	-do-	-do-	

1	2	3	4
53. Gogha PO	Bhavnagar	Due to	
54. Dhasa Jn. PO Extension	-do-	nonavailability	
55. Palitana PO	-do-	of Funds	
56. Girgadhda PO	Junagadh	-do-	
57. Sasangir PO	-do-	-do-	
58. Ranavav RS	-do-	-do-	
59. Bhasan PO	-do-	-do-	
60. Adityana PO	-do-	-do-	
61. Kukma PO	Kachchh	-do-	
62. Khavda PO	-do-	-do-	
63. Mothara PO	-do-	-do-	
64. Kera PO	-do-	-do-	
65. K.F.T. Zone Kachchh	-do-	-do-	
66. PSD, Rajkot	Rajkot	-do-	
67. Kalavad Road Rjt.	-do-	-do-	
68. Maliya Miyana PO	-do-	-do-	
69. Dhoraji PO	-do-	-do-	
70. Rajkot HPO Extension	-do-	-do-	

#### Hydro-Electric Project in Kerala

390. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that water level in the Hydro-electric projects in Kerala stands receded alarmingly;

(b) whether the Government consider to increase the power share due to the State from the unallocated share of central pool to tide over the contingency;

(c) whether the Government allot extra power from the central grid to six million units per day in addition to the existing due share; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be increased ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE

OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The levels and storage of the major reservoirs in Kerala are given below :

Levels	As on 13.7.1997 (Meters)	As on 13.7.1996 (Meters)
Idukki	700.56	700.91
Sabirigiri	932.28	941.76
Storages	MU	MU
Idukki	203.42	217.07
Kakki	61.63	115.10

As can be seen from the above, the levels and storage in Idukki are more or less as in the last year, whereas the levels and storage in Kakki are slightly less this year compared to the last year.

(b) to (d) The allocation to Kerala from the 15% unallocated power of the Central generating stations in the Sothern Region was 30% with effect from 8.5.1997. The share was increased to 50% with effect from 12.6.97 and further to 65% with effect from 1.7.1997.

#### **E-Mail Services**

391. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make the E-mail services, more people oriented and effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir, Licences have been awarded on non-exclusive basis for operation of E-Mail Service to sixteen service providers. The Licensees have to provide the service within the defined ceiling tariff and quality of service has to be met.

(b) The cost-effective and good quality service shall become available to Indian public through competition between the service providers.

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

#### **Allotment of STD/PCO Booths**

392. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of

priorities/reservations offered to the SC/ST applicants for the allotment of STD/PCO booths ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Sir, SC/ST applicants are among the preferential Category of applicants to be considered for allotment of STD PCOs by STD/PCO Allotment Committees alongwith other preferential categories of applicants. However, there is no reservation on for any category of applicants.

#### **Barge Power Generating Unit in Kerala**

393. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for sanction of Barge Power Generating Units in Kerala;

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

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has also requested for more quota of fuel for such purposes; and

(d) whether such projects are proposed to be taken up by Cochin Ship Yard or other Government undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala have requested for allocation of liquid fuel for barge mounted power plants in the State. This request is under consideration.

(d) The agencies to execute these projects (in case the request of Government of Kerala is accepted) will have to be decided by the State Government.

[Translation]

#### **Production Cost of Steel**

394. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production cost of various types of steel in India is more than in comparison to other countries;

(b) if so, the average production cost of steel in the

country and the extent to which it is more than the average production cost of the world;

(c) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited is contemplating to take steps to bring down this production cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the production cost is likely to be decreased ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The cost of production of steel primarily depends upon prices of inputs such as iron ore, coal, steel scrap and energy, costs of freight and labour and financial charges. As per BICP Tour report on cost study of steel industry, the average cost pattern for production of saleable steel in different countries, based on 1994 data, are as below :

Countries	Cost (US \$ per tonne)
USA	503
UK	423
France	504
Germany	530
India (SAIL)	410

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Steps taken by SAIL to reduce production costs and to improve performance are :

- Modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants.
- Improved quality, product-mix and production in line with market requirements.
- Improving techno-economic factors viz., reduction in coke rate, energy consumption, metallic input, improvement in yield etc.
- Improving availability of equipment through effective maintenance.
- Strict control and reduction in cost of production.

SAIL has planned to reduce the controllable production cost of saleable steel by about 7-8% during 1997-98.

[English]

#### Cellular Service by Reliance Telecom

395. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to build a global system for mobile communication network to serve its seven circles;

(b) whether the Reliance Telecom has become one of the largest cellular services in India;

(c) if so, the name of the States where it is likely to be provided; and

(d) to what extent the Reliance Telecom have established services in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The company holds licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service for seven Telecom. Circles which is the maximum number of licences held by a single company. A total of 33 licences for Telecom Circles and 8 licences for 4 metro cities have been awarded for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service. The Telecom Circles awarded to the company are (i) Assam (ii) Bihar (iii) Himachal Pradesh (iv) Madhya Pradesh (v) North East (vi) Orissa & (vii) West Bengal.

(d) The commercial Cellular Mobile Telephone Services by the company have not yet been started in any of the Circles.

#### National Power Grid

396. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :  
SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to set up a National power grid in the country to help in meeting power the power shortage in various States is under consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have been consulted in forming the National Power Grid;

(c) if so, their opinion and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken;

(d) whether any central legislation is also being considered; and

(e) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have formulated plans to interconnect various regional electricity grids of the country in order to form a National Grid. This will help in meeting the power shortage of states deficit in power.

(b) and (c) The power system in the country at present operates under five regional grids and formation of the national grid is based on inter linking of these grids to facilitate transfer of power from one region to another. The concurrence of the State Electricity Boards is taken by POWERGRID before each individual project is taken up for implementation.

(d) and (e) No central legislation is required for connecting the regional grids.

[Translation]

#### Capacity of Power Projects

397. KUMARI UMABHARATI :

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any programme for increasing the capacity of power projects in view of grave power crisis prevailing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely increase in power generation capacity during the ensuing three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) In accordance with Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power adopted in consultation with State Governments. Government of India has initiated a number of measures for increasing the capacity during the Ninth Plan. These interalia include;

1. Renovation and Modernisation of existing power plants in a time bound manner to bring in improvements in PLF.

2. Accelerated completion of ongoing public sector projects through higher allocation of funds.

3. Taking up of missing inter and intra transmission links to help in improved evacuation of power from surplus region/state to deficit regions.

4. Allocation of liquid fuel for short gestation projects as well as priority to wind power and small hydel projects.

(c) The increase in power generation capacity would depend upon the matching initiatives by the State Governments and close monitoring of the schemes. Targets for increase in capacity during the Ninth Plan are being finalised by the Planning Commission.

#### Self Employment for Rural Youth

398. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide incentives to the rural youths for setting up of food processing industries based on farmer's yields under self employment programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to put a ban on setting up of such industries by multinational companies and bit industrial groups in the interest of the rural youths; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Under Self employment programmes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, food processing activity is one of the permitted activities but it is not linked with farmer's yield. The rural youth living below the poverty line are imparted skill upgrading technical/vocational training under Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and assisted under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) by way of providing them with income generating assets through a mix of governmental subsidy and bank loans. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not have any specific scheme for providing incentive to rural youth for setting up of food processing industries based on farmer's yield under self-employment programme. However, for encouraging establishment and expansion of food processing industry, they have



established Food Processing & Training Centres in rural areas which provide hands on experience in operating and managing a small unit. During 8th Plan, 231 such centres have been extended assistance.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### High Power Radio Station in A.P.

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

(a) whether a high power radio station is being installed in Mahaboobnagar, Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be installed?

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

(b) The scheme is expected to be completed by the end of 9th Five Year Plan.

#### Misappropriation of Funds

400. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about misappropriation of funds in the construction of Staff quarters of Sub-divisional office, Telephone Biharsharif, Nalanda (Bihar);

(b) is so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

#### Subsidies to Orissa Under I.R.D.P.

401. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loans and subsidies under Integrated Rural Development Programme are provided to

families living below poverty line in rural and tribal areas, for acquiring income generating assets in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of tribals and other families living below poverty line given such loans and subsidies during each of the last three years in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) assistance is given in the form of subsidy by the Government and loans by the Banks to families living below the poverty line (BPL) for acquiring income generating assets. All the blocks and Districts of Orissa are covered under the programme. The target group of beneficiaries consists of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, small and marginal farmers, rural artisans, and educated unemployed trained rural youth, below the poverty line. The pattern of subsidy is 25% for small farmers, 33-1/3% for marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans and 50% for SC/ST beneficiaries, physically handicapped persons, and educated unemployed trained rural youth from BPL families. The ceiling on subsidy is Rs. 4000 in normal areas, Rs. 5000 in DPAP/DDP areas and Rs. 6000 for SC/ST families, and physically handicapped persons and Rs. 7500/- for educated unemployed trained rural youth.

(c) The number of tribals and other families living below poverty line given such loans and subsidies during each of the last three years in Orissa is as below :-

(families in Nos.)

Year	S.T. families	Other families
1994-95	41591	98246
1995-96	35843	84826
1996-97	24474	66775

#### Drinking Water to Gujarat and Orissa

402. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :  
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages provided with safe drinking water facilities in the State of Gujarat and Orissa, till date, district-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken to ensure adequate water supply to the States particularly to Kalahandi, Nuapara, Bolangir and Korapui districts of Orissa and the time by which it is likely to be done ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) As on 31.5.1997, 110023 and 28823 habitations have been covered fully or partially with safe drinking water facilities in the State of Orissa and Gujarat respectively. The district-wise break-up are kept by the State Governments and are not maintained by the Central Government.

(b) All the 'Not Covered' habitations are likely to be provided safe drinking water facilities by 1997-98 and the 'Partially Covered' habitations by 2000 A.D. The State Governments have prepared action plans and are implementing schemes under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme and the Basic Minimum Services. An allocation of Rs. 41.73 crore for Orissa and Rs. 49.87 crore for Gujarat has been made under the ARWSP for 1997-98. 50% of the allocation has been released.

#### **Rural Electrification Programme**

403. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress in respect of Rural Electrification Programme has been much less in Maharashtra than that in other States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the number of villages in every district of Maharashtra which are proposed to be brought under this programme during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the amount proposed to be spent on the above programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) No. Sir. Maharashtra State Electricity Board has reported that out of the 39,354 inhabited villages in the State as per 1981 Census, 39,106 villages had been electrified by the end of March, 1989. For the remaining 248 villages Government of Maharashtra has reported that it is not feasible to provide electrification.

(c) and (d) Rural Electrification is a continuous process and the targets for electrification are fixed on an year to year basis. Programme for the 9th Plan is under finalisation by the Planning Commission.

#### **Theft of Software from Delhi Doordarshan**

404. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :  
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether any theft of costly software from Delhi Doordarshan has recently been detected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry to pin point the responsibility for the theft has been made; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Hard discs from nine Personal Computers from the newsroom of Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi were found stolen on 31st May, 1997.

(c) and (d) The investigating team of Delhi Police examined the newsroom on the same day and investigations are still in progress.

#### **Task Force on Telecommunication Services**

405. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Task Force recommends opening of Telecom Sector' appeared in the Hindustan Times dated June 15, 1997;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Task Force has recommended that the Government should have imaginative and far sighted

policies and that the Government will have to come up with policies which encourage competition and allow free play of market dynamics. It has also recommended that the Finance Ministry should also come up with incentives as has already been done for encouraging the telecom sector. The Government will also have to focus on the long term strategic aspect like the development of skilled manpower. If these are done, it will be possible for the Indian telecom industry to emerge as global player and for the Indian domestic market to grow at an explosive rate

(c) In pursuance of the National Telecom Policy 1994, the Government of India has already invited Indian Registered private companies to participate in Telecom Services Sector in a competitive environment. The Finance Ministry has also announced Telecom Sector as Infrastructure and consequential fiscal incentives.

[Translation]

#### Problem of Power in Delhi

406. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :  
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received some schemes/proposals/memoranda from Delhi Government during last three years till date for solving the problem of power in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details therefore;

(c) the amount of assistance provided to the Government of Delhi for this purpose during each of the last three years;

(d) the manner in which Delhi Government has utilised the amount of assistance and the achievements made in this regard; and

(e) the details of the schemes/proposals/memoranda under consideration of the Government alongwith the time by which they are likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Issuance of Life Time Free Travel Passes

407. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board has taken a decision to allow life-time free and endless AC first class travel to retired members of the Board and their families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons and justification thereof;

(d) whether the Federation of Railway Officers Association has passed a resolution requesting the Railway Board to rethink on the Platinum Pass privilege and speedy withdrawal of the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Retired Board Members are issued Complimentary card passes which entitle them to travel alongwith eligible members of their family or a companion subject to the condition that they will not avail more than 2 berths in I-AC or 2 seats in Executive Class. In case of Rajdhani Express trains they can avail either 2 berths in I-AC/AC Sleeper or four berths in 3 AC.

(c) These facilities are granted in token of appreciation of the contribution made by the Retired Board Members to Indian Railways and are in lieu of the three post retirement complimentary cheque passes to which they were eligible annually.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The scheme has been evolved after due consideration of all the issues. It is not considered desirable to revoke it.

[Translation]

#### Separate Corporation for Speed Post Service

408. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :  
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up any separate corporation for Speed Post Service;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the efficiency of general post distribution is being affected due to stress on speed post; and
- (d) if so, the manner in which the Government ensure the regular postal distribution ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir, there is no proposal to set up a separate corporation for Speed Post Service. With effect from 1, 2, 1996 Business Development Directorate has been set up and this looks after the premium products including Speed Post.

- (b) In view of reply at (a) above, does not arise.
- (c) No, the General Postal distribution is not affected due to stress on Speed Post.
- (d) In view of reply at (c) above, does not arise.

[English]

#### Subsidy for Small Hydro Projects

409. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government are providing subsidy for small hydro projects in hilly areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the States included in the scheme;
- (d) the reasons for excluding some States;
- (e) whether some State Governments have made requests to the Union Government for their inclusion in the scheme; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources provides financial assistance for undertaking feasibility studies and implementation of small hydro projects upto 3 MW station

capacity, all over the country, including the hilly areas. 100% financial assistance is provided for conducting survey and investigations, and 50% for DPR preparation. Interest subsidy upto Rs. 1.12 crore/MW is provided for commercial projects, and capital subsidy of Rs. 15,000/KW for projects upto 100 KW capacity. Higher capital subsidy of upto Rs. 3 crore/MW is provided for projects in the North Eastern States.

(c) and (d) All the States/UTs are covered under the various schemes. However, the hilly regions of Jammu & Kashmir, U.P., Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, North Eastern States, and A&N Islands, are provided higher subsidy in view of higher capital costs on account of remoteness and difficult logistics of such areas.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

N.H.P.C.

410. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) the Power Projects which are being executed by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) at present.
- (b) the capacity of each of such hydro-electric project;
- (c) whether some of those power projects are likely to be completed by the end of 1997-98; and
- (d) the time by which the other ongoing hydro-power projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Three Hydro-Electric Project namely Dulhasti (3x130 MW) in Jammu & Kashmir, Rangit (3x20 MW) in Sikkim and Dhauliganga (4x70 MW) in Uttar Pradesh are under execution at present by national Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC). The work on the Koel Karo Hydro-electric Project (710 MW) in Bihar could not be started due to paucity of funds and local resistance. The Kurichu Hydro-electric Project (3x15 MW) in Bhutan and the Kalpong Hydro-electric Project (2.25 MW) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are also being executed by NHPC on deposit basis.

(c) None of the above power projects is likely to be completed during 1997-98;

(d) the commissioning schedule of the on-going hydro projects is as under :

Sl. No.	Project	Likely commissioning schedule
1.	Dulhasti (390 MW) J&K	- 2000-2001
2.	Rangit (60 MW) Sikkim	- 1998-1999
3.	Dhauliganga Stage-I (280 MW) U.P.	- 2004-2005
4.	Koel Karo (710 MW) Bihar	- 8 years from the date of start.
5.	Kurichu (3x15 MW) Bhutan	- 2000-2001
6.	Kalpong (2.25 MW) Andaman & Nicobar Islands	- 51 months from the date of signing of the Agreement which is yet to be signed.

[Translation]

#### Distribution of Telephone Directories

411. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the latest telephone directories have been published and distributed to the subscribers;

(b) if so, the details upto when these are amended circle-wise; district-wise; and

(c) the time by when the next issue is likely to be published; circle-wise, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

#### Secret Telephone Connections

412. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the District Managers, Tele-communications are keeping a Secret telephone connection;

(b) if so, the rules under which it has been kept; and

(c) the number of secret telephone connections functioning with the District Manager, Bareilly Telecommunications and the procedure of its payment ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, an unlisted number permissible as per rules vide DoT's instructions (copy enclosed in the attached Statement is working with the TDM Bareilly.

(c) Except an unlisted number, no other secrete telephone connection is working with the TDM Bareilly. Being a Service Telephone connections and the calls Peing made for the effective maintenance, upgradation and developments of Telecom services, the payment procedure is as applicable to the other service telephones of DoT.

#### Statement

No.2-49/94-PHA  
Government of India  
Ministry of Communications  
Deptt. of Telecom

Sanchar Bhavan,  
20-Ashoka Road,  
New Delhi - 110 001.  
Dated the 2nd August, 1994.

To

All CGMs, Telecom Circles/Districts  
CMD, M.T.N.L., New Delhi.  
CGM, M.T.N.L., New Delhi Bombay.

Subject : Residential Service Telephone Connections of Officers of Deptt. of Telecom.

It has been seen that many officers of the Department are having two service telephone connections at their residences, the second telephone as an unlisted number. The second telephone at the residences is not as per the existing rules for service telephone connections. This can be provided only where exigencies of service so demand.

It has been decided that no officer, except CGM, GM(O) in Circles/Districts. Area GMs & Directors in Telephone Districts, G.M. Telecom District and TDM should have a second Service telephone at their residences. CGMs may therefore ensure that these instructions are strictly followed and a certificate to the effect that no officer except as mentioned above have a second service

telephone connection working at his residence be given to Director (PHE), Deptt. of Telecom., New Delhi immediately.

Sd/-

(G.S.S. MURTHY)

Sr. Dy. Director General (CS)

[English]

### Telephone System in Faridkot

413. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor functioning of the telephone system in Faridkot and its surrounding areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve and streamline the telephone system in the district;

(c) the number of villages and the names of the area which are yet to be linked by the telephone system in the district; and

(d) the present position of waiting list for telephone connections in the Faridkot constituency and the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Telephone services in Faridkot and its surroundings areas are working satisfactorily.

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

(c) All the villages in Faridkot district have already been linked by telephone system.

(d) The total waiting list of Faridkot constituency as on 30th June, 1997 is 15902. The same is likely to be cleared within to years.

[Translation]

### Theft of Slabs in Bokaro Steel Plant

414. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any case of theft of slabs from Bokaro Steel Plant worth crores of rupees had come to the notice few years ago;

(b) if so, the level of the personnels involved therein;

(c) whether any action was taken against them;

(d) whether the CBI also inquired in that case; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) A case of theft was reported in the night of 4/5 March, 1993 involving four trucks loaded with cut slabs/steel casting weighing approximately 43 tonnes and valued at about Rs. 3 lakhs.

(b) The incident involved 5 employees of CISF including one Deputy Inspector General, two sub Inspectors and two Head Constables; seven employees of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) including one Senior Operator and six Operators and nine non-BSL personnel.

(c) All the employees of BSL & CISF excepting Deputy Inspector General were placed under suspension. BSL Management had also lodged an FIR.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) On completion of investigation, chargesheets were filed by CBI before the Court of Special Magistrate, Dhanbad, where the case is under trial.

[Translation]

### Daily Waiting List

415. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the daily waiting list of each Bihar bound train from Delhi particularly during the marriage season;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce special trains on such occasions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce a long distance train reserved with seating arrangement only so that the needy persons can board it to reach Delhi as thousands of passengers come from Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Saurashtra, Surat and Baroda;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to introduce passenger train for common people for every-where keeping in view the facilities minimised by operating the Rajdhani, Shatabadi and Deluxe trains and reduction of

compartments therein;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government have made arrangements to ensure that food, tea, snacks and potable water are easily available to the passengers at the cheaper rates; and

(i) if so, the time by which the said arrangements are likely to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The daily list in most of the Bihar bound trains was more than 300 in sleeper class on many days from 15th April to 30th June, 1997.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During Summer 1997 (April to June), a biweekly special between Delhi-Barauni, a triweekly between Delhi-Patna and a triweekly between Howrah-Jammu Tawi via Gaya-Delhi were planned and run. During the peak, i.e. 9th to 22nd May'97, 12 additional pairs of specials were run between Delhi-Barauni to clear the extra rush.

(d) to (g) It is proposed to provide the following additional facilities serving people of Bihar from August, 1997 :-

(i) Delhi-Hatia Swarna Jayanti Express (biweekly predominantly having 2nd class accommodation.

(ii) Surat-Patna Express (weekly).

(iii) Delhi-Muzaffarpur Express (weekly).

(iv) Tata-Katihar Link Express.

(h) Yes, Sir. Satisfactory catering services are provided to travelling passengers at reasonable rates. Drinking water is also available at all the stations.

(i) Does not arise.

#### Recovery of Loan from SEBs

416. SHRI RAVINDER KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank has warned the National Thermal Power Corporation that if it did not give a firm assurance regarding realisation of its outstanding amount from State Electricity Boards, the loans likely to be sanctioned to it in future would be stopped;

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

(c) the details of amount outstanding against various State Electricity Boards upto June, 1997; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for realising this outstanding amount so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The World Bank has indicated to NTPC that it may have to resort to suspension of the existing loans and defer new loans to NTPC in case urgent remedial action is not taken by it to improve the position of receivables. Government of India has been assisting NTPC to reduce its receivables to the levels as per the covenants entered by it with the World Bank

(c) The details of amount outstanding against various SEBs as on 30.6.1997 are given in the Annexure.

(d) Reducing the quantum of outstanding dues is being consistently followed up by NTPC with the defaulting States/SEBs. In case of large defaulters, the power supply is also sometimes regulated. The Central Government has also decided in October, 1996 that supply of power, henceforth, should only be against advance payments or opening of irrevocable Letters of Credit. Government of India has also been facilitating NTPC to recover its dues from States through adjustments from devolutions due from the Centre to the States.

#### Statement

*NTPC's outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards and other beneficiaries as on 30.6.1997*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/ Organisations	Outstanding dues	Sur-charge billed	Total Outstanding
1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh SEB	84450	32943	117393
Rajasthan SEB	-2945	15714	12769
Delhi Vidyut Board	81538	10450	91988
Punjab SEB	1164	322	1486
Haryana SEB	5752	12739	18491

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh SEB	1503	941	2444
Jammu & Kashmir	24879	6386	31265
UT Chandigarh	76	0	76
POWERGRID (NR&NCR)	307	23	330
Madhya Pradesh SEB	16219	22385	38604
Maharashtra SEB	11135	11442	22577
Gujarat	9674	8427	18101
Goa	417	60	477
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-77	0	-77
Daman & Diu	211	77	288
POWERGRID (WR)	174	60	234
Andhra Pradesh SEB	11823	5211	17034
Karnataka EB	5288	3384	8672
Tamil Nadu EB	2952	5661	8613
Kerala SEB	1314	2485	3799
Goa	216	67	283
Pondicherry	-182	2	-180
West Bengal SEB	25939	5786	31725
Bihar SEB	51852	24849	76701
GRIDCO (Orissa)	17920	0	17920
DV	11129	9034	20163
.kim	506	55	561
Assam	3	0	3
Total	363237	178503	541740

Abbreviations :

SEBs : State Electricity Boards

GRIDCO : Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd.

[English]

#### Rural Employment through Wastelands Development

417. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to promote rural employment through wastelands development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of jobs generated/proposed to be generated thereunder and the rural areas selected therefor; and

(d) the budget allocation earmarked for implementation of these schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Wastelands Development in the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment is implementing Wastelands Development Scheme titled "Integrated Wastelands Development Project" (IWDP) Scheme. Under this scheme, various land based activities are carried out such as afforestation, silvi-pasture development, pasture development, horticulture, distribution of seedlings, distribution of fuel-wood saving devices, in situ soil and moisture conservation etc., These activities generate rural employment opportunities.

(c) After creation of the Department of Wastelands Development in July, 1992, under IWDP Scheme, 160 projects have been sanctioned in 130 districts in the country with a project period ranging from 3-5 years at a total cost of Rs. 339.73 crores so far for the development of 6.42 lakh ha. of wastelands. It is estimated that 239.84 crores mandays will be generated.

(d) The Budget estimates of Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) scheme for 1997-98 is Rs. 74.50 crores.

#### Cancellation of Trains

418. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2940 dated December, 12, 1996 regarding cancellation of trains and state :

(a) whether the required information has since been collected; and

(b) if not, the specific reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The assurance for the Unstarred Question No. 2940 on 12.12.1996 regarding cancellation of trains has already been fulfilled on 5.5.1997.



(b) Does not arise.

### Foreign Satellite Channels

419. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the Supreme Court Judgement on the issue of providing uplinking facilities to foreign satellite channels specially for sports;

(b) if so, the details of the salient points of the said judgement;

(c) whether his Ministry is considering to further liberalise its stand to guarantee uplinking for sports purposes; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be effective ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in their judgement dated 9.2.95 in the case of Union of India vs Cricket Association of Bengal have, inter alia, held that airwaves are public property and it should be controlled and regulated by Public Authority. The salient features of the judgement are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Broadcasting Bill, 1997 introduced by the Government in Lok Sabha on 16th May, 1997 provides for permitting private broadcasting in the country. The uplinking facility for purposes of broadcasting would obviously be a natural corollary as and when the private broadcasting is permitted as proposed in the Bill.

The Bill is at present under consideration of the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament.

### Statement

*Judgement delivered by the Supreme Court in the case of Union of India Versus Cricket Association of Bengal*

The salient features of the two separate but concurring judgements delivered by the Supreme Court of India on 9.2.95 in the above case are :

(i) Airwaves or frequencies are a public property whose regulation should be controlled and regulated by a public authority representative of all section and interests in the society.

(ii) It is the fundamental right of a citizen to use the best means of imparting and receiving information and as such to have access to telecasting for the purpose. This right is, however, not absolute and is liable to restrictions being imposed (a) by virtue of the use of a public property (airwaves) and (b) in terms of the provisions of Article 19 (2) of the Constitution.

(iii) The broadcasting media should be under the control of the public as distinct from Government. It should be operated by a public statutory corporation or corporations, as the case may be, whose constitution and composition must be such as to ensure its/their impartiality in political, economic and social matters and on all other public issues.

(iv) Public broadcasting is implicit in Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution, but private broadcasting is not.

(v) It is for Parliament to decide whether private broadcasting should be allowed or not. If allowed it should not be left to market forces to ensure wide variety of voices enjoying access to it.

[Translation]

### Programmes for Additional Power Generation

420. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the programme meant for increasing additional power generation in the country are lagging much behind their targets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) During the year 1996-97, the energy generation target vis-a-vis Actual generation is given below :

(Figures in MU)

Category	1996-97		
	Target	Actual	% Achievement
Thermal	317000	316869	100.0
Nuclear	7950	9010	113.3
Hydel	75050	68609	91.4
Total	400000	394488	98.6

The shortfall in generation was mainly due to low hydro generation due to less availability of water in reservoirs.

(c) and (d) Amongst the measures being undertaken for increasing power generation are higher utilisation of installed capacity; reducing auxiliary power consumption; reducing the transmission and distribution losses; additional generation from the existing power stations through renovation and modernisation and life extension; expeditious completion of the ongoing projects; expediting fresh investment starts and construction of missing transmission lines in addition to system improvement.

[English]

#### TV Relay Centre in Gujarat

421. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan Relay Centre which was installed in 1995 at Dharangadhard in Gujarat remains inoperative due to lack of facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the above relay centre is likely to be equipped with power generating set and other basic facilities so as to keep it fully operative round the year ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Transmission from the Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) at Dharangadhra, which was commissioned on 5.12.1994, has been disrupted time and again due to power supply failure. A diesel generator set has since been procured for the LPT. The generator set, when installed at the LPT, would provide alternate power supply, in case of breakdown in normal power supply, for uninterrupted transmission.

#### Schemes for Export of Steel

422. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes chalked out for the export of steel during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the shortfall in the required production target would be met through assistance from Non-Government sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the programmes which have been undertaken relating to research and development in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) The working Group on Iron & Steel Industry for the IX Five Year Plan has projected an export potential of 6 million tonnes of steel by 2001-2002 which is the terminal year of the IXth Plan.

The Working Group has projected a demand of 38.68 million tonnes of finished carbon steel, including export potential of 6 million tonnes, by 2001-02 against which projected availability is 38.01 million tonnes. The shortfall is expected to be met through imports.

(d) Besides in-house R&D units of steel producers, Steel Research in the country is also being pursued at academic institutions, National Laboratories etc.

#### Construction of Link Roads in Assam with World Bank Assistance

423. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam have drawn up any plan for the development of infrastructure in the State with the World Bank's assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the link roads are also likely to be constructed in all villages in a phased manner under the proposed plan in the State;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of Steel Industry in Bihar

424. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the government to set up steel industry in Bihar; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Union Government do not propose to set up steel plant in Bihar.

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

[English]

#### Telephone Bill Arrear

425. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total amount of telephone bill arrear pending for payment by the State Government as on June 30, 1997, State-wise;
- (b) the amount due to different Central Ministries including the offices of different Ministers as on June 30, 1997, separately;
- (c) whether a number of traders/private individuals are also not paying their arrears;
- (d) if so, the details thereof as on June 30, 1997; and
- (e) the steps taken to collect these arrears and to stop the misuse of Government telephones ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The information has been called for and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

- (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The information has been called for and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Phone Mechanics

426. SHRI DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether employees working under Maharashtra circle having qualified the phone-mechanic examination and getting training have not been posted so far;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the Government are likely to appoint all such employees having qualified employees to the post of phone-mechanic ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. All are not yet posted as Phone Mechanic.

- (b) More number of candidate are trained than the number of posts existing.

(c) The existing posts of Phone Mechanic have already been filled up and the creation of a new post is a continuous process based on workload. The additional posts of Phone Mechanic are sanctioned as and when justified. It would be ensured that these additional posts are created and filled up early.

[English]

#### Exploration of Minerals by NDMC

427. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited has drawn up plans for exploration of minerals during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the funds have been sanctioned to the corporation to undertake the exploration work; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has applied for prospecting licences for Gold and Diamond in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya

Pradesh and Karnataka and for Iron Ore in the States of Bihar and Orissa. NDMC will take up systematic exploration of the minerals after prospecting licences are granted by concerned State Governments.

(c) and (d) NMDC will be funding the proposed exploration with its own resources.

#### Setting up of New T.V. Relay Centres

428. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to enhance the capacity of Porbandar TV relay centre and installation of a new TV relay centre at Keshod; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be installed ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Winding Up of B.G.M.L.

429. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to rehabilitate B.G.M.L. at Kolar Gold Fields through joint venture by induction of a private co-promoters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether there is any possibility of winding up the above company under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985;

(d) the number of employees working at B.G.M.L.;

(e) whether the Government have given option of the employees to avail of voluntary retirement scheme; and

(f) if so, the number of employees so far who have taken voluntary retirement ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The Government have decided to explore the possibility of rehabilitating the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) through the induction of a private co-promoter(s) under joint venture route failing which the Company will be allowed to wind up under the provisions of the Sick Industrial

Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

(d) The number of employees working in BGML as on 16th July, 1997 is 5011.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) 3696 employees have availed of voluntary retirement up to 16th July, 1997.

#### Closure of Badarpur Thermal Power Station

430. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Badarpur Thermal Power Station is facing closure threat due to poor supply of coal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to avoid its closure and for uninterrupted supply of power to the city which is already facing acute power shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) There is no threat of closure of the Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS).

(b) Power supply position of Delhi is regularly monitored by the Central Electricity Authority/Ministry of Power. A task force under the Chairmanship of Member (G&O). CEA constituted by the Government reviews the power supply position from time to time and all corrective measures as required are taken for ensuring continuous and adequate power supply to Delhi.

[Translation]

#### Waiting List for Telephone in Gujarat

431. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connections in major cities of Gujarat as on February 28, 1997; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Waiting list of major cities of Gujarat as on 28.2.97 is as under :-

	Name of City	Waiting List
1.	Gandhinagar (State Capital)	2885
2.	Amedabad	47797
3.	Rajkot	7066
4.	Surat	16404
5.	Vadodara	23447

(b) A part of the waiting list as on 28.2.97 has been cleared during March, 1997. New exchanges are being opened and the existing exchanges are being expanded to clear the remaining waiting list during 1997-98 and thereafter, subject to availability of equipment and other resources.

#### Waiting List for Telephone

432. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connections in the state capitals of the country as on February 28, 1997; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details of waiting list, as on February 28, 1997 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) A part of the waiting list as on 28.2.97, has been cleared during March, 97. Efforts are being made to clear most of the remaining waiting list during 1997-98 and thereafter, subject to availability of equipment and other resources.

#### Statement

*Waiting List in the State Capitals as on  
February 28, 1997*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of State Capital	Waiting list as on 28.02.1997
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	37189
2.	Assam	Guwahati	9587

1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar	Patna	9990
4.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	2885
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	1438
6.	Haryana	Chandigarh	5324
7.	J & K	1. Srinagar	17039
		2. Jammu	7101
8.	Karnataka	Bangalore	41461
9.	Kerala	Trivandrum	8990
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	8598
11.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	20387
12.	Goa	Punjim	229
13.	North-East		
	i. Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	951
	ii. Manipur	Imphal	1072
	iii. Meghalaya	Shillong	1867
	iv. Mizoram	Aizawal	714
	v. Nagaland	Kohima	429
	vi. Tripura	Agartala	3909
14.	Orissa	Bhubneshwar	4501
15.	Punjab	Chandigarh	5324
16.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	40925
17.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	84393
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	1600
19.	West Bengal	Calcuttta	59036
20.	Sikkim	Gangtok	602
21.	Delhi	Delhi	3783

[English]

#### Survey for Wadi-Gadag Railway Line

433. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey for Wadi-Gadag railway line has been conducted recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) A survey for this line has been included in Budget, 1997-98.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Madras-Jaipur Superfast Express Train**

434. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the route of Madras-Jaipur Superfast Express train to Jodhpur, Divisional Railway Headquarter which is an important town of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There is no proposal to extend 9767/9768 Madras-Jaipur Express upto Jodhpur.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resources constraints.

#### **Power Project of Hinduja at Vishakhapatnam**

435. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh have met the Prime Minister for clearance of 1000 MW power project of Hinduja at Vishakhapatnam;

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister have agreed and promised to clear all the projects mentioned by the Chief Minister; and

(c) if so, the latest position in regard to these project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had submitted a Memorandum to the Prime Minister in May,

1997 for clearance of the 1000 MW Simhadri Project of NTPC. The project has since received investment approval of Government of India.

#### **Telephone on Priority**

436. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections allotted on out-of-turn/priority basis during the last six months in various metropolitan cities;

(b) whether the Government are considering for restoration of facility/special quota provided to MPs with suitable modification; and

(c) if so, the details alongwith present status of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) So far as the facility/special quota provided from time to time to Hon'ble MPs for recommendation of Twenty Five out of turn telephone connections anywhere in India is concerned, the question of restoration does not arise as the status-quo is being maintained.

#### **Unutilised Funds**

437. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds allocated to various States for Tele-communications projects network remain unutilised or surrendered;

(b) if so, the details of the amount unutilised/surrendered by each Telecom Circle in Maharashtra State during the last three years and reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed in the light of experiences gain so far; and

(d) the details of revised allocation of funds for the current year and progress of works for projects in Vidarbha region in particular upto 30.6.97 and reasons for delay if any, Telegraph circle-wise in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information has been called for from the concerned unit. The same will be placed

on the table of the House.

### Removal Of Freight Equalisation System

438. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Steel majors seek removal of freight equalisation" appearing in the Telegraph dated June 17, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A committee has been constituted to study the impact of partial withdrawal of freight equalisation scheme on consumption, availability and use of various categories of steel in different parts of the country. Main producers, vis., SAIL, TISCO and VSP, have made representations to the Committee, which is chaired by the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel. The Government is yet to receive the report of the Committee.

### Energy parks

439. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up energy parks in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such parks set up in the country during each of the last three years, location-wise;

(c) whether there is any scheme for implementing these schemes with public participation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has set-up 86 Renewable Energy Parks in 18 States of the country. State and year-wise details of Renewable Energy Park Projects sanctioned during each of the last three years i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) The Renewable Energy Park Projects are set up by the State Govt. Nodal Agencies through various educational and other institutions where there is large inflow of public

### Statement

#### State and Year-wise Details of Renewable Energy Park Projects Sanctioned

S. No.	States	Years		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	9	—
2.	Assam	—	2	—
3.	Delhi	—	6	—
4.	Gujarat	—	3	—
5.	Haryana	—	3	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	3	—
7.	Karnataka	1	4	3
8.	Kerala	—	11	—
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1	4	2
10.	Maharashtra	—	4	1
11.	Mizoram	—	1	—
12.	Orissa	—	3	1
13.	Punjab	—	9	—
14.	Rajasthan	—	3	—
15.	Tamil Nadu	—	5	—
16.	Tripura	—	1	—
17.	Uttar Pradesh	1	2	1
18.	West Bengal	1	1	—
Total		4	74	8

Total : (3)+(4)+(5) : 4+74+8 = 86

### Supply of Power to States

440. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for supply of power to the states from Central Pool; and

(b) the demand and actual supply of power from Central Pool to the States during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97. State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Policy for supply of power to the state from Central Generating Station is given in attached Statement-I.

(b) Entitlement vis-a-vis actual drawal of power by states from Central Pool from 1994-95 to 1996-97 is given in Statement-II.

#### Statement-I

*Policy adopted by the Union Government for the supply of Power to the States from the Central Pool (Central Generating Stations)*

#### A. Criteria for Allocation of power to the States from Central Sector Thermal/Atomic Power Stations :

- (i) 15% power is kept as unallocated at the disposal of the Central to meet the emergency requirements of individual States from time to time;
- (ii) 10% power is allocated to the State in which the power station is located; and
- (iii) the remaining 75% power is allocated amongst the States of the region (including the Home State) in accordance with the energy consumed by and the Central Plan assistance to the States during the last five years. The needs of the Union

Territories are also met through appropriate allocations.

#### B. Present Criteria for Allocation of Power to the States from Central Sector Hydel Stations :

- (i) 15% of the generation capacity will be kept as Unallocated at the disposal of the Central Government to be distributed within the Region or outside depending upon overall requirements,
- (ii) 12% of power from energy generated by the power station would be supplied free of cost to those states of the Region (including the State where the hydro-electric project is located) where distress is caused by setting up the project at the specific site, like submergence, dislocation of population; the allocation being made in proportion to the extent of such distress. The energy generated figures for the purpose would be calculated at the bus bar level, i.e. after discounting auxiliary consumption but without taking into account the transmission line losses. The extent of distress caused would be assessed for the purposes of allocation of 12% free power by the Central Electricity Authority in consultation with the concerned States; and
- (iii) The remaining power (73%) would be distributed between the States of the Region on the basis of the energy consumed by, and the Central Plan Assistance given to various States in the Region during the last five years, the two factors being given equal weightage.

#### Statement-II

#### Supply of Power to States

Name of State/ System	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	Entitlement	Drawal	Entitlement	Drawal	Entitlement	Drawal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Northern Region</b>						
Chandigarh	1803.0	150.0	176.7	181.6	228.4	219.6
Delhi	6024.0	5663.0	8067.0	7350.1	9304.8	8144.2
Haryana	4136.0	4513.7	5386.8	5961.3	5305.0	5968.6
Himachal Pradesh	1007.4	770.1	1135.7	917.2	1154.3	1028.8



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
J & K	2436.0	2330.1	2937.5	2428.9	3155.7	3018.1
Punjab	4980.6	4105.8	5511.8	4465.9	5248.5	5264.0
Rajasthan	5857.9	7076.9	7445.9	9639.1	7996.6	8512.1
Uttar Pradesh	12800.7	12813.4	14382.7	14160.0	13913.3	14154.3
Napal	17.3	17.3	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	68.9	65.8
Total	37440.2	37440.2	45044.1	45044.1	46375.5	46375.5

**Western Region**

Gujarat	6611.9	7208.2	8633.5	9552.9	8624.2	10151.5
Madhya Pradesh	8551.5	10267.6	10263.8	11096.4	11224.0	11807.0
Maharashtra	8184.9	6524.6	10197.6	8996.6	10403.7	8787.0
Goa	1297.0	544.9	1223.3	672.3	1259.6	731.0
Total	24545.3	24545.3	36318.2	36318.2	31476.5	31476.5

**Southern Region**

Andhra Pradesh	6539.0	8450.2	7234.1	7816.2	7417.5	7296.7
Karnataka	4060.0	3395.2	4085.9	4495.6	4681.0	5773.7
Kerala	3010.3	2351.9	2898.8	2737.1	3283.4	3426.6
Goa	515.5	465.9	686.0	493.5	600.3	600.3
Tamil Nadu	8166.0	7627.6	7872.0	7184.4	8516.7	7462.9
Total	22290.8	22290.8	22726.8	22726.8	24498.9	24498.9

**Eastern Region**

Bihar	1915.3	5712.8	3080.9	4545.9	3391.7	4459.4
DVC	1114.9	1120.7	1392.4	1867.4	1506.8	2109.7
Orissa	1440.6	1399.5	2501.9	1884.9	2852.4	2180.7
West Bengal	2079.2	382.2	2935.8	1748.8	2953.4	2000.0
Sikkim	93.7	28.5	164.4	28.4	180.4	37.9
ASEB	—	—	—	—	20.3	42.1
APSEB	—	—	—	—	39.9	115.1
Total	6643.7	6643.7	10075.4	10075.4	10944.9	10944.9

[Translation]

### Advertisements on Medicines

441. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether uninterrupted advertisement of medicines is being aired on Television;

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

(c) the names of medicines which are mainly advertised;

(d) whether the categorisation of such medicines as Doordarshan advertisement is proper;

(e) whether the Government propose to take this matter seriously and impose ban on such advertisements;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Doordarshan permits advertisements only of such medicines which give relief to head-aches, body-aches, cough and cold etc. Some such medicines are Metacin, Crocin, Disprin, Aspro, Aspirin, Panjon, Anacin, Moov, Iodex, Vicks Vaporub, D-Cold and Glycodin.

(d) Advertisements of medicines, like any other advertisements, are telecast by Doordarshan within the parameters of the Code for Commercial Advertising.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

[English]

### Hydro-Electric Potential of North East

422. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the hydro-electric potential of the North-East region has been assessed;

(b) if so, the total potential tapped so far;

(c) whether North-East Electric Power Corporation

(NEEPCO) and Brahmaputra Board has submitted any proposal for tapping about 30,000 MW of power in Assam; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) As per the assessment studies carried out by Central Electricity Authority, the total economically exploitable hydro electric potential of North Eastern Region has been assessed at 31857 MW at 60% load factor. As on 30.6.1997 324.3 MW at 60% load factor (1.02%) has been developed and 306.6 MW (0.96%) is under various stages of development in the Region.

(c) and (d) In order to provide an impetus for the development of hydroelectric potential to the North Eastern Region, Ministry of Power has prepared an Action Plan in consultation with North Eastern Electric Power Corporation and the State Electricity Boards of all the North Eastern States. At present 11 hydroelectric schemes with an installed capacity of 560 MW are in operation in the North Eastern Region, as per Statement enclosed. In addition, there are 30 small schemes with an installed capacity of 21 Mw. in operation. It is envisaged that 8 hydroelectric schemes with a total installed capacity of 674 MW will be commissioned by the end of 9th Plan. These projects on completion would yield enormous economic benefits not only to the North East but also feed the power needs in other regions of the country. Simultaneously, Powergrid Corporation of India Limited is initiating action to establish the transmission network to facilitate wheeling of power not only within the North East but also to other parts of the country.

### Statement

#### Hydro Electric Potential in the North East

#### NORTH-EASTERN REGION HYDRO SCHEMES IN OPERATION

##### ARUNACHAL PRADESH

1. Tago	3x1.5	4.5
Total Ar. Pradesh		4.5

##### MEGHALAYA

2. Kyremkulai	2x30	60
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3. Umiam St.I	2x9+2x9	36
4. Umiam St.II	2x9	18
5. Umtru	4x2.8	11.2
6. Umiam-Umtru St.IV	2x30	60
Total Meghalaya		185.2

## TRIPURA

7. Gumti	3x5	15
Total Tripura		15

## ASSAM

## NEEPCO

8. Khandong	2x25	50
9. Kopili	2x50	100
10. Kopili Extension	2x50	100
Total NEEPCO		250

## MANIPUR

## NHPC

11. Loktak	3x35	105
Total NHPC		105
Total North Eastern		559.7

## Grants-in-Aid to Panchayats in Kerala

443. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any funds allocated by way of grants-in-aid has been made to any Panchayats in Kerala under clean "Kerala Projects"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) No grants-in-aid has been released under clean "Kerala Project" to any of the Panchayats in Kerala. However, grant-in-aid has been released to the Government of Kerala under the Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme for the total sanitation projects, as indicated in the Statement attached.

(b) Does not arise.

## Statement

Sl. No.	Project approved	Total Approved Cost	Central Govt. share	Funds Released 95-96	96-97
1.	Nirmal 2000-Kottayam Distt.	87.50	35.00	17.50	-
2.	Tanur Block Malapuram distt.	29.48	11.13	-	5.56
3.	Pallipad Panchayat	-	10.69	-	1.34
4.	Mattatur B.P.	77.50	28.175	-	14.087
5.	Vattavada	40.02	16.38	-	8.19
6.	Vandanmedu Idduki	-	4.19	2.10	-
7.	Vengola	37.725	15.09	-	3.77
8.	Pilikode Kasarayod distt.	48.15	19.325	-	9.66
9.	Sooranadu North	119.794	41.422	2.0965	6.375
10.	West Kallana	82.294	26.337	2.0965	6.375
11.	Thurayur	-	9.56	4.78	-
12.	Thikkodi	-	10.15	5.07	-
13.	Kilikolloor	54.294	20.159	10.079	5.04

## Commemorative Postage Stamps

444. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand from various organisations including M.Ps to issue commemorative postage stamps on the occasion of birth centenary of late Finance Minister Shri C.D. Deshmukh and first Marathi Duyanapith Award winner late Shri V.S. Khandekar;

(b) if so, when was the first demand made in each case;

(c) the reasons for the non-issue of the stamps so far in each case; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to meet the demand in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for issue of commemorative stamp was received in respect of Shri C.D. Deshmukh on 29.08.95 and Shri V.S. Khandekar on 06.11.96.

(c) and (d) Proposals for special commemorative stamps are examined on the basis of existing guidelines and there is a Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) which advises the Government in such matters. The stipulations in the guidelines and the view of the PAC are carefully considered in deciding about issue of any stamp so as to ensure adequate value of such stamps, when issued.

The proposal for issuing a postage stamp on late Shri C.D. Deshmukh was considered by the P.A.C. in its meeting held on 15.2.96. But this proposal was not among those recommended by the P.A.C.

A commemorative postage stamp to mark the birth centenary of Shri V.S. Khandekar has been approved and will be issued on 19 January 1998.

12.01 hrs.

### ADJOURNMENT MOTION

#### Serious Situation arising out of recent developments in Bihar

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that I have received three notices of Adjournment Motion regarding the political and constitutional crisis in Bihar arising from the stand-off between the Governor and the Chief Minister of the State; the total incapacity of the Central Government to address itself to this burning issue which has serious implications from the following Members :-

1. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
2. Shri Pramod Mahajan
3. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy

I give my consent to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to move the Motion in the following modified form :-

"Serious situation arising out of passive attitude of the Central Government over recent developments in Bihar."

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee may ask of leave of the House.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I want to say something.

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am not objecting (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, I am on a point of order. Sir, please listen to me. After that I will abide by your decision. (Interruptions)

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Speaker, I am on a point of order.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta, now tell me what the rule is

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : I want to quote from the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Rule 56 says :-

"Subject to the provisions of these rules, a Motion for an adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance may be made with the consent of the Speaker".

[Translation]

I would like to ask as to what urgent public importance it has got. (Interruptions)

This is being said about Bihar for one and a half year. Many times discussions has been held on the various issues related to Bihar. Thereafter, what is there of urgent public importance in it.

The other thing which I want to say is that there are many matters which are sub-judice and it has been clearly mentioned in "Kaul and Shakti" that if any matter is in Court in any part of India, then it would be considered as sub-judice and it would not be discussed in the House. Thirdly, I want to say that, it has been clearly mentioned in "Kaul and Shakti" that if any Chief Minister or

Governor of any State finds a reference in a debate, in that case there can be no discussion on their conduct. It has been clearly mentioned in the Adjournment Motion that —

[English]

‘Serious situation arising out of passive attitude of the Central Government over recent developments in Bihar’.

[Translation]

Then what is there of urgent public importance in it. The Governor has given the sanction and the case is sub-judice . . . (Interruptions)

Since the case is in Court there is no point of discussing this issue and there can be no discussion in this regard in the House. Thereafter, I would like to quote from page 57 of the book of “Kaul and Shakhder” —

The situation which is going to be discussed will naturally involve the Governor of State Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister of the State and many other things.

Therefore, I urge you not to give permission considering these points.

Thank you . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : How can you curtail our rights ?

[English]

“The motion should not deal with any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India.”

A matter is not *sub judice* until the legal proceedings actually start, but the moment a complaint is filed or a petition is launched involving jurisdiction of any of the courts in India, the court is seized of the matter and to that extent the jurisdiction of the House to discuss the matter is barred.”

[Translation]

It further reads :

[English]

“Although it may be the unanimous desire of the House

to discuss a matter which is *sub judice*, the Speaker is bound to forbid it.”

[Translation]

despite that page 458 reads as :

[English]

“However, it has been held by the Speakers from time to time that the following matters could not be raised by way of an adjournment motion :

Conduct of the Governor-General (now President) or any action taken by him;

Conduct of the Governor of a State; and

Conduct of the Speaker and others”

[Translation]

Thereafter at page 458 it has further been written :

[English]

“It has been observed by the Speaker that Members should not make allegations or cast aspersions against members of statutory bodies, high dignitaries; and Governor of a State; Chief Minister or any other Minister in a State Government; and the State Legislature.”

[Translation]

The situation which is going to be discussed will naturally involve the Governor of state legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister of the State and many others things.

Therefore, I urge you not to give permission considering these points. Thank you . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : How can you curtail our rights ?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, at the outset, I wish to make it very clear lest there be any misunderstanding. I am not trying to shall any discussion on Bihar. Let it be done even today, here and now. I am only on the question of form because it may not create a precedent which is not the healthy precedent in future.

Sir, so far as the motion that you have read out is concerned, it does not refer to any failure on the part of the Government of India . . . (Interruptions). Something like ‘inactivity’ has been mentioned . . . (Interruptions).

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

This is very well established that an Adjournment Motion can be made here only with regard to some failure of the Government of India.

Sir, with your permission, I would like to quote a passage from "Practice and Procedure of Parliament" by Kaul and Shakhder on admissibility of an Adjournment Motion. I quote :

"Generally speaking, the subject-matter of an adjournment motion must have direct or indirect relation to the conduct or default on the part of the Government of India and must be in the nature of criticism of the action of the Government of India either for having done some action or for having omitted to do some action which was urgently necessary at the moment . . ." (Interruptions).

If you show impatience then what will happen to other Members ? . . . (Interruptions).

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : We are saying what has happened.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Do not think that you will come so easily.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Do not digress the issue . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Let him have his say. I think, I am quite familiar with the rules. Do not worry, I can take a decision.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I further quote :

"An adjournment motion is not admissible unless there was failure on the part of the Government to perform the duties enjoined by the Constitution and the law. . . ."

Sir, I would like to know with all humility as to what is the failure of the Government of India under the Constitution or under the law which enjoins them to do a particular type of action, failure of which can be the subject matter of this Motion. But nothing has been indicated. No constitutional failure has been mentioned and no legal failure is mentioned. As a humble student of history, with whatever little I know of the Constitution of India, the only thing the Central Government can do is, in an emergency it can give some direction or can impose President's rule

under Article 356 of the Constitution. Nothing has been mentioned here, because I believe the hon. Mover of the Motion, the Leader of the Opposition does not ask for any emergency or for emergency under article 356. Then, what is the failure of the Government of India ?

Sir, there are very important aspects of convention. Somebody is holding a very high position against whom a charge-sheet has been filed and serious allegations have been made and without proper investigation; whether he should continue or should not continue in that position, that is the matter which we wish to discuss here. It is a question of corruption which is eating into the vitals of not only the political, social life but also the economic life of this country. But that does not mean that any and every motion can be brought before Parliament of India and any and every motion can be discussed here, whether they are permitted by rules or not.

Therefore, let us all discuss this important issue on a proper Motion. Please do not create a precedent which will not be a good precedent in future. It is very clearly stated here that where the Government of India has no obligation to intervene in a matter, an Adjournment Motion is out of order. Now, what type of intervention is there except imposing of Article 356 of the Constitution ? If so, let them say that. Let the Motion say that the Government failed in not invoking Article 356 of the Constitution of the India. Then one can understand that even in form there may probably be an acceptable Adjournment Motion.

Therefore, Sir, I earnestly request you not to accept this Motion in this form at least, unless it is duly amended— you can amend that or unless some other Motion comes up. Even let it be treated as a Motion under Rule 184 or under Rule 183. Then we are prepared to discuss it here and now. That is my appeal to you. Let us not utilise it in the manner.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South-Delhi) : Before it, I am on a point of order.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you. I have already agreed to call you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : He is discussing but I am on a point of order.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you. I will allow you. I am not denying the opportunity to you.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Articles 153 to 163 of the Constitution of India state very clearly about the roles of the Governor and the Chief Minister of a State. Before proceeding further, I would like to make it absolutely clear that I am not trying to stall the Motion which is supposed to be moved by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee just now. We are very interested that things should be discussed in this House very clearly and openly. I have no intention to stall it.

My only submission is, we are bound to obey your ruling in this House. I am not questioning the content of the Motion. I am only submitting to you that the entire subject matter of Bihar came out of the observation and from the root of the findings of the C&AG and it led to the situation prevailing in Bihar now. On the same analogy, if the role and conduct of the Governor and the Chief Minister of a State can be discussed on this issue for which you are competent to give the ruling, then I would like to submit that my Motion under Rule 184 is lying on your desk on the PL scam of West Bengal. It is also based on a similar observation of the C&AG. This is also of a similar matter. So, if on one observation of the C&AG the conduct of the Governor and the Chief Minister of a State can be discussed in this House in one from which I fully support, then in another form, that is, under Rule 184 my Motion to discuss the conduct of the Government of West Bengal on the PL scam amounting to Rs. 2,600 crore that came to light from the observation of the C&AG can also be accepted. That is what I would like to say to be objective on the whole matter.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : This is an Adjournment Motion.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I gave my Motion under rule 184.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, I think you are going out of context now.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I am within the framework of the Constitution. Articles 153 to 163 deal with the conduct of the Governor and the Chief Minister of a State.

If that can be taken up, then I fully support the discussion on Bihar . . . (Interruptions) But equally, my Motion under Rule 184, which is lying with you, falls within

the same ambit. Why should that be not taken up ? Sir, I want your ruling on this.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not think like that.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, it is a very similar case.

[Translation]

CAG Scam was unearthed in Bihar also and this too in a case of CAG scam. So where am I wrong ?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order . . . (Interruptions). He may be allowed to raise his point of order after I have raised mine. Please sit down for a moment please.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is the rule ?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 56, I raise the point of order that the discussion on the admissibility of a Motion can be allowed till your ruling is not delivered. After you have given your ruling the point of admissibility cannot be discussed. If the Motion is under your consideration and you are to take a decision at your own discretion, the hon. Members can state their opinion as to whether a Motion should be admitted or not and whether it should be admitted in this format or some other format. You have already taken a decision in this regard and had announced it yesterday. You had stated that the discussion would be held on the subject immediately after the Question Hour. Hence discussion should be initiated. Its admissibility cannot be questioned at this stage.

Secondly, through you, I would make an appeal to Shri Somnath and CRB that if they are interested in having this discussion because the subject is important and they do not wish to stall the discussion, I would like to make an appeal very humbly that the discussion should be initiated straight away without raising any ifs and buts so that the discussion may be started on this important subject generating immense interest throughout the country without any further delay. This is my only submission.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, I would like to quote sub-section 7 of the Rule 58. The Motion will not be related to any such subject which may be subjudice in any court having jurisdiction over any part of India. Prof. Ajit Kumar

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

Mehta and Shri Somnath have discussed it at length. I would not like to repeat all those points but it is true that this is not the first time, the matters pertaining to Bihar State are being discussed in Lok Sabha. Many a times, you have also spoken at length on these matters. In the last session itself, the issue was raised and the same issue is being raised here again and again. In this way, the time of the House is being wasted. They wish to raise the matter pertaining to a person, who is not even present in the House and is unable to offer his clarification . . . (Interruptions). Madam, please let me speak. I did not say anything while you were speaking. I did not interrupt you. Please allow me to put forth my views. Mr. Speaker is the final authority and we will abide by his decision.

First of all, the person who is the subject of discussion, is not present in the House. You wish to level allegations on such a person who is unable to present his case . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think, it is required, Shri Jain.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : As per Rule 58, since the matter is under sub-judice and not only that, Kaul and Shakdher have also stated very clearly that the conduct of a Chief Minister or a Governor cannot be discussed in the House. If you wish to violate this rule, I have nothing to add more.

Madam has just stated that you have already taken a decision in this regard without any concern . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not waste your time now. It requires a serious debate. I would like to give more time to a serious debate rather than on these points.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : If you listen to the

leaders, we will also express our views. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if they wish to discuss the matter, flouting the rules in such a manner and also wish to take the time of the House for this purpose, there are other important matters as well. You are not holding discussion on the situation in Mumbai where dalits were fired upon. There are other burning problems such as floods and different sorts of problems. You do not wish to discuss all those issues in the House. You are interested in discussing this issue the time of the House should not be wasted in such a manner by discussing the same issue again and again.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Hence, I would like to submit that precious time of the House should not be wasted. The concerned person is not present in the House and the matter is already sub-judice so how can they be the subject of discussion in the House. It is clearly laid down in the Kaul and Shakdhar's book that when a House takes a unanimous decision, you can rule it out. Since the matter is sub-judice . . . (Interruptions) I am on this very point and I request you that you should not do any such thing and you should not give any such ruling due to which the House might face certain problems in the House in future. With this request, I would like to say that it should not be discussed. You should cancel the Adjournment Motion and also should not allow discussion on all the matters and matter pertaining to Bihar in the House.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a submission to make to you. I am not interested in anyway to stall the discussion on Bihar situation. But I would request you to consider the factor that if this kind of Adjournment Motion about the internal administration of a State is taken into consideration in Parliament, what effect it would have. This Parliament will cease to be the Parliament. Then this Parliament will have to take up the issues which concern the State Legislative Assemblies. An indication has already been given by my friend Shri P.R. Dasmunsi that everything can be discussed on the floor of this House which generally and exclusively belongs to the State Assembly . . . (Interruptions) You have spoken and I have got also the right to speak.



Of course, it is your right to decide. I cannot prevent you from taking the decision. It is the rule which gives you the power to decide whether this Adjournment Motion will be accepted or not. Therefore, if you allow a discussion, it is your discretion. It is your right. But it is also my right to remind you of the implications that it might have. It will particularly lead this Parliament to become the Legislative Assembly for all the States. All the States probably may be taken into consideration here and that will not lead to strengthening of the Constitution and the strengthening of the unity of the country.

Therefore, I want that you reconsider it. You may use your discretion and a different from may be devised for the discussion.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB): I am in favour of the discussion. But I have objection to the form of the discussion only and I shall abide by your decision. But I have a point to refer to you in regard to the admissibility of the Adjournment Motion.

These are the proceedings of the Central Legislative Assembly. This matter was also taken up earlier and the Speaker of this House once gave his decision on this particular point on admissibility of the Adjournment Motion. With your kind permission, I refer to you this matter. This is a very simple matter. Here is the definite explanation of the thing :-

"The matter may be urgent. The matter may be definite. The matter may be of public importance. Yet it is the right of the Speaker to allow the Adjournment Motion or to disallow the Adjournment Motion."

Here I quote from P. 152 of the proceedings of the Central Legislative Assembly that :-

"A matter may be urgent. It may be definite. It may be of urgent public importance and yet the Speaker may, in a proper case, disallow such a motion."

This is for your kind information.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a point of order under Rule 56. I have an objection on the text of the Adjournment Motion moved by the hon. Leader of Opposition. Debate can be held on the situation prevailing in Bihar. But in Uttar Pradesh, a constitutional crisis has been cropped up

between the Governor and the Chief Minister and the Government is committing atrocities on farmers. Babrala incident is the outcome of this situation . . . (Interruptions) It is a serious matter. . . . (Interruptions) Pressure and money power . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The cases pertaining to Bihar and U.P. are entirely different.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough. I have heard all the points of order raised by the hon. Members very carefully. Rules 56 to 63 deal with matters relating to Adjournment Motion. But what can be discussed under this Rule is not elaborated in the Rule Book. It is only about restrictions and what cannot be discussed that have been provided in Rule 58. Now, what can be discussed ? It has to be any matter which is a definite matter of urgent public importance. That is all. Now, what is the matter of urgent public importance ? Who has to decide that ? Who has to satisfy that it is a matter of urgent public importance ? Obviously, it is the Speaker's satisfaction. So, only the two conditions are that it has to be a matter of urgent public importance and the satisfaction of the Speaker and the consent of the Speaker. Therefore, on the question of *sub judice*, I know it very well. It is on this ground that I have not permitted the Adjournment Motions of Shri George Fernandes and Shri Sarpotdar because they directly refer to the scam. They refer to the CBI cases. Therefore, I straightaway disallowed those Motions. But I am quite satisfied with the formulation of the Motion and I give the consent to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to seek the leave of the House and the consent of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek leave of the House. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : There is much the same ground in my case also. On the same ground of your ruling, with all respect, I have to submit that my Motion concerning the West Bengal scam has to be allowed . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can come later on on that issue.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I gave notice on that. So, this ruling will be applied to my case also . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have all the Motions with me. I will dispose of them like this.

Now, I take up the Motion for grant of leave.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Sir, I am on a point of order . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : So, it seems that an individual's matters may be matters of public importance. You can discuss the individual cases also . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. It is all right.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am on a point of order. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no more point of order. We are completing it. Is the leave opposed by the House ? Since the leave is not opposed by anybody, the leave is granted.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, we are opposing it. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You did not. I asked twice. Were you sleeping ?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : We are opposing it. This is not fair . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? There is no question of any point of order. I have asked twice. I have repeated it twice. But you did not say anything. The matter will be taken up immediately.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : We are opposing it. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, the mover of the Motion has to seek the leave of the House first . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has sought the leave of the House

already. I have put it to the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : He has not sought the leave of the House . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I know of it. Why are you worried?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I really do not know. Have you not seen it ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : We have not seen that. He can please stand up and move his Motion . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I thought I had seen that. He can move it once again.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now. I am telling you to sit down. You do not listen and make unnecessary trouble for the House. When I had asked Shri Vajpayee to seek the leave of the House, I announced twice : "Is the leave opposed ?" You did not.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not listen to me fully ? You sit down now. I am going to repeat the process.

[Translation]

I am repeating it. When Vajpayeeji will move the motion to seek leave of the House then I will ask as to whether the House has any objection to it. You can say this at that time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not listening to me. What can I do ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek the leave of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is the leave opposed ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Since the leave has been opposed, those in favour of the leave being granted may stand in their places.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Rose

MR. SPEAKER : I find the number is more than the requisite number.

So, leave is granted.

The Motion will be taken up immediately after the papers are laid on the Table of the House and Matters under Rule 377 are disposed of.

12.32 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### **Memorandum of Understanding between Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and Ministry of Power etc.**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2174/97]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the North Easter Electric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2175/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and

English versions) of the Energy Management Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Energy Management Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2176/97]

12.33 hrs.

#### ASSENT OF BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following four Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 11th April, 1997 :-

- (1) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill 1997.
- (2) The Finance Bill, 1997.
- (3) The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1997.
- (4) The Vice-President's Pension Bill, 1997.

(ii) I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, of the following eight Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to by the President :-

- (1) The Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Amendment Bill, 1997.
- (2) The Industrial Reconstruction Bank (Transfer of Undertakings and Repeal) Bill, 1997.
- (3) The Depositories Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997.
- (4) The National Environment Appellate Authority Bill, 1997.
- (5) The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

- (6) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Bill, 1997.
- (7) The Rice-Milling Industry (Regulation) Repeal Bill, 1997.
- (8) The Seamen's Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

12.34 hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

### Seventh Report

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their First Report on 'Budgetary Support to Railways'.

12.34½ hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

### Twenty-Ninth Report

[English]

DR. A.K. PATEL (Mehsana) : I beg to lay the Twenty Ninth-Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism on Shipbuilding and Shiprepair Industry in India.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, since the time is very limited, we will take up the Motion at two o'clock in order to avoid confusion.

(Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : The Foreign Minister of Japan is coming at two o'clock. I shall not be present at two o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister has an engagement at two o'clock with the Foreign Minister of Japan. When Shri Vajpayee starts the debate, he may not be there.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai – North East) : Will the Prime Minister be coming later on ?

MR. SPEAKER : He will come. The Home Minister will be here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : What is your decision, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right. As soon as you are free, please come.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : No, Sir. Why I submit it, may I clarify ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let there be order in the House.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Let me repeat what I requested.

With due respect to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Foreign Minister of Japan is on a visit to India. I am hosting a lunch for him just now. He is coming at 1.45 pm. It will take me about two hours. If the Leader agrees, that is, after he speaks, I would like to speak myself. Therefore, my absence will not be good when he is speaking as I cannot hear him. Therefore, I am requesting you, if you can kindly take up the discussion after about four o'clock or at 4.30 pm, whatever suits you.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to rules, we can take it up at four o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, the rule provides that actually it should be taken up at 4 o'clock unless the Speaker decides otherwise. Now, since the Prime Minister has got engagements, therefore, I think if the House agrees, we can take it up at four o'clock.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, in that case our Motion under Rule 184 should be taken up on Monday because this discussion will not be finished by six o'clock. Yesterday, you said that it may start of six o'clock . . . (Interruptions) Let me finish.

So, the discussion on the Motion under Rule 184 should be shifted to Monday.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, we will take it up on Monday.

Now, we will take up the discussion on the Motion moved by Shri Vajpayee at four o'clock today. I think, the Prime Minister's presence will be needed.

12.36 hrs.

*(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)*

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

*[Translation]*

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : Sir, I beg to present the following petitions :

- (i) Petition signed by Shri Birendera Kumar, President Wax Manufacturers Association, Calcutta regarding reduction in transfer prices of both the slack waxes of Haldia and Barauni Units of Indian Oil Corporation Limited; and
- (ii) Petition signed by Shri Rai Shia Ranjan Sharma of Agarwa, Motihari, District East Champaran, Bihar requesting to prevent migration of people from District Champaran and to ensure proper implementation of Poverty Alleviation Programmes of Central Government for reaching to the intended beneficiaries in East Champaran District of Bihar.

12.37 hrs.

## MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE

## Public Accounts Committee

*[Translation]*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I beg to move the motion :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate two members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of this House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri N. Giri Prasad died and Shrimati Kamla Sinha appointed as Minister and do communicate to this House the names of two members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate two members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on

Public Accounts of this House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri N. Giri Prasad died and Shrimati Kamla Sinha appointed as Minister and do communicate to this House the names of two members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted.*

*[Translation]*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before the matters under 377 are taken up, I would like to raise a very serious objection. The Minister of Defence, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had given a very objectionable remarks regarding Indian women and thus he does not have the right to sit in this august House in these circumstances. Personally I have always held him in high esteem. However, while referring to Ms. Mayawati, he said, "Is Mayawati an attractive women who would have been raped," Does that mean that in the opinion of the Defence Minister, all the beautiful women are worthy of being raped? This is not only an insult of Mayawati but also an insult to all the Indian women. Hence, through you, I request the House to pass a Resolution condemning the Minister of Defence, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. Either he should apologise for his statement or a Resolution condemning him should be passed in the House.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : He should apologise to the women Members of the House.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Members of various political parties are present in the House and if they have any respect for the Indian women, they should pass the Resolution of condemnation. Sir, I used to respect him. Either he should refute it or apologise.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Please discuss it with me later on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. You have made your point.

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on substantial things, reference should not be taken up in this way . . . *(Interruptions).*

[Shri P.R. Dhasmuni]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I am on Matters Under Rule 377. Please sit down

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I will not take more than half a minute.

On such serious matters what my hon. colleague is stating, I do not like to make any comment. If there is any substance you find out. But it pains me to hear all these things in this House. But since you allowed Umaji, I would like to submit before you one thing. The Defence Minister is present in the House.

There is a serious resentment going on for the last two days in the police forces and in the Armed Forces on the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations. I find total silence on the part of the Government. If the Government does not react to it immediately, I think, it will be an enormous . . . *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Why are you diverting attention from such a serious matter ? . . . *(Interruptions)* This is a separate matter. Let it be taken up to its logical conclusion . . . *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : What is all this ?

[English]

I have taken his permission and not yours.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Why are you switching on to another subject ? . . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji wants to say something.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is not the right way . . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is over. It is all right.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I think, I do not have to take the permission of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. I have

to take only your permission . . . *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your point has also been recorded.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him reply now.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, will take the decision in the matter . . . *(Interruptions)*. What is my fault ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed both of you to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Both of you have said something. That is all.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : He has raised a separate matter . . . *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats now.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, regarding the matter raised by Uma Bharati ji, I would like to submit that Uma Bharati manages to raise quite a few points on her own.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : I used to treat you as my brother till the time you made such an objectionable and vulgar statement regarding women . . . *(Interruptions)* so long as you had not given such an objectionable statement, you were like a brother to me. It pained me when I came to know of it. If you did not make any statement, you may refute it and tell the media alongwith the proof of the cassette . . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow her to make her point.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : So far as the issue regarding women is concerned, Uma Bharati ji is totally unaware. However, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you are very much aware that we have fought for the rights of women and we respect women. We have fought all our life for the dignity and the rights of the women. She only talks about it . . . *(Interruptions)*.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : What does that mean ? Did you or did you not make such a statement ?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have indeed said this and say so that we are in favour of giving special opportunities to a particular section, however, we are not in favour of according any privileges to them. The backward classes and minorities as also the women can be given special opportunities but not the privileges. It is laid down in our Constitution. The issue that she is raising . . . *(Interruptions)* The kind of stories that are published in the newspapers especially regarding yourself . . . *(Interruptions)*.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : What does not mean ?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Who is spared by the media ? Are not stories published regarding the Hon. Leader of Opposition and regarding me ? The media publishes stories regarding each and everyone. She brings a newspapers and shows it . . . *(Interruptions)*.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Did you or did you not say such a thing ?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : They only make up such stories, get them published in the newspapers. I have no such intentions.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : He still has not given any categorical statement as to whether he spoke such words or not.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has said that he had no such intentions and that the mediapersons exaggerate things.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : What does he mean by intentions ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a sort of denial.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : It is not the question of

intention.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The subject is closed. Please sit down.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Mulayam Singh has lost the right to sit in the august House because sort of language he has used and then no one should have the right to use such words on the piece land of India. So far as the question of such a statement being made by him is concerned . . . *(Interruptions)*. It is not a question of intentions . . . *(Interruptions)*.

*[English]*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the issue is closed now and nothing else should go on record. He has cleared it.

*[Translation]*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Your ruling won't do. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we seek your protection.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has made an indirect denial.

*[English]*

The matter is closed now.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Jatia ji, please resume your seat for a minute.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : He should clarify as to whether he said it or not ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat now.

*[Translation]*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : If he has said it, then a Resolution condemning him should be passed in the House.

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what wrong did the hon. Minister say ?

*(Interruptions)\**

\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Y.K. Alagh. Please let him move the Motion.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : What has been published ? . . . (Interruptions)\*.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA (Puri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Uma Bharatiji is telling that . . . (Interruptions)\* Can this language be Spoken in the House ?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mulayam Singhji, please stand up, at least.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would ask the hon. MPs that this matter be treated as closed.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER : Many things have been published in the newspapers.

12.46 hrs.

*At this stage, Kumari Uma Bharati came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let this matter be treated as closed.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kumari Uma Bharati, please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has denied it.

(Interruptions)

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

12.46½ hrs.

## MOTION FOR ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

### Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : Sir, I beg to move :

"The in pursuance of Section 5(j) read with Section 6 (2) of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science and Technology, Trivandrum Act, 1980, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 5(j) read with Section 6(2) of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science and Technology, Trivandrum Act, 1980, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology Trivandrum, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

*The motion was adopted.*

12.47 hrs.

*At this stage, Kumari Uma Bharati sat on the floor near the Table*

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go to your seat now.

(Interruptions)



[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA (Puri) : The Leader of the Opposition should respond to the situation . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Is it right ? You should yourself judge whether such a language can be used in the House ? . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Listen to me. I was under the impression that acrimony has been over but unfortunately it is still there. So, I would like to make an appeal to the august House and Uma ji,

[English]

Please go to your seat now.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, Kumari uma Bharati has raised a point and hon. Minister of Defence has clarified that by saying that he has not said any thing. If newspapers have reported something, how is he responsible for that ? He has clarified his position. Despite this, the hon. Member is creating this situation. I would only request hon. Leader of Opposition to persuade the Member to go to her seat. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have also said that he said that he did not say any such thing. The newspapers have published it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whatever he said earlier about you have come in the newspapers. He said this much only.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Uma ji, it is not proper.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What more should I say ? Uma ji, I would make an appeal to you to please go your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Minister of Defence has denied it. Now, we will take up Matters Under Rule 377.

12.49 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

##### (I) Need to Accord Priority to Rural Development Programmes

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our independence but even after 50 years of our independence, our villages are faced with the shortage of basic amenities like drinking water, roads, education, medical and housing facilities which has resulted in the continuance of social and economic backwardness and economic disparity in our society. People of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are deprived of social justice, equality and liberty in our cities and villages. Social inequality between man and man still persists.

Therefore, in order to make the Golden Jubilee celebrations meaningful, it is very necessary to accord top priority to rural development programmes and to take effective steps to remove our social and educational backwardness.

##### (II) Need for construction of an over-bridge at Badshahpur Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh

DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI (Machhalisahar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a number of train passes through Badshahpur railway station in Uttar Pradesh daily there is no over-bridge at this railway station. Passengers, parti-

[Dr. Ramvilas Vedanti]

cularly elderly persons and children experience a lot of difficulty in crossing the railway tracks there and it takes considerable time to cross over. Besides, many accidents occur due to sudden arrival of trains while crossing the tracks.

Therefore, through you, Sir, I would request the Government to sanction construction of an over-bridge at this railway station in order to safeguard the general people crossing the railway line from falling a prey to accidents.

**(iii) Need to Enhance Quota of Cereals for State of Orissa under Public Distribution System**

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : The sudden reduction of PDS quota to Orissa from 1.5 lakh metric tonnes to 35,000 metric tonnes per month out of the Central pool under the new TPDS by Government of India has put the people of the State in a great hardship. The public distribution system has virtually collapsed and the TPDS has adversely affected the market condition. The supply of wheat is completely stopped at a time when people have been habituated to consume 'roti' at night.

As many as 43 lakh families in Orissa are living below the poverty line. All these people were drawing ration through fair price shops. Now Government of India has put this figure at 32 lakh by a sample survey. Thus 11 lakh poor families straightway remain out of the ambit of TPDS. This has caused a serious discontentment among the people.

I, therefore request the Central Government that the defective sample figure of the people living below the poverty line be rectified as 43 lakh and the quota of cereals for the State of Orissa under PDS may be enhanced keeping in view the actual demand of the State.

**(iv) Need for early setting up of Monitoring Committees Represented by MPs and MLAs for Central Rural Development Schemes in U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Mr.

Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government have covered each and every block in the rural areas under their Employment Assurance Scheme and every block gets a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs for expenditure on developmental works in the same block. Time and again, the point has been raised by the MPs that their voice is not heard at all in implementation of the Centrally Sponsored schemes for poverty eradication and rural development. They are not associated at all in such developmental works. The same view has been expressed by the Standing Committee on Rural Development which has recommended the Government to associate the elected representatives of people in such developmental programmes. It was only in view of these recommendations that the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment issued certain guidelines in this respect to all the State Governments and a copy thereof was also circulated to the Members of Parliament.

It was mentioned in these guideline that the MPs and MLAs be associated with several schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme and their suggestions and proposals in such developmental schemes be given due importance and

It was recommended in the guidelines that district and block level Monitoring cells be set-up for Employment Assurance Schemes and MPs, MLAs and other officials be associated with these cells. It was also said in these guidelines that suggestions made by the MPs and MLAs be given priority. But so far nothing has been done in this regard in Uttar Pradesh by way of setting up such committees either at the district or block levels. Directives have been issued vide an official letter for construction of approach roads to the Ambedkar village by releasing the amount earmarked therefore. It has also been said that top priority be accorded to the suggestions made by the Advisory Committees in this respect.

It is, therefore, requested that directives to set-up immediately the district and block level Monitoring Committees consisting of MPs and MLAs for above developmental schemes be issued without any further delay and the suggestions made by the MPs and MLAs in this regard be accorded top priority and in case any State fails to comply with these directives, the development funds should not be released to any such State Government.

**(v) Need to provide Financial Assistance to State Government of Bihar for Providing Relief to the People Affected by heavy Rains in Jahanabad District**

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, normal life has been disrupted in Jahanabad Parliamentary Constituency in Bihar because of heavy rains during 9.7.97 to 13.7.97. The houses belonging to Scheduled Castes, backward classes and labourers of the area have been destroyed. Thousand of animals have died therein. The people of this area have taken shelter along with their families in public buildings like schools, community centres and primary health centres. Maximum rain has been recorded this year in the last 15 years.

Therefore, it is demanded that the Central Government should provide adequate compensation to the poor, who have suffered loss of their life and property so that their condition could be improved. The State Government should be provided additional financial assistance for this purpose.

**(vi) Need to Give Adequate Representation to SC/ STs and Backward Castes in Judiciary**

SHRI D.P. YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, India got independence fifty years ago. Though after independence zamindari system was abolished and efforts are being made for increasing the representation of SC/ ST and Backward Classes in various fields but even today the upper castes are dominating the judiciary. The representation of SCs/STs and other backward castes in the judiciary is negligible. Time and again the attention of Central Government had been drawn towards this fact but the weaker section of the society have not been provided due representation in judiciary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, against the present sanctioned strength of 77 judges in Allahabad High Court, there are only three judges belonging to SCs and one to other backward classes. There is a lot of resentment in these sections of society because the names of advocates belonging to these sections of the society are not recommended by the Selection Committee. A few days ago in newspapers, there was a news item that the Government is going to enact a legislation in this regard.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government that when the issue of appointment of judges of Allahabad High Court

is taken into consideration, the advocates belonging to backward and weaker sections of society should also be recommended so that they could get due representation in the judiciary.

**(vii) Need to Sanction Adequate funds for All-Round Development of Sunderbans Area in West Bengal**

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sir, as you know, Sunderbans in West Bengal is renowned for its flora and fauna, unique mangrove forests and above all being the abode of the legendary Royal Bengal Tigers. It is a pity that its inhabitants who are more than 3.5 millions are living below the poverty line as there is no industry of any kind there. They have to depend on fishing, wood cutting and partly on marginal farming. In fact, this is one of most backward areas in the country. It needs some sort of integrated development which covers more than 90 per cent of the South 24 Parganas. The Central Government has so far not drawn up any plan for its development nor has it allotted any funds for the purpose. The Government of West Bengal has drawn up a four-year plan for Sunderbans and sanctioned a sum of Rs. 7.7 crore for 1997-98 for the improvement of communication system through construction of jetties on river banks and brick paved roads and other ancillary works like soil conservation and make available potable water through lift irrigation. It is high time that the Central Government sanctions some funds for its development in order to reverse the process of debilitation in Sunderbans.

13.00 hrs.

**(viii) Need to set up a Low Power T.V. Transmitter at Dudhwakhara in Churu District, Rajasthan.**

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw your attention towards Dudhwakhara town of Churu Parliamentary Constituency. It is an important town. This town has hospital, post office, banks and many governmental offices. It is also linked to district headquarters by rail and roads. Dudhwakhara town is the centre of business activities of 60 or 70 villages situated around it. Agricultural produce of these villages is also sold in Dudhwakhara town. About 60 thousand people in and around this town are directly

[Shri Narendra Budania]

and indirectly connected to this town but they have been deprived of watching the programmes of Doordarshan.

This town is the centre of Churu, Taranagar and Jhunjhunu tehsils. In view of the importance of this town, it is essential that Doordarshan programmes should be telecasted properly. There has been a long standing demand of the people of this area in this regard, but so far the Union Government has not paid any attention towards it. Therefore, the Union Government is requested to give instructions to set up a L.P.T. at Dudhwakhara in Churu district (Rajasthan) on priority basis without any delay.

13.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till  
Fourteen of the Clock*

14.08 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Eight  
Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

# INSURANCE REGULATORY AUTHORITY BILL\*

[English]

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to move : \*\*

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies and to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be taken into consideration."

With your permission, I would like to make a few brief introductory remarks. As this august House is aware, the Common Minimum Programme of the Government stated and I quote

"We have gained considerable experience in the working of the banking sector.

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section-2 dated 24.7.97

\*\* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

The said experience will be applied to the restructuring of the insurance industry. But, at the same time, public sector companies like LIC, GIC etc., will be strengthened. Keeping in view the Common Minimum Programme of the Government, in the Budget speech this year I had proposed certain structural reforms in the insurance sector. Following the announcement of the Budget, LIC and GIC have already been delegated financial powers to make non-scheduled and non-consortium investments without obtaining the prior approval of the Government. I had also announced the intention of the Government to allow LIC to enter into joint ventures in the pension business, and allow UTI to expand its retirement benefit plan into a fullfledged pension fund. In the health insurance sector it was proposed that GIC and its subsidiaries would be permitted to float joint ventures, and a few Indian companies, i.e., Indian-controlled with majority Indian ownership, will be permitted to enter the health insurance business. LIC and GIC would be given the power to determine the terms and conditions of service of its employees and agents.

All these proposals require change in the existing insurance laws. I am also happy to inform this House that LIC and GIC have been given a full compliment of members for their Boards, and both are today Board-managed companies.

Before the aforesaid reforms are implemented, it is necessary to have a strong statutory Insurance Regulatory Authority in position. Such an authority would formulate comprehensive regulations for all the service providers in the insurance industry and monitor their performance on a regular basis in the interest of healthy growth of insurance industry and safeguarding the interest of the insuring public. For this purpose, as announced by me in 1996 Budget, I introduced on 20th December, 1996 the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill to give statutory status to the interim IRA. This Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance for examination. The Standing Committee has since submitted its report to this House on the 9th of May, 1997. The Standing Committee, as you are aware, was composed of 30 Members of this hon. House and 15 Members of the Rjya Sabha. The Standing Committee has made a number of recommendations. I am glad to inform the House that we have accepted the recommendations made by the Standing Committee. I will introduce the amendments to the Bill in the light of the recommendations which have been accepted by the Government.

Briefly, the following are the major recommendations made by the Committee and, as I said, I am glad to inform the House that we had accepted the recommendations.

1. The number of whole time members should be increased from three to five. – That has been accepted.
2. At least three whole time members should have not only knowledge but also possess actual experience of general insurance, life insurance and actuarial science. – An amendment is being introduced to give effect to this provisions.
3. The Chairperson/whole time members on completion of their term would be eligible for being considered for further employment in the Authority on the basis of their performance subject, however, to the age limitation. – This is also being accepted.
4. The ineligibility of the Chairpersons/whole time members should be restricted to two years after ceasing to be a member of the IRA. – We have accepted that also.
5. The restriction on reemployment should not be limited to private companies alone in the insurance sector but should apply to the entire insurance sector for a period of two years. – That recommendation is also being accepted.
6. The Standing Committee said that the Chairperson should also have the power of general superintendence and direction of the Board and may also exercise all powers and do all acts and things which may be exercised or done by the Board. – We have accepted this recommendation and we are giving to the Chairperson the power of general superintendence and direction in administrative matters. For the quasi-judicial matters, the Board has to act as a collective body. We do not think that there will be an emergency requiring a quasi-judicial decision where the Chairperson has to act alone. Therefore, we are accepting this recommendation giving the power of general superintendence and direction on administrative matters to the Chairperson. On quasi-judicial matters, we would like the body to act collectively, sitting together.
7. The Members of the IRA, on ceasing to be

members, should not be permitted to join companies where insurance funds are deployed. Insurance funds today are deployed in the form of equity, in the form of project finance and in the form of loans and these run into 1500 companies between LIC and GIC. Therefore, if we accept this recommendation, we will be virtually closing the door to employment of these people.

In another part of the Report, the Committee said that they must not be debarred, they must be allowed to take up employment after two years. Once I accept that recommendation, if I accept this also, virtually all employment will be closed because LIC and GIC today are major investors and I am told there are about 1460 companies. So, we are unable to accept this recommendation. But we can discuss this matter during the course of the debate. There are other minor changes which were recommended by the Committee. We have accepted all those recommendations.

In all fairness, I must point out, there is a note of dissent by one Member of the Rajya Sabha to the Report. But I take it that the note of dissent is reflective of the fact that there was a full discussion in the Committee; that all aspects were considered; all sections were given a full opportunity to give their views; and if at the end of such detailed deliberations if all the Members of the Committee embracing all political parties, have subscribed to the majority Report and only one hon. Member has expressed the dissent, I think, that is democracy in full play and I would urge all hon. Members who represented other parties on the Committee to support this Bill.

I am confident that in the course of the debate I will make every effort to persuade even that Member to agree to the changes that we are making. But I would expect all hon. Members who represented their parties on the Committee, 44 other Members of the Committee who have supported this Bill – to support this Bill.

Sir, I may point out that LIC today operates in several countries abroad. It has branches in London, Mauritius and Fiji. It has entered into an international joint venture in Bahrain which carries on activities in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain. In Kenya, GIC and LIC together have a joint venture under the name, Kenindia. Similarly, GIC has a large number of subsidiaries abroad and is operating abroad. In fact, they are directly operating in 18 countries and they are operating through subsidiary and associate

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

companies in 14 countries. So, we are in the process of building LIC and GIC into international companies and that is the way in which insurance sector will grow in the future. And I think we must also prepare for such growth in India and the first step towards that is to give statutory powers to the non-statutory IRA which is today functioning, which was set up by the previous Government. It is functioning as a non-statutory body but the time has come to empower that body and give it statutory powers.

With these remarks, I would commend the Bill to this House along with the amendments recommended by the Committee which the Government has accepted. I would request the hon. Members to cooperate and pass this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :

Motion moved :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies and to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The time recommended for discussion by the Government is three hours.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Finance has introduced the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1996 with the objective of removing the inconveniences being experienced by the Insurance Companies such as the LIC and the GIC. Since there is mismanagement in these organisations, country's economy is also affected. Due to this very reason and also in view of the mismanagement and irregularities in these companies' action has been initiated to set right the situation. Earlier, a controller looked after the work of these companies which will henceforth be controlled by an Authority with full powers. As a matter of fact, this is a welcome Bill. The Hon'ble Minister has mentioned a few points. Some amendments suggested and the recommendations made by the Committee are proposed to be accepted by the Minister. In the case of one or two recommendations, the Hon'ble Minister stated that these will be considered later on.

I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister towards the fact that these insurance companies primarily depend heavily on the policy holders and the insurance agents. The Development Officers and other personnel working in these companies play a secondary role. But all these categories of officials are equally important for strengthening these companies. However it was noticed for several years that the Development Officers and other officials are concerned for their own interests and they safeguard their interests. But the insurance agents and policy holders, who work hard, day and night, to strengthen these companies, deposit insurance money, help strengthen the economy of the country, experience several hardships. No attention is paid towards them. A sum of about 50,000/- crores has been given as loan to various national and state level institutions through these insurance companies and thus this sector is lending support in managing the economy of the country and looking after the interest of the people. However dishonesty and corruption prevalent in other sectors is spreading its tentacles in such institutions also day by day. Useless expenditure is made by these companies. The agents and the policy holders have brought all these facts to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister. The Minister has given an assurance to take action in this regard. I believe that after setting up of the authority, attention will be paid to all these aspects and efforts will be made to address these problems.

Recently a conference was held in Indore. The Hon'ble Minister was scheduled to attend it but he could not make it to the conference. An M.D. and a Chairman went there. The Conference was held on the 11th and 12th of October, 1996. The figure of expenditure incurred on holding this conference is incredible. Rs. 1.5 crore have been spent for holding the conference. It is not only a matter of concern but also calls for an enquiry. I request that an enquiry be held and action initiated against the corrupt elements and other officials responsible for bringing the companies to such a pass. The delegates who attended the Conference were taken to Ujjain and Onkareshwar on pleasure trips.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I did not attend any conference recently.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I myself said that the Hon'ble Minister did not attend the conference. I said that he was supposed to attend it but ultimately the M.D.

and the Chairman went there. I am giving the details of expenditure incurred on holding that conference. 365 delegates attended the Conference.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Who attended that Conference ?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : The Chairman and the M.D.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The Interpretation is saying something like NDF.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : An expenditure of Rs. 1.5 crore was incurred on the Conference. The Conference was held for two days and 365 delegates attended it. Such irregularities are increasing day by day. When the policy of a policy-holder is matured or it lapses due to certain reasons, it takes time to work out its paid-up value and certain problems are experienced about that. A restriction of three years is imposed thereupon. A demand has been made many a time that this stipulated period of three years should be lowered to two years but no action has been taken as yet in this regard. Similarly so far as the issue of paid-up value is concerned, irregularities and corrupt practices are being noticed in fixing the same. Hence improvements are required to be made in this regard also. The interests of agents are not protected. The agents contract the policy-holders first and convince them somehow, otherwise at times the policy holder fails to understand the reasons for getting his life insured when he is not going to die so soon and expecting a longer life. They enquire about the benefits of taking an insurance policy because the bonus paid ultimately is comparatively lower than the interest said by the banks on the same amount. I have made a demand in this regard several times and also approached the previous Finance Minister with the demand that the amount of annual bonus payable to the policy-holder should be raised. If you make a calculation, you will find the amount of bonus is quite lower in comparison to the interest paid under the savings bank accounts. There is a need to raise the amount of bonus but nothing is being done in this regard whereas the Development Officers, other officers and employees are enjoying all sorts of facilities. In the case of Zonal Officers, an expenditure of Rs. 40,000/- was incurred just for

rearranging the flower-pots, replacing the old flower-pots and plants with new pots and plants. An enquiry should be held into this useless expenditure and a decision taken so as to remove the irregularities.

There are other cases of irregularities as well. I feel that there will be some improvement in this direction after setting up of this authority. I also feel that if the management of these companies or the supervisory body or the officials responsible for taking action against the irregularities have good intentions, everything will be all right. A provision has been made for having a number of Members but no provision to check corruption has been made. No legal provision has been made in this regard. That is why I feel that this sector too is going to incur losses just like the nationalised banks. If one takes into account the situation prevailing in these insurance companies in the last three years, one would find that in proportion to the number of policy holders and in proportion to the hard work put in by the agents, the annual useless expenditure is continuously rising. Or it could be taken this way that there has been a rise in other expenditures under the head of establishment expenditure. It would be better if efforts are made to keep a check on it.

The Government has made a provision in this Bill for appointment of a Chairman to the Authority. A Provision has been made for disqualifying the members but no provision has been made for disqualifying the Chairman. If a Chairman appointed to the Authority becomes insane, he still cannot be removed by the Government. While such a provision exists for the members. If the member becomes insane or bankrupt, he can be removed by giving him a three months' notice. But there is no such provision for removal of the Chairperson. Once a person becomes the chairperson, he thinks that he cannot be removed from that office. It appears from the Bill wherein a provision has been made for the supersession of even the Board as a whole if it muddles, but there is no separate provision for removal of the chairperson or take action against him in case he muddles. Earlier there was provision for seven members but now it has been conceded to raise that number to nine. There is a provision to remove these members collectively but if the chairperson indulges in irregularity, no provision has been made for his removal. We would like to be enlightened on it, now or later.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I will explain. If you kindly

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

see Clause 4, it says, "The authority shall consist of the following members, namely :-

- (a) A Chairperson;
- (b) not more than three whole-time members;
- (c) not more than four part-time members. . ."

All of them are members. Now if you read Clause 6, it says, "The Central Government may remove from Office any member. . .". That 'member' is 'all the members who constitute the Authority'. Therefore Clauses 6 will apply even to the removal of the Chairman.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I have read Clause 6(1) which he is mentioning. Clause 6(1) states that the Central Government may . . . from office any member, the word 'member' is written therein which has caused doubt and therefore I seek clarification thereof. The word member is written therein and the chairperson has been shown as distinct from the members. Therefore I am making the submission.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Please see clause 2(1) (f). It reads as :

"Member includes the Chairperson".

Clause 4 says :

"The Authority shall consist of the following members including Chairperson."

So, the provision to remove member means provision to remove the Chairperson.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is very clear.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Sub-clause "f" says that the term 'Member' means full time or part time member of the Authority and it also includes the chairperson. It is clear, if it is so, it is all right, otherwise we were thinking that nobody can remove him from that office. In this way they will continue to commit irregularities. Then there is the provision in section 11(1) that the Authority is competent to appoint such officers and other

employees as the Authority deems necessary for discharging its functions under this act efficiently. Set up of the staff should be decided earlier. The set up of the staff must have been decided before hand i.e. in view of the business to be transacted there would be so many person, so many clerks, UDCs and LDCs. The number of the staff need to be decided beforehand, otherwise the officer will misuse this clause at will as at many places we see that every single IAS or IPS officers has as many as 4,6,8 or even nine peons at his disposal. Many times we ask 'Sir, what do you do with as many as nine peons' they are never able to tell. The same type of misuse will start here. So I would request that it will be better to determine it beforehand.

After that there is a provision in section three that determination of all the questions to come up before the Authority in its meeting will be made by the majority of the members present and voting and if the votes are equal, the vote of the chairperson or, in his absence, that of the presiding officer will be the second or casting vote. My request is that if there are nine members and two or three members are present and two cast their votes, then it will be the decision. After taking decision on the issue, it will be implemented. When total members are nine, it will be wrong if any provision or regulation is made with the concurrence of two members. So I request that there should be a condition of two-third majority present and voting. I have earlier said that if three members out of nine members are present and two say that this should be done, then it would become a law. If this is done the law would not reflect the true spirit with which it was framed. So, I request that more than half of the total number or the majority should take a decision. If five out of nine take decision then it should be implemented otherwise not. It will be very good if you do this. It will be better if you make a provision of quorum. Nothing has been mentioned about quorum. There should definitely be provision of quorum, otherwise the same situation will arise as I have told earlier. So it will be better if the provision of quorum is more than half or two-third.

In Clause 5(1) it is stated that by giving a written notice of not less than three months to the Central Government he could resign from his post. These members or the Chairman could resign from their post by giving a notice of three months. I know that there is provision of one month notice if a Central Government employee or the State Government employee resigns. He will give a notice of



three months and his post will remain vacant for three months or he will give notice earlier or he will take medical leave, then the number of the members of the Authority will become less.

Instead of one month that post will remain vacant upto two three months. If he takes medical leave for three months, there is provision of it and the authority will wait for three months and that post will remain vacant for three months. It will affect the work of the Authority. So instead of three months there should be a provision of resignation by giving a notice of one month. It will be good if such a provision is made in this section.

Nomination or appointment of the members is provided in clause 4(c) that Central Government will appoint the honest, dedicated, eminent and meritorious persons. Nominated persons will be selected from among the persons having experience in Life Insurance, General Insurance, Insurance Science, Finance, Economics, Law, Accounting, Administration or any other legal branch which the Central Government thinks is beneficial for the Authority.

It will be better if experience of 5-7 years is added to this criteria so that the persons having such qualification should have experience of five to seven years in the requisite fields. The intention may be good but in due course of time such person who do not have requisite experience would be appointed and there would be favouritism also. Therefore this provision of experience of three to five years should be made. If this provision is made it will be good. I am giving this suggestion because when the intentions are not clear the provisions will be misused. If they will not get a chance to misuse the section, then the appointment will be made under the prescribed norms and criteria and there will be few irregularities. Corruption and irregularities in the country can be checked. Therefore, it is my humble request that a provision should be made determining the experience in this regard.

Hon. Finance Minister, I have said earlier that an Authority is being constituted in place of the Controller and that Authority is empowered with rights. It has also been stated that this Authority will work within the frame work of rules and regulations. I want to ask who will head that Authority? Would it be headed by the Central Government or any other agency or any other Authority.

Now-a-days people are expressing concern that Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation

would be privatized. Even today it is being hotly debated. But before privatization we should seriously think whether this sector will be more efficient after that or not. We should ensure whether it will be in the interest of the country or not. In my opinion there is no need to privatize LIC and GIC because they are the only Public Sector Companies which are earning profit.

These companies are earning profits and, therefore, the *status quo*, i.e. present dispensation of their nationalisation should continue. I request you to increase the amount of bonus for policy holder. Paid-up value should be reduced to two years from the present three years. Interest rate on loan taken by the policy holders should be reduced because sometimes it is far more than the interest rate of nationalised banks. The interest rate charged on delay in payment of instalments is also quite high, and, hence, it should also be reduced. It will be better if interest rate charged on the delay of payments is fixed for the period of delay.

Now a days insurance agents are found committing so many irregularities. A system should be evolved in which the agents may not only become professionals but they should work in the interests of the insurance companies and policy-holders as well. It would be much better if such a system is developed in the interest of the companies and policy holders.

The ceiling of a gratuity is yet to be increased to Rs. 2.5 lakh. As per my information, insurance agents had given memorandum in this regard. Perhaps it was given to the former Finance Minister and it may be there in the official records. It will be better if attention is paid to it and some decision is taken in this matter.

Suppose an agent sells a policy and after sometimes due to some reasons if the agent leaves the job or is declared disqualified, no commission is paid on that policy. If any another agent revives such a lapsed policy he is not paid commission for the full period. Due to this reason agents do not take interest in the revival of such policies because they do not get commission for the lapsed period. The commission should be paid to the new agents for lapsed period as well.

At present mediclaim is not given to agents. It should be given to them. Policy holders as well as agents, both work for strengthening insurance companies and economy of the country, so their welfare should be taken care of.

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

Only then we will be able to strengthen the economy. My best wishes are with the hon. Minister. I am concluding now because you have rung the bell.

[Translation]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in the last three successive Budgets there have been mentions about this Insurance Regulatory Authority. First, in 1995, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in his Budget speech indicated that such an Authority was going to be set up soon. In fact, in pursuance of that, I think, in January, 1996 an Authority was set up after the Cabinet decision to that effect and that too in a notification. In 1996 Budget also, Dr. Manmohan Singh mentioned that statutory status would be given to such Authority already set up by notification.

Now we have this Bill before us in the House. In the meantime also, after its introduction in this very House, I think, on 20th December, 1996, the same was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance. The Committee, after detailed examination had made some recommendations. The hon. Minister of Finance has already observed in his introductory speech that whatever recommendations that have been made by the Standing Committee have been accommodated now. By and large the recommendations have been accommodated by way of amendments which he moved more.

Sir, the insurance industry requires a high degree of regulation. There is no doubt about that. The office of the Controller of Insurance was there since 1938 under the Insurance Act, 1938 to discharge certain functions to direct, advise, question, prohibit, investigate, inspect, prosecute, search, seize, amalgamate, authorise, register and liquidate insurance companies. But there was a sea change in this industry subsequent to independence and by 1956, the Life Insurance Corporation of India which was hitherto in the private sector was taken over by the Government followed by the taking over of the General Insurance in the year 1972. This important decision of nationalising LIC and GIC was taken at that time. But things have dramatically changed again and now we are on the reverse gear. Although total privatisation is not coming back, I think I can say that it is going to be a mixed sector in which LIC and GIC will continue to be in the public sector.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir,

I wish to repeat the statement which is made in the Common Minimum Programme that LIC and GIC will remain in the public sector.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Yes; they will remain in the public sector. But this assurance should be followed in letter and spirit. Then they would also be strengthened, as quoted by the hon. Minister of Finance from the Common Minimum Programme.

Sir, there are some lurking apprehensions in our mind, because even in the Report of the Standing Committee, it is stated that the Committee are given to understand that setting up of a statutory Insurance Regulatory Authority is a prelude to liberation of the insurance sector and its opening to private and foreign players. This is what is stated in the Report of the Standing Committee.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Why do you not read out the next sentence also for the benefit of other Members?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I will read it out. There is no problem. But as you know, the Report of the Standing Committee is the property of the House.

In the next sentence, it is stated that the Committee feel that as and when the insurance sector is opened to private sector companies there should be a level playing field for all insurance companies whether in the public sector or in the private sector.

What happens in our administrative and bureaucratic set up is that there is always a gap between the cup and the lip. We mean very good things and very noble purposes are underlying our many legislations and enactments. But the implementation is so tardy and defective, sometimes, the noble objectives underlying such enactments are lost sight of or the implementation is such that the benefits do not go to the common people of the country.

In our country, the insurance coverage is very low. There is an immediate and urgent need to expand the insurance network in our country. As you know, despite whatever promises have been made by different Governments, crop insurance has remained a far cry. Crop insurance, in practice, is nowhere seen significantly. It has not been implemented significantly and it is not in evidence. Only in selected areas and in irrigated areas where the yield rate is very high, that is, where the cooperative system is working very well and they are advancing loans to the cultivators, there is some degree of implementation of this

crop insurance scheme and not anywhere else. There is an urgent and genuine need to bring crops under the insurance coverage.

I was going through the dissent note given by one hon. Member, belonging to the CPI (M), of the other House. He has many more apprehensions, not exactly on this level ground etc., but he has something else in his mind that 'foreign companies will come in and the Indian companies are not interested or are not willing. Even if they are interested, they do not have the means to participate in a significant way. Therefore, they propose to join their hands with some foreign companies. They want to enter the field like this.' Whatever it is, the hon. Minister of Finance, who is a very seasoned person and who has a lot of experience also, should very carefully consider all these aspects. We have to see that the interest of the common man, the poor man, is kept uppermost in our minds, and the national interests are not sacrificed at all.

Even in China, the multinationals are entering in a very big way. In fact, out of the Fortune 500 companies, about 212 companies are present in one city in China, that is, Shanghai. That is the single largest construction centre in the whole of the world. Three or four months before, this is what we have seen during our visit. The World Bank and the IMF are making investments there and China is extending them red carpet welcome. But at the same time, we must also note that China is not dictated by these organisations. On the other hand, I would say that China is in a position to dictate terms to these organisations. We should see that such a position arises or occurs in our country also.

We need not be dictated. Let them come. We need funds. We need expansion of our insurance network also. But, at the same time, our national interest should not be jeopardised and should not be sacrificed. At the same time, this purpose also should be served. The Government of India should be well aware and should be cautious and move forward very carefully.

I would say that there was Malhotra Committee also, appointed to look into the restructuring of insurance industry since the days of liberalisation in 1991 when there were some changes taking place in the financial system of our economy, to make to study of those changes, to discuss and to suggest what changes should be made in the insurance industry. This Malhotra Committee was set up in 1993 to make a study and to make recommendations.

The former Reserve Bank Governor had come forward with certain suggestions. As I said, after nationalisation of LIC in 1956 and GIC in 1972, the significance of this institution, the Controller of Insurance, was gradually minimised and in 1982, a very peculiar situation arose that there was no such institution and that got merged with the Ministry itself, with the Joint Secretary of the Ministry discharging the responsibility of the Controller. When this Joint Secretary was supposed to exercise control and to supervise the working of the management of the companies like LIC, GIC etc., in those days, his superiors, the Secretary and the Additional Secretary were sitting in the Board of Directors representing the Government. So, naturally it was a very complicated and a peculiar situation and there was, in fact, no control from this side. Naturally, the need for setting up such an Authority is very much there and this Bill seeks to achieve that purpose. There is no doubt about it. What are we doing today? There is a Committee and there is an Authority and that is not statutory. We will make it now statutory. Really that will be independent. It will enjoy autonomous character and thereafter granting statutory status to the IRA will mark the separation of the management function being exercised by the Government from the supervisory functions which has to be done by an independent and powerful Body outside the Government.

This is the purpose of the Bill and about the details as to how many members should be there, what should be the quorum etc., can be brought in the rules to be framed later on. Everything cannot go in the original Bill. After all, this was not only considered by the Standing Committee, but prior to this also, in different forums, trade unions, Chambers of Commerce, academics and also consumer interest groups, in all those Bodies, it has been considered.

14.59 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

The hon. Minister said that whatever are the recommendations of the standing Committee, they have been by and large accepted. But I think that, through not wholly linked with this Bill, there are two other recommendations of the Standing Committee.

15.00 hrs.

One is regarding the dissolution of the Traffic Advisory Committee. I do not know whether that has been done.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That is a separate amendment altogether.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : It is there in the Standing Committee's Report. The other one is about the increase in the premium of motor insurance and car insurance. These are the two recommendations contained in the Report. The Committee has rightly expressed its concern about the huge loss the GIC incurred on account of motor insurance. It has accumulated to Rs. 1500 crore by now with Rs. 600 crore of loss within a period of three years. Insurance also a commercial concept. The Insurance Company is a commercial company. Naturally, it should be looked into. At the same time, it is going to be opened up to the private sector. The private companies will be coming in. So, we have to see that our companies like the LIC and GIC etc. do have a level-playing field. When they are in the public sector, Government do have certain control over them. Crop Insurance and other areas are highly risky and vulnerable. They are entertaining cases and thereby also they are making losses. We are given to understand that the private multinationals and foreign companies, which are evincing some interest to enter this field in our country, are interested only in car insurance and things like theft, fire etc. all such things where the question of loss is not there. But it is a question of only making profit. So, as I said earlier, there should be a level-playing field for our Indian companies. About the public sector companies, private sector companies and foreign companies, a very judicious and reasonable view should be taken. Accordingly, the Government should move forward very carefully in this direction.

Again, I would say that there is a lot of scope for improvement of consumer services/customer services. Better service should be provided to the policy holders. They should be treated in a better way. There is so much of a necessity on that score.

Then, we have to simplify the rules, procedures etc. To cite an example, ten years back, I had myself taken a house building loan from the LIC. The procedure is very cumbersome. Even with all the assistance given to me willingly by the officers concerned, it was a very very difficult task for me, what to talk of the poor people. So many documents and all those things are not necessary. So, simplification of procedure and all those things should be taken into consideration.

Regarding payment of premium on the policy etc.,

there should be somebody to remind the policy holders. Somebody should come and do this job. That is where people sometimes invite the private sector. The private companies do this job very well. When they can do it, why not the Government companies also rise to the occasion to do this job properly ?

Thirdly, in our country, housing is a very big problem. As you know, a very high percentage of people do not have even house-site, what to talk of a dwelling unit. They do not have houses. The Housing Loan Scheme of the LIC etc. is there. A second thought should be given to it. It needs to be looked into afresh. If you take a loan of Rs. two lakh, for a period of thirteen years, you will have to pay every month probably Rs. 3,300 and then only you will be free from the debt. For taking a loan of Rs. two lakh, you have to pay Rs. 3,300 per month! The payment commences from the next month whether you have constructed the house or not. For a period of about 13 years, it will go on. I was making a calculation. It comes to more than Rs. 502 lakhs. You are ultimately required to pay more than Rs. 5 lakhs for a loan of Rs. 2 lakh. According to the principle of Damrupat, if the loan amount is Rs. 100, then the repayment should not be more than Rs. 200. Why should similar provision not be applied in the insurance and banking sectors ? Are we helping the needy people when they take loan to build a dwelling unit? I think, it is time to give a fresh look towards the policy of customers service.

With these words, I support this Bill. I would again request the Government through the hon. Finance Minister to carefully consider all these aspects. There has been a lurking apprehension in the minds of so many people about this. I also have some reservation or apprehension about that. But since there is an immediate need to expand our insurance network and other things, naturally this Bill has a lot of significance when we are moving forward with the rest of the world. The Government should keep its mind open and do everything possible to see that the purpose is achieved and, at the same time, our national interests remain in tact.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balua) (Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the context of this Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1996 I seek only one clarification from the Government. I would like to know as to how it propose to protect this industry from the apprehensions of

privatisation and other ill effects of this new law.

By setting up this Authority the Government is trying to remove mismanagement prevailing in this sector. It has been stated in its objects that this sector will be made competitive. Competition is inevitable in any sectors if another company is introduced in market in the same field. At the time of nationalisation, our attention was not drawn towards lacunae and mismanagement in the system and thus bureaucracy created its stronghold. We could not check their monopoly well in time. There is need to check this monopoly. The hon. Finance Minister has accepted the recommendations made by the Standing Committee of Parliament in this regard. But still there are some shortcomings.

Sir, the wave of privatisation is not blowing only in our country also but this phenomena is also being witnessed all over the world and multinational companies are being allowed in communist countries also. Just now learned hon. Member Shri Panigrahi has given the Example of China. Ours is a vast country. We also want that our country should also progress but liberalisation and privatisation have also posed some other threats to the society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of this country wish to get an assurance over it. I seek an assurance from the hon. Minister of Finance that the recommendations made by the Standing Committee would be accepted and included into it. One of the Members has given a note of dissent on it so I would like to know as to how Chidambaramji would satisfy him, so that this Bill could be passed unanimously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, lastly I would like to suggest that it should be ensured that the present flaws in setting up of authority are removed and amendments are made accordingly so that the bill is passed unanimously and Members having dissent are satisfied. I oppose the attempts being made for the privatisation in this sector or some other sector otherwise I have no objection. This bill is a welcome bill. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) :  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my views on the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1996 Although Hon'ble Minister of Finance has provided for a number of exemptions, still there are drawbacks in it and I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister towards them. Many sorts of understandings are reached and irregularities

are committed. The money of the public is being looted.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Finance towards the year 1956. In 1956 and the later year many insurance companies sprang up all of a sudden. After getting itself registered as GIC, the company set up Chit Fund companies in each and every district throughout the country. On the basis of those very laws, thousands of such companies are operating in the country which collect deposits from the poor people tempting them by promising to double their money in our year.

Sir, such incidents might have come to your notice. Newsitems are published in the newspapers from time to time about such incidents. Recently the case of a Calcutta based company, Favourite Small Investment Limited came into light. It had more than 300 branches throughout the country. It embezzled crores of rupees belonging to lakhs of people. Nobody is there to protect the interests of the poor people whose hard earned money has been lost. All our citizens are not educated and even the educated fall prey to it upon seeing the reference to the letters issued by the GIC and RBI under whose rules and regulations the companies are purported to have been set up. They show certificates that they are approved by the GIC and are controlled by the RBI. On seeing all these references, even the educated can not escape the trap laid. Similarly there was the Peerless company and other such companies are looting the money of the common man.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, about the LIC, I would like to submit that there is a need for an amendment. Let us presume that a member is unable to deposit the premium for three years. In such a case, so long as the interest of the agent is involved, he remains in touch with the policy holder and when his commission amount is reduced or is stopped, he stops visiting the policy holder. If a policy holder does not deposit money for three years, his policy is lapsed. There is a need to take this aspect into consideration and make amendment in the rules and regulations of the LIC regarding payment of interest. The people have more faith in LIC than the banks or post offices. It is commendable that the Government has set up an authority. Every person wants that his life is insured but then everyone is interested in earning more and more money in lesser time. What is required is that short-term policies should be introduced whereby the period of deposit is lessened and interest rate is made more attractive so that the middle class policy

[Shri Shatrughan Prasad Singh]

holders may avail of the scheme. These policies could be of small amount having small premiums so that the villagers may be benefited by it just like the R.D. Scheme run by banks and post offices. Such schemes should be introduced and the period of maturity should be lesser so that poor people are benefited. The Government has made other provisions also and the Committee has made certain recommendations about which I would like to say that the irregularities are committed or losses are incurred in the case of Crop Insurance or Motor insurance just because the system is flawed somewhere. There is a need to keep a watch on it. With these words, I appreciate this bill. This is a very good legislation but the suggestions we have given should also be incorporated.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, I have not heard his opening remarks but I am told that a reference has been made to the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance. If I am not wrong, it has been stated that their recommendations have been accepted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : All their recommendations except one have been accepted, which we can discuss.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I have seen the amendments. There are some recommendations about which amendments have not been introduced.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If you speak about it, I will respond. Which recommendation do you think I have not accepted ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to clause 8.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : What is wrong about that?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The recommendation of the Standing Committee was : "The word, 'private' may be deleted from sub-clause (b) of clause 8.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The whole of clause 8 has been substituted by a new clause 8 now, with the word 'private' having been eliminated.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : So, has it been amended ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Have you not seen the amendment ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I have seen the amendment now. That recommendation has been accepted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : They wanted the word 'private' to be deleted. I have deleted it now.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHAR' LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the statement of objects and Reasons of the Bill it has been mentioned :

[English]

"The insurance industry requires a high degree of regulation."

[Translation]

It is full of risks. To overcome this, it has been mentioned :

[English]

"However, after the nationalisation of the life insurance industry in 1956 and the general insurance industry in 1974, the role of the Controller of Insurance diminished in significance over a period of time."

[Translation]

After a long time, since the nationalisation of the Insurance sector, several problems cropped up. To overcome these problems, the hon. Minister formed several committees. That is what he mentioned here. Later, in April, 1993 the Government constituted a high power committee. Shri R.N. Malhotra was appointed its Chairman. He was the ex Governor of Reserve Bank of India.

"The Committee which submitted its report on 7th January, 1994 felt that the insurance regulatory apparatus should be activated even in the present set up of nationalised insurance sector and recommended, *inter alia*, the establishment of a strong and effective Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) in the form of a statutory autonomous board on the lines of Securities and Exchange Board of India."

[Translation]

The Committee gave its recommendations. After this yet another committee was formed. This Report was sent

to the Standing Committee on Finance. Shri Malhotra and several others officials were summoned by the Committee.

[English]

"In the Budget Speech, in July 1996, it was announced that the existing non-statutory Insurance Regulatory Authority would be made statutory and suitably empowered. Accordingly, it is now proposed to give a statutory character to the interim Insurance Regulatory Authority by enacting legislating in this regard".

[Translation]

Thereafter you nominated the Chairperson and said that it would consist of seven members.

[English]

"It will consist of a Chairperson and other members not exceeding seven in number, of whom not more than three shall serve full time, to be appointed by the Central Government from amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing who have knowledge or experience of life insurance, general insurance. . ."

[Translation]

In this regard you made the provision that the Chair Person would hold office for Five years or till 65 years of age, whichever is earlier while other members would hold office till the age of 62 years. In 1996 you introduced the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill in this House, in which the above mentioned provisions were incorporated. The bill was referred to the Finance Committee on 20 September 1996. The members of the Malhotra Committee were also called. My point of view is that this was formulated to safeguard the interests of the policy holders, to give a fillip to the Insurance Sector through deregularisation incentives and to ensure regulated growth. It has two companies. After the nationalisation of Life Insurance corporation in 1956 and of General Insurance Corporation in 1972, the role of the Insurance Controller gradually diminished. In the Committee's Report, the first thing mentioned is that expansion of Insurance sector is very essential. It did not expand. I think the general public does not know the merits and demerits of Insurance, about premium and the various nuances related to it, etc. The committee has mentioned that Insurance sector should expand, as it did not register much growth in India. And such other factors, which if followed by your Authority, the Insurance Sector would

expand more. Therefore, you should consider such are as, which have not been included and in which the companies can dominate and provide benefits to the people.

Secondly, entry of foreign companies have been excluded from this, apprehending they might dominate the local companies. Let them enter through joint ventures. Only yesterday, I suppose, you had the Bill passed here. I think that if foreign Banks are being allowed, the entry of Insurance companies would give rise to competition. It would create no problems. Therefore, think over it.

As for the capital sharing, it should be limited to 40 percent. By opening up the insurance sector, the state monopoly should also be put to an end. I have several other suggestions to make. The foreign companies should be told to start their operations in the rural areas. It is essential that private companies are also instructed to do likewise. This would instil a sense of security among the rural people. Regarding the Authority's work, its time period, location of its Headquarter and all its objectives would be determined by the Government from time to time. It has also been mentioned that the Authority would be incorporated as a corporation. I think the location of its Headquarter by now must have been decided. It would be better if you make a mention about it.

Similarly, in section IV it has been mentioned that Beside a chairman, it would comprise not more than three full time members and not more than four part time members, who would be nominated by the Central Government. This power also, you have vested in the Central Government. The Chairman's tenure has been fixed at five years or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier. For others it has been fixed at 62 years of age. After 62 years they will retire will not be allowed to join private company.

The Bill also mentions the amount and types of allowances to be given to them by the Central Government and their method of working. Your intention is good. But, I feel that if all the suggestions of the financial committee, given in its report, are accepted, then the Insurance Sector will flourish. I did not stand to oppose the Bill. My request to you is to implement the rest of the suggestions of the financial committee. Shortcomings in this Bill can be removed by incorporating the suggestions of other Members. This would also create an awareness among the people regarding the Insurance sector. It would be a good idea if you invite the foreign companies to operate in rural areas.

I thank you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Shri Rawat, you know your party's stand, I hope.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : That I am going to tell you, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Hon. Minister is always reminding the hon. Member-speakers about their party's stand.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chatterjeeji, what are you saying ?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am telling that the hon. Minister is always reminding the hon. Member-speakers about their party's stand.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I did not say anything.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I would try to clarify the party's stand. But you are also a supporter of the United Front. There has to be unanimity between you two.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : A little bit of differences of opinion is always there.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Hon'ble Chairman, the hon'ble Finance Minister has introduced the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1996. Its object is to "protect the interests of holders of insurance policies and to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto." So far the objectives mentioned earlier are concerned, no question arises against them. Fortunately or unfortunately except for a few, most of the public undertakings are running in loss continuously since independence for which only those people may be held responsible who took the reign of the country in their hands after independence. After nationalisation, be it a matter of Vidyut Mandal or transportation or bank or coal or any other set-up, all of them are running in loss. There are very few exception in this regard which includes Insurance Corporations also. Owing to the fact that old system of

management is still there, no scams have taken place either in LIC or GIC for which we are so thankful to the God. The private companies belonging to the period before 1938 started this insurance business in the country and after nationalisation in 1956 they continued to work with the same conventional but effective system of management which bore fruits.

15.31 hrs.

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH in the Chair]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy to state that the proposed Insurance Regulatory Authority of India is good enough and quite pertinent except for one thing. On the lines of Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of India and pursuing the policy of globalisation we are setting-up Insurance Regulatory Authority Also. It has opened the door for private companies with the result that the country has to suffer scams one after other. One of our Hon'ble Members, I do not want to mention his name, has played significant role in this respect. When big companies came into the Indian Telecom market, they were subjected to many conditions and resultantly they expressed their desire to work only in those big cities or states where already the Department of Telecommunication has laid their net widely. These companies did not express any desire at all to work in such cities or states where prospects did not look bright for them. Later, entire rural works were handed over to the Department of Telecommunication and foreign and private companies were asked to undertake only 10 percent Telecom services in rural areas. Such a proposal was agreed to by these companies and they got the opportunity to earn profit. However, the areas where much extension and much expenditure was required for telecom services, the share of such companies was limited to only 10 per cent. It is good that the Government are setting-up Insurance Regulatory Authority of India. It is also good that the Hon. Minister wants to give equal opportunity. But since the Government has said in its common minimum programme that Insurance companies will remain in the Public Sector. I would like the Hon. Minister to let me know clearly as to whether he proposes to allow the private sector to enter the insurance sector also ? Foreign companies are also showing their eagerness to enter the insurance sector. So I want to know whether the Government is likely to allow these private companies to enter the insurance sector despite the fact that our insurance companies like LIC, GIC and others are doing



well and are running their business in profit. If you allow the private sector to enter the insurance sector, no doubt, there will be cut throat competition among them with the result that they will provide us better services. But apprehension arises when, despite the assurance from the Government that the nationalised banks will remain nationalised, the treasury benches talk of setting-up of regional banks. This move on the part of the Government had led the bank staff to go on strike. Therefore, as of now, it is not clear as to what is common in your programme for some of your people in the Front favour privatisation and are ready to welcome the foreign companies whereas some others are not.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : What are you people doing ?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : We shall explain our view point. . . (Interruptions) Some people are staunch supporters of nationalisation and some others are totally against privatisation. Some people are in the state of helplessness and they are saying yes and no to both the moves. They have well on one side and a trench on the others where to do, they do not know. In between they are trying to maintain a balance between two sides. Coming to main point I would say again that insurance sector is quite prosperous in our country. I wish that this sector could make a lot of progress and grow by leaps and bounds. The areas which have so far remained uncovered, should be brought under the insurance sector. The insurance benefit should reach our rural people also. Some of the states have introduced the crop insurance scheme but some others have not. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to why nothing is done to implement several insurance schemes for our farmers ? Why the benefit which is given by the Government to the LIC, GIC, National Insurance and New Assurance is not given to the DRDA wherein LIC agents and the representatives of the people sit and hold discussions on rural areas. A farmer can take risk if his tractor and other agricultural implements are insured. Your scheme in this regard is for name sake only. This is also noteworthy to watch as to how much amount a farmer gets against the insured amount for his livestock in the event of their death. If you get the matter looked into, you will come to know about the truth. Insurance benefit is available for the salaried class people but the same is not available for Jhuggi-Jhonpari dwellers and for the people living in far flung areas of our villages where even electricity has not reached so far. There are areas

where no means of transport exist but even then our farmer toils hard to reap rich harvest but very often he has to face the vagaries of weather and natural calamities such as flood, drought, uncertainty of monsoon, excessive rains, hail-storm and at times his entire crops and livestock are destroyed. Many times due to polluted water, which is mainly because of effluents, animals in villages perish. Therefore, Insurance should be provided in these areas to farmers.

Further, we must pay our attention towards our Jawans (Soldiers) also. Though our Jawans are covered under the Insurance policy but the amount thereof is not adequate. Today many parts of the country are in the grip of terrorism and no body knows when and how which incident of terrorism would take place. In such a situation our Jawans, while on duty, may fall victim to terrorist activities anytime and anywhere, therefore, the amount of their insurance cover must be increased alongwith the rate of interest. The amount of premium thereon should also be reduced. This would enable the Jawans to perform their duties with full devotion and without any worry, be they in Leh or Laddakh or NEFA or Siachin or alongside the coast. They must feel that their lives are adequately insured. The hon. Defence Minister must be aware that recently our brave Jawans under the leadership of para-military officers had gone on mountaineering expedition to scale the Kamet peak in Himalayas which they did inspite of many odd natural calamities they had to suffer. They were given awards and certificates for their achievement but many of these Jawans have lost their legs. Now had they been adequately insured before the start of the expedition, they would have got the benefit. Apart from this, lives of our Jawans are exposed to many such dangers due to which they meet all kinds of accident. They have to face snow blizzards and remain on glaciers while on duty. As a result they suffer from many diseases including frost bite due to which their body parts are amputated. This requires our immediate attention and adequate provision should be made for them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have yourself served in Army and are well aware of the hard life of Army. Insurance facility should reach everywhere where our soldiers are working-even our policemen who maintain law and order and are working in distant areas should be covered under insurance. These soldiers should also be given the benefit of insurance. Like people working in factories and big industrial establishments are given insurance cover. . . (Interruptions)

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

My point is that the areas which have so far not been covered by the insurance benefit, should be given this facility immediately. Various insurance companies like LIC and GIC should extend their services to these areas by sending in there agents. The insurance sector should cover all areas including rural, military, para-military, organized and unorganized agricultural workers.

Our communist brothers are seized of the matter and are anxious about unorganised workers and farmers. They want that a Bill making provision for Insurance cover to the unorganized agricultural workers should be brought in the Parliament immediately. In the beginning, it was felt that insurance sector requires powerful and effective laws. In view of this the Institution of the Controller of Insurance was set up in 1938. This was the first initiative in this direction. It was considered [English] as a strong, powerful, supervisory and regulatory authority. [Translations] This was the ancestor of our insurance sector. It was assigned two jobs, namely supervision and regulation. [English] In the beginning, that was a supervisory and regulatory authority [Translation] It was given numerous powers [English] to direct, advise, caution, prohibit, investigate, inspect, prosecute, search, seize, fine, amalgamate, authorise, register and liquidate insurance companies.

[Translation]

All this task was assigned to the Controller of Insurance. I think the new authority which you have set up must have been vested with all these powers. But in post-independence period [English] Man is a major factor [Translation] This is evident in every field. [English] The value of life has changed [Translation] and consequently we find dark side in every field of life. I want this newly set-up authority to be vigilant enough to watch that hard earned money of people amounting to billions of rupees which is vested in different insurance companies is not misused. [English] A burnt child dreads the fire.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the last five or six years many bank scams including sugar scam, Gur Scam, Urea Scam and Bank's Share Scam have come to light.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The subject is not scam, please speak on insurance.

[English]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : It is also concerned with money. [Translation] So I was saying that since the value of life has changed, it may give birth to corruption in insurance sector also. For example, till recent past there was a company by the name of CRB which lured the people by different means and swallowed their crores of rupees. Likewise there are other many Chit-fund companies which operate in a city for a couple of months, collect crores of rupees and then all of a sudden they disappear overnight. Therefore, we have to be extra vigilant on this score.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. You have already taken 25 minutes BJP has been given a total of 50 minutes but you alone have taken half of the time.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill has been allotted three hours.

In 1995, the then Government paid their attention seriously towards this sector and concluded that a supervisory and regulatory authority be set up by including the most capable people therein order to strengthen this sector so that it could develop and progress. Our former Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh had given some hints in this regard while presenting the Budget for the year 1996. It is a matter of joy that the job left incomplete by him is being completed by Shri Chidambaram. The matter was under his consideration for full one year. He has reached the conclusion after a prolonged consideration and many round of discussion. Anyway it is better to late than never. So, in January, 1996 it was decided that supervisory and regulatory body be set-up so that control of the Government minimised. I have gone through the provisions thereof wherein it has been said at one place that. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you may please wind-up. You have taken much time almost half-an-hour. So, please wind up within one minute.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill was referred to the Standing Committee and I think that the hon'ble Finance Minister must have accepted the recommendations made by the Committee. The Minister should give us an assurance here that it will continue to work as Public Undertaking whereby rest of the companies will not be allowed any participation therein and they will run business independently.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this will sharpen the competition

among them which will result in qualitative improvement. At one place, it has been said in the Bill that . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you may please sit down.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I am concluding after completing my last line. So far the matter of equal opportunity is concerned, private companies are welcomed in the insurance sector in order to increase the competition but as far as LIC and GIC are concerned, I would say that both have got a very good track record, hence, we will not favour any private company to hold any share in these companies. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1996.

Why do I oppose this move of the United Front Government to give statutory status to the Regulatory Authority set up by the previous Government in January, 1996 as per the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee ? It is because the report of the Malhotra Committee which was submitted in 1994 was never discussed in the House. We made several demands that the report of the Committee, which has wider ramifications, should be discussed on the floor of the House.

But it was never discussed. What were the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee ? The recommendations are :

1. LIC should be restructured and turned into a public limited company instead of a statutory corporation. Its Government holding should be reduced to 50 per cent.
2. Equity should be increased to Rs. 200 crore instead of the present Rs. 5 crore. It could mean that the Government should increase its holding by Rs. 95 crore to bring it to 50 per cent and the remaining Rs. 100 crore constituting the other 50 per cent should be collected through public subscription.
3. GIC should cease to be the holding statutory corporation of subsidiary companies. GIC's paid up capital should be increased to Rs. 200 crore with Government holding limited to only 50 per cent.
4. GIC should confine itself to transacting the reinsurance business.
5. Subsidiaries should be public limited companies each with a minimum paid-up capital of Rs. 100 crore. Again Government's holding confined to 50 per cent.
6. Private sector insurance companies should be permitted to enter the market with a minimum paid-up capital of Rs. 100 crore. The promoters share holding being a minimum of 26 per cent and a maximum of 40 per cent. This is very important.

15.57 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the chair]

7. Foreign companies may also be permitted to enter the field but they should float Indian companies to operate joint ventures with Indian partners should be preferred.
8. All insurance companies should be treated on equal footing. Special dispensation of LIC, GIC and its four subsidiaries should cease.

Sir, what is the urgency of having this Regulatory Authority ? Prior to nationalisation, there was some controlling system. Insurance Controller was there prior to 1956 when Life Insurance Corporation was nationalised. But the LIC was nationalised in 1956. Why ? That is because this insurance controlling system which was there that failed to control what was happening in the various private companies which was prevalent prior to nationalisation of insurance companies. Since the nationalisation of LIC in 1956, the nationalisation of GIC in 1972 and the nationalisation of four subsidiaries of GIC, at is the performance of both LIC and GIC ? We can compare with any insurance company of the developed countries. For example, in France, the percentage of growth in the premium income is 781, and in India, it is 580. In the U.K., it is 495.

16.00 hrs.

In Japan it is 331; in the United States it is 225; In Canada it is 286; in Germany it is 203; and in Switzerland it is 80.

If we compare with any developed country, our insurance companies, both LIC and GIC are more efficient

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

than others. Then why do we need competition ? Why should we open the insurance sector not only to the private sector but to the multinational companies also ? I would like to know whether we are submitted to the dictates of the United States. In the past we used to receive threats of Super 301 because the United States and other developed countries have been pressurising that our insurance sector should be opened to the multinationals.

As a result of that, the Malhotra Committee was set up and it submitted its report. The main purpose was how the insurance sector can be opened to the multinational companies. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is 4 o'clock now !

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Acharia, you can continue next time. We will take up the next item now.

16.01 hrs.

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Fourteenth Report

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Sir, I beg to present the Fourteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

16.03 hrs.

## ADJOURNMENT MOTION

### Serious situation arising out of recent development in Bihar—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : I Beg to move that. . . "the House be adjourned."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since Shri Indra Kumar Gujral has assumed the charge of Prime Minister, every day he has been delivering a speech on corruption. Corruption finds a mention in his every speech. I would like to quote a few lines from his speech which he delivered on 22nd April while participating in the debate which is as follows :-

"My one promise is that until and unless I am head of the Government, my Government will adhere to transparency. This Government will make its all out efforts to be an accountable Government."

In spite of this all, he has always been required to speak on the issue of corruption. But the tone in which he used to speak earlier in respect of accountability seems to have changed now. Now the accountability is being placed on people. It is being said that corruption has seeped into veins of the people which required an organised drastic measures by the people to root it out. This can be the language of a 'Jan Nayak', not of a person who is holding the highest office in the Government. He admitted that some drastic measures are required to be taken to eradicate corruption.

[English]

"Admitting that corruption has seeped into the veins of the nation, the Prime Minister, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral on Sunday said that something drastic needed to be done against those occupying ministerial positions and facing corruptions charges."

[Translation]

It means that we have to take some drastic action in the cases of corruption. It is evident that such drastic action will be taken at the administrative level. There is no harm at all in mobilising public support against corruption but it is not fair to hold only people responsible for snowballing corruption and turn a blind eye to our duties. If we continue with this approach, we will fail to mobilise the public support against corruption.

The Prime Minister alongwith other dignitaries of the country was present in a get together which was held to plan out a function for celebration of the 50th anniversary of our independence. This celebration will begin from the 9th August from Mumbai and culminate on the mid night of the 14th August when we will be trying to recollect our 50 years old memories. But the get together function was marred by the issue of corruption which was raised there most frequently and even the Prime Minister had to make a mention in this regard in the beginning of his speech. He said that some measures are required to be taken to fight out corruption. But what actions the Government propose to take is known neither to the House nor to the people of this country.

In one of his recent speeches, the Prime Minister accepted that corruptions is hindering the process of growth. If hard earned money of the people is swallowed by scamester by induling in scam after scam in some states then wherefrom will come funds and resources for development ? More importantly if things go like this then how will you create the much needed zeal in minds of the people to inspire them for lending their support in nation building task. If our leaders indulge in loot and we are asking our farmers, workers and employees to discharge their duties honestly, it is going to bear us no fruit.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, how unfortunate is it that the practices which we were following so far in the cases of corruption, is now being challenged. The tradition was that whenever a statesman in power was charged with corruption and prima facie he was found involved therein he used to step down till investigations were completed and the matter decided by the Court.

People used to step down voluntarily. This practice was followed since the time of Shri T.T. Krishnamachari till recent part when Hawala scams took place. In Hawala case also, people against whom charges were made resigned voluntarily from their respective offices. Such persons included Shri Yashwant Sinha, the leader of Opposition in Bihar Legislative Assembly. There was no need for him to resign as he was the leader of opposition. If he wanted, he could have continued in his office but our norms are different. We told him not to stick to his Chair but to resign and he resigned. Advani ji delcared that unless he was acquitted of the charges, he would not contest any election. Only yesterday some of our more friends charged in Hawala case have been acquitted by the Court. But this is the first time well established tradition is being challenged.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Chief Minister of Bihar was saying as to why should he step down ? He was also saying that he would prefer to hang himself rather quitting his office. There was time when people fighting for freedom of their country were hanged. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Your submissions are baseless. . . (Interruptions)

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Atalji your submissions are not based on facts. You are speaking baseless. It is not fair to level wild charges against anyone without adequate evidence. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I do not think if it requires any evidence. You are free to say that Laloo did not say anything like this. You are free. . . (Interruptions)

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : I am saying nothing. It is you who is saying all these things. My symission is only that you should not speak anything which bears no relevancy to your Motion for it would not be proper to level ill found wild charges against anyone. Till now nobody has taken even any cognizance of these allegations but you are making such allegations against him. Moreover, recent development is that he has been elected by the Majority of the MLAs as the leader of the House but you are not taking this fact into account rather you are making direct allegations against him which is absolutely baseless.

We were having a lot of respect in our hearts for you, Atalji but we never thought that you would be making baseless allegations against him. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : If you have any evidence against him to substantiate you charges, please place the same before us then we will readily accept your charges. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Now I am going to place the evidence. Today Laloo Prasad Yadav accompanied by others approached Patna High Court for obtaining anticipatory bail. The matter has been decided by the court. I want to quote here a part of the judgement given by the judge. What more proof is required.

[English]

"If the evidence is to be believed."

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Your submission is not to be taken as proof because this matter is subjudice. It has been certified not by the Sureme Court but by some lower court. We will not consider it as an evidence unless and until it is decided by the apex court. For, if you consider it as an evidence, then the same criteria will apply on all the persons who have been charge-sheeted. How can it be taken as a proof unless and until confirmed by the Supreme Court ? Therefore, how can we discuss this

[Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta]

matter which is subjudice ? You have deviated from your principal Motion to go on speaking on a different subject.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Mehta, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the Leader of the Opposition is speaking with full responsibility. He has to authenticate that quotation and, I think, he is doing it with full responsibility. I cannot doubt that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please have patience. You will have a chance to reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to kindly read out the Motion moved by him. . . . (Interruptions) Kindly read out the Motion moved by hon'ble Atal Bihari ji. . . . (Interruptions) Whether there is any mention about any scams or any Chief Minister therein. . . . (Interruptions) The rules provide that we can-not hold any discussion on a Chief Minister or Governor or Minister . . . (Interruptions) No discussions can be held on it. . . . (Interruptions) Please read out the Motion. . . . (Interruptions) The Motion is before the House and we have no objection in holding a discussion thereon but how is he speaking on an issue which is beyond the subject. . . . (Interruptions) So far as the recent developments in Bihar are concerned, the whole of Bihar to faced with flood situation. . . . (Interruptions) Why do not you hold a discussion thereon ? More than 70 people have died in floods. Crops worth crores of rupees are getting destroyed all over Bihar. That is a serious development. . . . (Interruptions) But that is not being discussed here. . . . (Interruptions) Bitten by political bug, all of you are after one man. . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : You will get the full opportunity to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may give your reply later.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you full opportunity to give you reply.

(Interruptions)

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if things go as per the rules laid down, then it is understandable, otherwise. . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI RAM KIRPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many people have been Chargesheeted. . . . (Interruptions).

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : The Parliament is not meant for holding discussions by keeping aside the rules . . . . (Interruptions).

The House is not meant for discussing anything and everything under the sun. . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record now. Vajpayee ji. You Please continue.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will be responsible for whatever I am quoting from the verdict of the court. This is a part of that judgement. There should be no doubt in mind about this judgement. The Union Government will have to handle the situation arising out of that judgement. The Governor of the State will consider over the matter. . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. I have not permitted you. You will have enough opportunity to reply. I am going to given you a chance to reply.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Please do no disturb the proceedings, Professor. I will give you a chance to reply.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to argue I think.

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\*Not Recorded.

You will have a chance to reply to all the points. Listen carefully, have a pen or a pencil and a paper, note down all the points and then later on you can reply to those points.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have permitted the Adjournment Motion. We are discussing the Adjournment Motion. Please listen. Have patience. Note down the points. You can reply at a later stage.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I have followed your instructions.

MR. SPEAKER : O.K. you have always followed my instructions but right now, please sit down. Thank you very much.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Hon'ble Atalji is requested not to go beyond the subject. . .*(Interruptions)* I do not know for how many years you have performed the job of teaching the people. What sermons we can preach you. You are a very senior Member who commands our full respect. Therefore, Please listen to my request . . .*(Interruptions)* It is going beyond the subject. . .*(Interruptions)*.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Please do not say anything with political motivations. . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This is not something beyond the subject. It is very much pertaining to the subject . . .*(Interruptions)*.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : The subject is recent development in Bihar. . .*(Interruptions)* We were expecting that he would not indulge in discussions motivated just by political interests. . .*(Interruptions)*.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Whenever a Member is not right, I am here to warn the Member that : he is going out of the rules. You do not have to worry about them. The best thing is that it is better to listen to the debate. You give a good reply. I am sure you will be able to give a very befitting reply.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this judgement has been delivered today itself by justice Dhaliwal while dismissing the anticipatory bail petition. I was quoting a part of that which was interrupted in between. I want to put the record straight.

*[English]*

"If the evidence is to be delivered, *prima facie*, then it is a clear case of systematic loot of public money over the years depriving the poor people of their share." . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you provoking ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, I quote :

"Therefore, it is a crime against the state. Therefore, the petitioners do not deserve the privilege of anticipatory bail.

*[Translation]*

This is merely a part of a long story of corruption in Bihar. My friend was saying that I should speak on the situation prevailing in Bihar. Very soon I am going to dwell on that point. But they must understand whether corruption in Bihar is not a part of the situation prevailing in Bihar ? Whether it is not harming equally to the state ? This is not merely a question of scam but scams after scams. Neck deep corruption with the result that Government treasury is empty. No funds available for development ! No progress made ! Nothing in the name of Government. Panchayats elections have not been held. . .*(Interruptions)*. •

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : This is all right that elections to Panchayats have not been conducted but who is to be held responsible for it. . .*(Interruptions)* That matter is subjudice, pending in the Supreme Court. You should understand it. . .*(Interruptions)* An appeal has been filed in the Apex court and on the basis of that, elections are being held in Bihar-at least understand this much. . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is making its all out efforts to save its leader and his Ministers. Split in the Janata Dal is their internal matter in which I do not intend to interfere but at the same time it is very necessary to strengthen the party system in a parliamentary democracy. And what is this attitude that

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

in case one's words are not listened to and heeded to in the party, he will break the party, paralyse the functioning of the Legislature, opposition Members will either be suspended or beaten up and made to free, and people with dubious character will be brought inside the premises of the Legislature. Whether, in such a situation, any corruption case can receive a fair trial ? Three MLAs from Bihar are in Behood prison and trying to change the witnesses in cases of corruptions and also trying to influence CBI. Though CBI is a central investigation agency but its director has been changed on their complaints. It is an unprecedented case that the culprit had registered a complaint against CBI for conspiring against him. Whether any proof was given against this allegation ?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : It is also unprecedented that CBI is alleged for leaking the information. It has also happened for the first time that information was leaked to you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Not only that but it also is being asked as to where it has been written in the Constitution that a person who has been chargesheeted should resign. But where it has been written in the Constitution that Chief Minister is free to loot or embezzle money. Every thing cannot be written in the Constitution. Several countries do not have even written Constitution. The country is governed by conventions, values and ideals. There is not only one case of corruption or one person found involved in corruption. It is also not a matter of any particular state but it has posed a serious threat to the democratic set up of the country. All the democratic institutions will be made crippled and ineffective if political power is centered in hands of a few criminals. Conspiracy of murder will be hatched against the person, who tries to oppose them. A situation is being created that no witness will be available in such cases. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI (Gaya) : Is he listening to the poor ? Today affluent persons are grieved over the progress made by the poor. We have seen what is in their hearts of heart.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the very first day, hon. Prime Minister had stated that nation would have to be saved. The country cannot be ruled by the Constitution but by the public's faith in the Constitution which has been hurt today. What the executive proposes

to do in such a situation. What is their plan ? This judgement of court is in my favour thus I am satisfied but is it proper to drag every matter to court. Can these matters not be solved within party or on front level ? Whether they all cannot persuade the Chief Minister of Bihar to resign for a few days and he would be acquitted if he was found innocent by the court. He can resign and wait for a few days till the matter is disposed of by the court.

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : Since long the affluent class has been grabbing the land and houses of poor for just one kilogram of foodgrain (sattu) but it cannot happen now. . . (Interruptions) We also have the freedom of speech. If you will say something we will also speak. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : But so far no advice worked. Still there is time. His old socialist friends who have been associated with him since the movement of Jai Prakash and Lohia can advise him. It is good that veering round to the proper course at long last. But I am worried that all the options are being closed.

Earlier also the charges of corruptions were levelled against Chief Ministers and if there was any prima facie case against any Chief Minister he was asked to resign. No one could deny to that or threaten to go to public or hang himself. A few days back Sharad Yadavji was saying that democracy can be maintained by avoiding public slander and following old traditions. How it can be done ? Executive should take decision if party fails to do so. But now a days tendency of depending on court is increasing. No one wants to be accountable and try to leave the matter to the court whether it is a case of allotment of governmental accommodations in Delhi or case of environmental protection.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Whether it is a matter regarding water-logging ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I am discussing the matter regarding Patna. The State Government of Bihar is not concerned at all about water-logging.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Please also tell as to what is happening in your Maharashtra. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not mentioned in my speech as to what is happening in your Bihar. But I am very happy as you are calling



Maharashtra as my Maharashtra. . .*(Interruptions)*. Shri Somnath Chatterjee reminded me about Patna.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : We are trying to clear the water-logging on war footing. . .*(Interruptions)*. Our intention is clear. We are doing our best. Though we are not responsible for this heavy rain which has broken records of last 25-30 years and caused this water-logging. We are trying our best and even then you are making complaint against it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on point of order. I seek your protection. We want to listen to hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee and also want to take part in this debate. But no one can make a speech amid interruptions. Will this continue further ? We should listen to him. It is not proper that Members continue to interrupt his speech.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : We have to interrupt when he is deviating from the subject.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I seek your protection. The House should be controlled and order should be maintained if standard of the debate is to be maintained. It is not proper that ten Members are interrupting his speech. We can make more noise and can interrupt their speeches too. . .*(Interruptions)* It will not be good if everytime his speech is interrupted. Please maintain the order in the House.

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Will they keep on speaking if we are silent and the standard of debate will not improve if. . .*(Interruptions)*.

*[English]*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Shri Nitish Kumar, they have rightly learnt it from you when you interrupted the Prime Minister yesterday. You remember what you did yesterday, please. Your own interruption is becoming wrong. . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee is saying is absolutely right. They have learnt it from you. . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You remember what you did to the Prime Minister yesterday. They have learnt from your yesterday's behaviour. . .*(Interruptions)* You interrupted and prevented the Prime Minister from speaking. It is from you that they have learnt it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have repeated the view point of the hon. Prime Minister. He himself has said it I had just spoken one sentence but what can I do if hon. Prime Minister also sat down.

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE : Interruptions on every step cannot be tolerated. Order should be maintained in the House.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Yesterday, they had also interrupted the speech of hon. Prime Minister. . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Alright. It is enough.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : How can we listen when he is deviating from the subject. . .*(Interruptions)*.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not complicate matters. Sit down please.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : How the debate will continue if they do not listen to you. The business of the House is still to be conducted for many days. . .*(Interruptions)*.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not interrupt. No interruptions now. It is enough. How can you do like that ? You cannot do like that.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not complicate matters now.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not complicate the matter now.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? When I am asking them to sit down, you are starting and when you sit down they will start. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : How this can be continued . . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are getting annoyed with him. . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Alright you can continue your cross talks. You can continue like this. . .

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You carry on !

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Good, very good ! You are doing very well ! Congratulations ! Wonderful job !

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Flood waters have entered Patna. The present Government is unable to drain out the water. The court has issued orders to take the help of Army. What is my fault in it . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I know, that now there is not flood water in Patna. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I know that you have knowledge about it. So, I was telling you to note the points and whenever you speak, give the answer. What you know about it, speak in the House.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, I was telling the august House that if the Executive will not discharge its duty. The citizens will have no other way out than to knock the doors of the judiciary. The Executive should discharge its duty within its jurisdiction and the judiciary should confine itself to its own jurisdiction. But, if the issues hang fire, then what to do ? The fodder scam has been running for last one and half years. The process is complex. Delays are caused. How long cases of corruption will continue? If justice is to be done to the culprits, hearing should take place and judgement given quickly. If there is a need to make changes in the process, the Prime Minister should introduce a resolution, the House will support him. Two years ago people were implicated in a scam. I have just made a mention thereof. The verdict. in respect of Yashwant Sinha has come today. Shri Motilal Vora, Shri Shiv Shankar and Shri Ajit Panja were acquitted yesterday. The case is pending for two years and they could not contest the elections. Instead of contesting the elections his wife contested. Later on the seat was lost. It is a different story. I do not want to discuss it. But the cases are prolonged. The United front cannot take any decision.

It should be decided at the party level that Article 356 is to be applied or not ? I have seen their common minimum programme. Nowadays it is referred on rare occasion. It is not written in the common minimum programme that [English] Article 356 should be abolished. [Translation] It is not written. Please think over the issues honestly which have been written in the common minimum programme. I would like to quote.

[English]

"On the second track, the United Front will immediately appoint a high level Committee to review and update the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission."

[Translation]

It is right.

[English]

It further says :

"The Committee will be requested also to go into the vital question of the devolution of financial powers from the Central Government to the State Governments."

[Translation]

It is also good, what has been said about Article 356 is as under :

[English]

"The scope of Article 356 of the Constitution has been interpreted and circumscribed by recent decision of the Supreme Court. Article 356 will be amended to reflect these decisions and to prevent the misuse of that Article."

16.41 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the chair]

[Translation]

There is a mention to check its misuse. If it is applied in Bihar or so then will it be called a misuse, When there is no alternative. . . (Interruptions).

Do not compare Bihar with Maharashtra. . . (Interruptions) The Members Mumbai incident is a very mild one as compared to the manners that took place in Bihar. . . (Interruptions) Private armies have been formed in Bihar and massacre is taking place. . . (Interruptions).

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : What is happening in Uttar Pradesh ? . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Note that what you want to say and speak when your turn comes. If there is obstruction the debate cannot take place.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If there is obstruction then I will not continue my speech.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 40 Minutes have passed. Many members want that Atal ji should conclude his speech, but interruptions are being made for the last 40 minutes. I would like to request hon'ble Members not to make any such point which can't be replied to. If this continues, the discussion will remain fruitless. Shri Atal Ji's speech is being interrupted again and again. I would request the Members to listen to him patiently and allow him to speak. Thereafter whoever wishes, to speak may do so. . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Atal has managed to speak only for 5-10 minutes out of 40 minutes. This is not good.

Hence I would like to make an appeal to the Hon'ble Members that if they wish to make a point, they may do so when their turn comes. I will not tolerate such interruptions.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am discussing Article 356. I am not levelling any allegations. However I am making a demand that when there is no other alternative except this option, the situation warrant the use of Article 356. . . . (Interruptions) The United Front has also not said anything about the abolition of Article 356. It is true that an Inter State Council has been constituted. The matter is under its consideration. It is essential to prevent its misuse. We can see the position in Bihar. Democratic institutions are not being allowed to function. There is no other alternative except moving the court. There was a way out which has not been adopted and such a suggestion was made by Shri C. Subramanyam in the session convened with regard to 50th anniversary of Independence. He said that the Governor of Bihar had gone through the chargesheet proposed to be filed against the Chief Minister. Charges have been levelled on the Chief Minister and a demand was raised to file a suit against him. Legal proceedings can not be initiated against a Chief

Minister so long as the Governor does not permit it. Governor enquired about the nature of charges and the chargesheet. The Governor kept the matter under consideration for 37 days.

He made an indepth study of the issue, sought the opinion of legal experts and the Advocate General and then he decided that this was a prima facie case and that a chargesheet can be filed in this case. Doesnot the Governor has any other duties thereafter ? Did thought not cross his mind that if a chargesheet is filed, it would be an impossible task to collect evidence against any such person who continues to hold the office of Chief Minister in any part of the country and especially in a state like Bihar. Around six people have been killed in suspicious circumstances. So, who would dare to give evidence against those charged ? Who would uncover the truth ? In view of the possibility of adverse impact on the witnesses, bail is denied in certain cases. Now bail has been denied which is a good thing. But did not Governor Governor think over this aspect ? Did he not consult the Union Govt ? Was Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs not in constant touch with him with regard to the situation that will be created and will have to be faced ? The Governor has taken an oath under the Constitution to protect it. The Chief Minister and Minister, Shri C. Subramanyam laid stress on the point that the Chief Minister and the Ministers can hold office at the pleasure of the Governor and the Governor can withdraw the same at will. The Governor may seek their resignation. If his order are not complied with, he may take further step. However, so far this path has not been adopted. If it had been adopted, The capacity of the Executive to take a decision and take action would have been strengthened. It has been left to the court. Anyway, the case is sub-judice and I do not wish to go into details. If the party does not maintain internal discipline and the opinion of the people does not have any effect and the Governor also does not fulfil his duty, I do not see any other alternative except imposition of Article 356. But there are differences in the United Front. It has not been possible to take a decision due to differences. It is not a question of power. The democracy is being threatened. Democracy has not faced any such challenge in 50 years. Each and every authority is being challenged. Recently the Minister of Railways had gone there on a tour. I read this in the papers. I do not know as to how far this is true. The Railway Protection Force was required to provide security for the Minister of Railways. The responsi-

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

bility of providing security for the Minister of Railways could not be left to the State Government. An attempt was made to disrupt the meeting. So who will allow us to hold a public meeting ? A bomb exploded there. The Prime Minister say that the awareness should be generated in the people. Public is scared. . . (Interruptions) People are at the mercy of the mafias. . . (Interruptions) How can awareness be generated ? . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Bomb was not hurled there. Do you know it ? The Parliamentary Committee may enquire into it. . . (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : His brother has been killed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not given you permission.

[Translation]

Whether his brother or son might have been killed.

[English]

Do not disturb. Let him continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : When the discussion was initiated, my friend Shri Somnath Chatterjee had enquired about Article 356. If there is no way out, Art. 356 may be used but in less evil form. If the tenets of democracy are threatened, should we say that the provisions of Article 356 of the Constitution will not be used ? In such a case, it will not be misused but well used. There is nothing wrong with it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What will happen in the case of Central Government ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I am coming to that. If the kind of circumstances that have been created in the State are created at the centre and we show leniency and do not show our concern for the democratic values and tend to leave everything to court, then a day will come when the court will direct us about what is to be done and what is not to be done in such cases.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am surprised over the viewpoint of the congressmen about Bihar. I would like to know that. The viewpoint they express in Patna and here in the House

are entirely different. There is difference in what they profess and what they practice. I am unable to understand this politics. The Laloo Yadav Government had lost its majority in the Bihar Assembly not just for one day but several days when Janta Party was divided, the government lost its majority. It had been challenged. They entered into Jharkhand agreement overnight. I would not like to dwell at length on the price paid. If any government is threatened in a state and the Chief Minister of that state or ruling party resorts to entering into an agreement with anti national elements to keep its majority, what would be the reaction. . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : They were against the formation of Jharkhand. So how did they accept this demand ? The Congress said that they will remain neutral. 'Ramaya Swasti, Ravanaaya Swasti'. They decided to remain neutral and the reason they gave was that they will not vote along with the Bhartiya Janata Party in the Assembly as that party is communalist whereas Congress is secularist and it will not like to vote from the same side as with the Communalists. When the issue of removing the H.D. Deve Gowda Government had arisen, they had voted along with the BJP. Did you do it or not ? The Congress wont introduce the Motion in Bihar and even if the Motion is introduced by anybody else, they might use this excuse not to vote. This won't do. Infact, it was not our Motion too. The Chief Minister had sought the Confidence. If you wish to remove them, it is all right. This is not politics. This is a very narrow minded game.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to conclude my speech. The objective of introducing an Adjournment Motion was to draw immediate attention towards the deteriorating position in Bihar. Discussion can be held under the Rule 184 or Rule 193 but the country had high expectations from the Parliament and this sitting. If we had not raised the issue of situation in Bihar on the very first day and thereafter as per your directives, we would have failed to fulfil our duties. It is not a question of putting the Government in docks due to inactivity on its part. The Prime Minister may say that he is helpless. There were only five Pandavas but here we have 15 Pandavas. I do not think that this will help resolve the problem. The United Front was formed and it is your responsibility to run it. As Hon'ble

Prime Minister stated in his very first speech that the State is threatened and rather I would go one step ahead to say that the Republic is threatened and we have to take steps to protect the Republic. The parties are secondary. Even after 50 Years of Independence, if people do not have the zeal to celebrate the festival of Independence, the politicians and the representatives of all the parties should introspect.

There is a need to launch a movement against corruption. It is said time and again that no compromise will be reached at any cost. That they won't compromise at any cost is their constant refrain but empty words do not suffice. The statements need to be supplemented with action. Not only speeches but appropriate conduct is also a requirement. The Prime Minister has stated that strict measures will have to be taken. What steps are proposed to be taken ? Why is it being delayed ? This Parliament Session will last only a few days. We will celebrate the Anniversary of independence. But if we are not very concerned about the future, we will not be able to create that zeal and spirit in the people which is required for celebrating this solemn occasion. That is why I have moved the Adjournment Motion to jolt the entire House into action.

I am grateful to you for having given me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the House do now adjourn."

Shri Tariq Anwar.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, I want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Oh ! I am sorry. Yes, you can speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It would be better if the Prime Minister could reply after listening to the other Members . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Why is it that whenever I rise to speak, you also stand up to speak ? What is this ?

I have told you many a times . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. Shri Nitish Kumar, you are not to decide that. I have to decide.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Yesterday also you did the same thing.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Prime Minister should give his reply after listening to all the members. . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I have called the hon. Prime Minister to speak now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Prime Minister is not willing to listen to all the members. . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called the hon. Prime Minister to speak now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What does this mean. . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may please be seated. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nitish Kumar, the hon. Prime Minister can intervene at any time.

(Interruptions)

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\*Not Recorded.

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It will be better if hon. Prime Minister Speaks after listening to the viewpoint of all the Members. . . (Interruptions) Neither he want to listen to anyone nor he want to meet all the Members. We have tried to meet him time and again but he does not want to meet us. (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Prime Minister wated to speak now and that is why, it was postponed. . . (Interruptions) Shn Atal Bihari Vajpayee has agreed to postpone it till four o'clock to enable him to be present here. . . (Interruptions) After this, now he is raising that point . . . (Interruptions) It is not fair. . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nitish Kumar, in the morning, it was originally fixed for discussion at two o'clock. But it was at the instance of the Prime Minister that the hon. Speaker had fixed it at four o'clock so that immediately after the Mover of the Motion, he can speak. It was my fault that I called out the other hon. Member's name.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. Nothing of that sort.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Prime Minister please.

16.58 hrs.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, I am grateful to you. I am also grateful to the Leader of the Opposition that he has drawn the attention of the House to this very vital issue. I think, on one point, all of us – I emphasise the word 'all' – agree that corruption is something which requires our attention, our urgent attention and also very firm attention

The first day when I spoke in this House seeking a vote of confidence, I had promised three things. I am glad and grateful to the Leader of the Opposition that he has

repeated all the promises that I had made. I repeat them again and I confirm them again.

I am also grateful to the Leader of the Opposition that while reminding me of my promises, he has not made an allegation that I am backing out of it. The main point today is – it is very important for us to keep it in mind – to see what is the Motion before the House.

He has at length spoken about Bihar. He has every right to do so and I will come to it. I think, it is important for us to talk about it and it is important for us to pay our attention to this. But one thing is very important and that is that, although in the end, he said that he has moved this motion to draw our attention to it. If it was the intention, then it should have been done under some other rule in the Rules of Procedure, and not under the Adjournment Motion, as my friend, Shri Somnath Chatterjee had pointed out.

17.00 hrs.

But anyhow, I will not take your time on that. As you know Sir, I have told several times and I repeat again that I have great respect for Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for several reasons. One of the reasons is that he is very sober, he is very balanced, he is very prudent and he also is not known as an activist. Therefore, when he talks of passivity, I think, there is either something wrong with the translation of the word or there is something which English has confused him about. The main point basically is that from the day I assumed office and that was not long ago, from the first day I have been saying that any person in public life, be he a Minister or be he a Chief Minister or anybody who is charged for corruption should step down voluntarily. I have said it in public and I have demanded it in public. I have said it privately and I have also conveyed my message privately and I am saying again today that anybody who wants to act and work in public life should keep himself above all suspicion because unless we build that type of probity in our life, life can never go on. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that in this 50th year particularly all of us have to determinedly move about it. He has objected and I am surprised that he has objected as to why do I ask the public to cooperate. Is it not a fact or does he not know, because he also contests elections, that people come to him and tell him that for getting an electric connection, people have to pay money ? Do people not tell him, to get a map or a plan or anything approved, people have to pay money ? Does he not know

that every police station has complained against ? Does he not know that day-to-day life has become miserable, impossible and difficult because of corruption ? Does he not know it ? And if in that context, I had asked the public cooperation, did I do a wrong thing ? Can you possibly eliminate corruption only by attacking politicians ? Yes, it is important. All of us who occupy high office, it is important for us to remain above suspicion. Otherwise, we cannot possibly run democracy. I totally repeat what he has assigned to me that public life cannot be run without probity and morality. Morality is always very important and that was the essence of our freedom struggle. Gandhiji always talks of ends and means and those ends and means still matter to all of us. Therefore, I think, on this particular issue at least we should not have been divided. On this particular issue, I think, we should unitedly respond. He has just now drawn my attention to the judgement of the court and I have also received the message almost simultaneously as he did. And my response would have been there even when he would not have read it. I can only assure him that we will definitely respond to the situation. After all, Central Government has two agencies through which it runs. So far as States are concerned, CBI is often mentioned about. What is CBI ? The CBI is prosecuting Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav. Is it or is it not ? Is it not a fact that CBI is an Agency of the Government of India ? Is it not a fact that CBI's constructive responsibility for its actions, to this account, I am accountable to this House ? If that is a fact, then where does passivity come in ? At one time it was said that nobody should interfere in the functioning of CBI. It is correct. We have not. And that is why, we have let it go on and that is why we have been endowed as you have seen in the court itself. CBI has been the agency which has been resisting what is called . . . (Interruptions).

AN HON. MEMBER : Grant of bail.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I sometimes miss the legal word and I start using non-legal words. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : So many illegalities are there.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Not illegal, non-legal.

I wish that an experienced man like Shri Atal Bihar Vajpayee should not have talked about Governor. Governor should not be discussed here. His conduct should not be discussed here. Governor is the Head of the State and

in that capacity, it is for him to decide what he wants to do and what he wants to say. To give permission, to withhold permission, to dismiss a Government or not to dismiss a Government are his own area of action and activity. I can only say and I have said it in public that we have not at any stage tried to tell the Governor as to what he should or should not do. My words should be taken for it. That is why when he gives permission, also a legal point arises. That legal point, I am told, was the advice given by the legal authorities. That is, when the Governor gives permission. I am not defending it. I am only explaining the legal position. This is the advice given to the Government by the Solicitor-General. He says, "In giving sanction for prosecution, the Governor does not pass any judgement on the guilt of the accused. Whether sanction is or is not necessary is determined by the references to the allegation, any complaint and no defence is asked for." He is quoting one case, called Hari Ram Case in AIR, 1939, etc., etc. I could place the details on the Table of the House so that the House could look at it. The allegation, therefore, is that whatever is true or is not true is to be judged by the Court.

While giving the permission, the Governor only gives the sanction for prosecution to see that there is some foundation for the charges so that the prosecution can proceed which it cannot in the absence of the sanction for the prosecuting public servant. That guilt of the accused is only determined by the verdict of the criminal Court in whose jurisdiction it may lie.

My purpose is not to defend anybody. My purpose is not to say whether it is right or wrong. My purpose is only to apprise the hon. Members of the house what the legal authorities have told us only this morning. I summoned him. I talked to him what is the position *vis-a-vis* Governor.

My friend, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has also drawn my attention to what Shri C. Subramaniam said. I was also present. I also heard him. He had said, "Governor should have withdrawn his pleasure." He did not. That is something which I can neither defend nor see a complaint against. None of us can because it is for the Governor to decide whether he defaulted or did not default. My only one responsibility was, which I have discharged fully, against one of my Ministers. Permission was given to take action against him or prosecute him. I asked him to resign that very day and Shri Verma resigned. He is not in the Government. I discharged my responsibility fully that day.

[Shri I.K. Gujral]

Therefore, I upheld what I had been saying. Today, I can only say this thing and I will proceed from this. The point therefore is most important. Public life, I repeat, cannot be really advanced particularly in democracy unless we hold the morality as a person. The morality is extremely important for us. Therefore, we have to be very cautious on this that no finger is raised on us. I totally go with that and equally important for me is to say this. Again I repeat that the conduct of all of us is always under scrutiny. Each one of us sitting in this House or may be in the Legislatures lives in a glasshouse. They are all being observed all the time. That is why it is important for us to keep in mind the fact that people who have elected us or may elect us tomorrow again or may not, they are all the time watching us. And if somebody falls short of it, of course, ultimately people decide, but I am not passing on the buck. There is some responsibility that I have. But I am also more than that. It is the responsibility on my part that I uphold the rule of law.

I hope, nobody expects me to go beyond the rule of law. We have once experienced in this very House when the rule of law was flouted. And friends like Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and others were in jail for several months because they were not conforming with that big fiat. I do not want to rule by fiats. I do not want to become an authoritarian. I want to assert not my authority but I want to assert the regality or the majesty of the rule of law. And that is what we are all about.

If we do not observe the rule of law, then who else will? That is why I understand fully that where my area is and where the Court's area is confined to. This system has been built, I think, with great vision. The Constitution is a witness to that, an evidence of that. The judiciary has its own area. The Executive has its own area. And this Parliament has its own area defined. Therefore, we do not want to go beyond that.

But more important, I would repeat again and again, is credibility in public life. It is extremely important that we remain credible. I have and I can assure you again and repeat, both in private and in public I advised the Chief Minister of Bihar to step down. But he did not.

Now, after that, the question of article 356 arises. I think, again Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and myself both were present in the Inter-State Council meeting when the Chief

Ministers belonging to his Party, more than any others, were cautioning me again and again not to use article 356. They were saying again and again that article 356 should be used with caution. They were telling me again and again. . . (Interruptions) Please let me finish. The main point was when the Inter-State Council met under the Chairmanship of my colleague, the Home Minister, they identified two areas and there was an agreement that article 356 should be used when an external threat is there, or when there is a danger from terrorism and the State administration gets mixed up there. The third area on which there was a sharp difference was on the question of secularism. We, on this side believe that placing any State Government which does not believe in secularism under President's Rule should be justified. But I did not force it on that day also. Shri Vajpayee was sitting there and his colleagues were also sitting there and I said, 'all right, let us again persuade each other; let us again talk to each other'. But my believe is firm and that is, Indian unity can be sustained only on the basis of secularism. Unless we remain secular, we will not be able to keep this nation together. But some people do not believe in it. But then it is a matter of their belief. But we firmly believe in it. That is why we said that day that article 356 can be imposed only under those circumstances and we want to say it again.

Sir, I am not going to speak for a long time here. So, the main point which I would like to repeat and again I want to draw the cue from my worthy colleague Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who said that there should be quick judgement. Yes, I have written to all the Chief Ministers. I have written to all of them requesting them to set up special courts for this purpose. Some of them have replied and some of them have not. Most of them who have not yet replied belong to your Party, not to my Party. All those who have assured me that they are setting up special courts or have set up special courts are from this side. I would like to urge upon you, please tell them; please ask them; please besearch them, please request them; go on your knees if you have to, to set up special courts so that the special courts dispose them off very quickly and everything gets quicker.

Therefore, one thing that I must say is that let us draw a distinction between legality and probity. Probity is important; but legality but legality is sacrosanct. We must not do anything which can smack or even smell of illegality. Because if this House starts doing it, then who else will



uphold the rule of law ? That is why, I feel, therefore, that this is more important for us to keep in mind.

The other point to which I would like to draw your attention to it after all, who has chargesheeted Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav ? The CBI. Whose agency is the CBI ? Centre's. In which Department of the Government of India does CBI function ? The Prime Minister's Officer. If this is passivity, I do not know what is activity. If there is passivity, that the Department functioning directly under my charge, not only does it chargesheet; but also does it oppose the anticipatory bail, then with what base, at what level and now am I accused of passivity ?

This is the Department which functions like this. Five IAS officers has been accused in this. I must explain that also. The permission of the Government of India has been sought. The Government of India have found that against two officers there is enough evidence and they should be prosecuted. One officer has retired. Therefore, it is for the CBI or anybody else to decide whether they want to prosecute him or they do not want to prosecute him. Against two officers, Government of India did not find enough evidence but all the same, again to uphold the rule of law I have referred this to the Attorney General. I have asked the Attorney General's advice as to whether the Government should or should not give permission. The Law Minister says that this is now under consideration. Therefore, I would only say that when we are thinking in terms of a situation, let us not play politics. This is not a political issue. This is an issue, you have rightly said, about the future of the public. This is an issue on which all of us should unanimously, in unity, raise our voice if we want a clean public life. I can only assure you, my language may or may not be soft, my determination is very serious. I have given this promise to you earlier and I repeat it.

At this moment, my friend has drawn my attention to the latest judgement given by the High Court. As a result of this, a new situation has arisen.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Whether warrants have been issued ?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Why are you in haste and worried everytime.

I know that you have personal vendetta with Lalooji.

I know that Lalooji had been your supporter, guide, philosopher and close friend. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, it is not proper for you. You every well know as to what was your position there ? Should I tell here that how you got elected for Rajya Sabha from there. You know all that and how do you feel if I reiterate it here . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you yielding to him, Mr. Prime Minister ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : The main point that I was saying, a situation has arisen. . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nitish Kumar, he is not yielding to you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Gujralji, you may need Laloo Prasad Yadav and not me ? . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I only want to say that it is his old habit to interrupt and disturb like this. . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yesterday also you did the same thing. The moment the Prime Minister stands up, you are disturbing him. This is not correct. He is not yielding. How can you speak when he is not yielding to you ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, let him complete his speech.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : May I say, . . (Interruptions).

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\*Not Recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Prime Minister has levelled allegations against us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What was his allegation ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a senior Member. Please do not do such things. Yesterday also you did the same thing.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN (Sheohar) : Sir, . . . (Interruptions)\* The Government should be dismissed. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, he can be Dronacharya before Duryodhana, not we ?

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, may I say, Shri Nitish Kumar is . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : The unparliamentary word used by Shri Anand Mohan should be expunged.

(Interruptions)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, Shri Nitish Kumar is an old friend and I am very fond of him. Whatever I said was in a friendly spirit. I love him all the same.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You, please withdraw your words. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Alright.

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Thank you.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, in conclusion, I would say that if I had spoken before the judgement, the judgement to which my worthy friend Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has referred to, I would have said that there are two or three options open all the time. One is persuasion, trying to draw attention to morality and probity. If our Party was functioning as it should have been, which unfortunately is not the case,

inner party pressures could have been built. Second, of course, was the other way about and that was if somebody who is being accused had realised for himself that it is in his own interest also to step down. He has not done it. Now, with the denial of the anticipatory bail a new situation has arisen. I can only assure that the Government will take due cognisance of it and will not be found wanting. But it will not act in a hurry because I must see to it that legality is preserved and the rule of law is upheld.

May I say lastly before I sit down that my commitment is to three points which I made in the beginning of my tenure ? We shall not spare anybody – be it anybody, belonging to this side or that side – who indulges in corruption, we shall not. We shall always be transparent. For transparency I have taken some steps further. You know that the Governments of India have been blamed in the past regarding kickbacks and all that. I am setting up an independent machinery to see that all major purchases pass through that transparent machinery. I am also setting up a machinery to see to it that anything purchased in India, particularly the larger equipment etc., imported from abroad, passes through that needle's neck so that probity is established.

I have said one more thing and I repeat it that I am against witch-hunting. You know what has happened in *havala*. I do not know if you view it as witch-hunting or not. Whether you support it or not, I do not know. But I promise one thing. I stand committed to upholding the rule of law and doing all my bit and all my might against corruption. Be it anybody, he may be belonging to any party, no accommodation and no room will be given for such a person. He has no place in our public life who does not uphold the probity, morality and also the high values for which this country fought and ultimately liberated itself.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Hon. Prime Minister, what will you do after his arrest ? . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while Presenting the Motion, Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee mentioned the conventions and traditions of Congress Party. He also stated in his speech that it is the convention and tradition of the country. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee mentioned the convention and tradition followed by the Congress Party since the very first Prime Minister Late. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru to Shri Narasimha Rao ji. He also mentioned Krishnamachariji, Malviyaji and Shri Pratap

Singh Kairon. Antulayji is present here. He also mentioned Hawala scam here. I would like to say that before serving the chargesheet to Minister and Governors from Congress Party, their resignations were sought. The leaders of Congress Party had tried to maintain sanctity in public life, moral values and ideals of this society in such a situation.

Mr. Chairman, the day on which Lalooji was served chargesheet by CBI, Congress Party cleared its position, Congress President Shri Sitaram Kesari made a public demand that Lalooji should resign from the post. It has been a convention of congress party that Ministers and Chief Ministers have resigned from the post in case chargesheet had been served to them. But on the one hand Atalji says that a person should resign from the post if he is chargesheeted but on the other hand President and Leader of BJP do not resign in the same situation.

Former President of Congress Shri Rao is present here. He had resigned the day, when he was served chargesheet. It is a convention of congress party . . . (Interruptions) on the one hand he talks about ideals but on the other hand a chargesheeted person is elected the President of his Party and has taken a country wide tour. . . (Interruptions).

We all respect Atalji I was hoping that during discussion on the menace of corruption in this House, in place of getting political mileage he would condemn corruption prevailing everywhere in the country. Purohitji is sitting here. He did not make any mention regarding the charges he has made . . . (Interruptions) He spoke nothing regarding corruption taking place in Rajasthan. When issue of corruption is discussed, it should be discussed in its entirety . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you standing ?

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Is it correct or not ? . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do not you sit ? Why are you standing ?

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA (Chhindwara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. Through I am a new Member of this house but this much I know that when the debate of the House is completed, the leader of the House gives his reply. It is a laid down convention. But this time, against this convention, the leader of Opposition has spoken and the Prime Minister gave the

reply. Now I want to know from you as to whether the Prime Minister would also reply to the debate which is currently continuing. Only one minute more . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will both of you be standing ? You may sit down, please. Why are you creating trouble ?

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising this point because we are witnessing a new event after every minute in this matter. Many such events will take place by the time this debate is over. When the debate started, there was on court warrant but just now, we came to know that court warrant has been issued. The point of arrest will also figure in the discussion. So, will the Prime Minister also like to give his reply to this debate ?

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani) : Where is the point of order in it ?

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I know that the Home Minister is also capable of giving reply to this debate . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Patwa ji, please tell the rule under which you are raising this point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Patwaji, I have got your point but there seems to be no point of order in it. But, on behalf of the Government, this will be replied by the Home Minister who is available here.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Reply can come not only from the home Minister but any Minister of the Government can give the reply. My point is whether the Prime Minister will come out with a reply to the fresh issues emerging out of this important discussion ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is upto the Prime Minister whether he decides to reply or not ?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : You have been an M.L.A. and are an M.P. and you know that I have intervened in the debate. Reply will come from the Home Minister . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : You sit down, please, where is the point of order ? We are moving towards disorder.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : It is true that in 1990 Lalooji was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar with the support of BJP. That time he had kindled a lot of expectations in our minds and we believed in him as he was a product of the total Revolution called by Jai Prakash Baboo. During

[Shri Tariq Anwar]

that time, Lalooji used to talk of morality and ethics.  
... (Interruptions).

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, farewell function is likely to start at 6.00 o'clock at Rashtrapati Bhavan and the Members are supposed to be there by 5:30 p.m., or 5:40 p.m., therefore, you should now adjourn this House till tomorrow when the debate will continue and Tariq Saheb may speak tomorrow . . . (Interruptions) Yes, the President is bidding farewell to the Hon'ble Members at a tea party. It would be his last tea party to the Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Chandra Shekharji, this Motion itself pertains to adjournment of the House.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : When the House has not been adjourned till five o'clock, it hardly matters now . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Motions can be taken up tomorrow also ?

[English]

The Motion is such that it may not be.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : We will be discussing the same issue – be it tomorrow to today at five o'clock or eight o'clock.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It will require certain amendments in the rules. If the House is ready, the rules can be amended and the debate can be deferred for tomorrow. But without these amendments, discussion on the Adjournment Motion can not be stopped.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is exactly what I am saying.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Then how will we discuss the matter tomorrow ? We have to waive the rules under all circumstances. There is hardly any difference whether it is held at 6 o'clock. Tomorrow the House is not going to sit continuously till 12 o'clock or two o'clock. This is a technical problem. At present, therefore, we should adjourn the House by waiving the rules . . . (Interruptions).

AN HON. MEMBER : If the hon. Speaker desires, it can be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : O.K.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : What Shri Chandra Shekhar has said is a situation in which we all are. There is a tea being hosted by the retiring President of India. You will kindly understand that some of us have to be present and tonight, the Cabinet is hosting a dinner for the retiring President. In the morning when the issue was raised, somebody from that side said, I think he himself has said that perhaps the debate can spill over to Monday. If you permit and the rules permit, I have no objection.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Please read the rule. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, you propose it and the Government will support . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, you kindly be seated. Let us hear Shri Shivraj V. Patil.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may kindly enlighten the House.

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Where the Prime Minister is sitting ? Where is his seat ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He can sit anywhere but you, please, sit in your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it a subject ? Please listen carefully what is going on.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the point raised by the former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar ji and the point which is in our minds assumes much significance. The problem is that we cannot postpone this debate for the day unless the rules are amended. Even then our ruler provide a way out to this problem. In case of some unavoidable circumstance, the Speaker is empowered to use his inherent powers to find a way out. I have a suggestion which can be taken into account by the House. We should conclude this debate today itself instead of continuing it tomorrow. We should end it today and in between if one desires, one may go to attend the tea party for an hour or so. They can be given this facility. Another problem is that some of the Members of the Council of Ministers also wants to attend the function. I think that if all of them want to go for tea or dinner party,

they may go. Till they come back, we will continue the debate. If it is done so, the dignity of the House will remain maintained and we will also be able to bid our farewell to our outgoing President as well. So, from my point of view, this way rules will not require any changes. If we take this step, there would be no problem before us.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : This particular subject was raised before the hon. Speaker where the hon. Deputy leader of the B.J.F. was also present. The hon. Speaker has told us that this discussion will continue.

Those Members who would like to go for Tea certainly they can go. Nobody will raise the issue of quorum and tomorrow voting will be before Private Members' business which will start at 2.45 p.m. . . . (Interruptions) I am just telling you what the hon. Speaker has said. The hon. Speaker has also told us that there is a precedent. We have seen that there is a precedent.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : The hon. Speaker has told us that there is a precedent. There was an Adjournment Motion by Shri Somnath Chatterjee which was spilled over to next day and the debate continued for nine hours. It was done like that. So, it can be done. That is what he has told us. We went for this particular purpose what Shri Chandra Shekhar is saying. We also suggested that it should be postponed for the day. Shri Jaswant Singh was present there and this was told to us. I think, what he has told through inside his Chamber, if that a gist can be taken, we should continue the debate. Those who are willing to go they can go. He has also mentioned about the dinner of the Council of Ministers. He said that he has to go himself to that dinner. We have also got some important meeting at seven o'clock. We mentioned everything to him. But he said, 'let the debate continue and tomorrow for one hour there can be a debate. Then, Shri Indrajit Gupta will reply'.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman Sir, we cannot treat the Adjournment Motion so lightly. It is a motion to adjourn the business of the House today and, therefore, it should be taken up and it has to be completed today itself.

Now, the time of the House ends of six o'clock. At six o'clock this Motion gets talked out, it collapses. It fails to exist. It is that we talk it out because the House is in no position to extend the time further today. Therefore, at

six o'clock the Motion gets talked out. We must know this. The House must adjust itself that speakers who are to follow must adjust themselves to this particular exigency of the situation that at six o'clock the Motion will collapse. It will get talked out and, therefore, it cannot be put to vote and we will have to raise. Now, this is the situation and this situation has to be accepted. We accepted the situation knowing the rules. Knowing the rules we accepted that we can begin at four o'clock.

Therefore, these small points cannot take away the seriousness of a motion. Therefore, I submit that whatever discussion is to be there, please try to get it concluded within the fifteen minutes that we are left with, otherwise at six o'clock declare it as talked out and having collapsed. . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has given a very clear indication of what is coming. Kindly finish it by six o'clock. So, let him go and do the rest of the job.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not think that there is any need to create any further confusion over the matter. Is it an extraordinary situation? 'Yes'. This extraordinary situation has arisen because of the various obligations on account of the Head of the Republic retiring today and an obligation connected with his farewell. This matter was discussed by the hon. Speaker and when the hon. Speaker said that there is a difficulty about carrying on the Adjournment Motion tomorrow he said it mindful of the limitation of an Adjournment Motion.

Secondly, legally and in accordance with the rules, the time allotted to a normal Adjournment Motion is only two-and-a-half hours. Therefore, the time itself would normally be uptill 6.30 p.m. So, till 6.30 p.m. this debate was to continue. Thereafter, even now, it is my proposal that under the inherent powers of the Chair the rule particularly about the Adjournment Motion for today be waived and the debate be continued tomorrow after 6.30 p.m. . . . (Interruptions). It can be done. . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : There is no specific provision. . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I, therefore, propose that under the inherent powers available to the Chair and in accordance with what was discussed with the Chair and the Leader of the Congress Party that this particular rule

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

be waived, the House can sit today till 6.30 PM and this debate on Adjournment Motion be concluded tomorrow. I propose it formally . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, the ruling of the Speaker is there that it is treated as an Adjournment Motion. Now let us very conveniently convert it into a discussion under rule 184 or 193 . . . (Interruptions). It can be done. It has already served their purpose. Now let it be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your opinion about postponing it for tomorrow ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, I agree with the views expressed by the hon'ble Members. Rule 62 clearly provides that in case the Speaker is satisfied that sufficient debate has taken place, he can use his inherent power. As per the rule, this Debate should end within two and a half an hour. So this debate, said by Shri Jaswant Singh ji, should end by 6.30 p.m. as it commenced at 4.00 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are also saying the same thing.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, Hon'ble Atal ji and hon'ble Prime Minister, both have expressed their views on this issue. Therefore, let us conclude the debate by 6.30 p.m. and we should not start some new convention which might create problems in the coming times. Under rule 62, this debate should come to and end by 6.30 p.m.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, generally debate on this Motion does not last far more than two and a half and hour but the experience of this House has been that such debates are conclude within two and a half hour. Sometimes such debate has lasted for more than even nine hours and Shri Somnath Chatterjee ji is not remembering that such debates have been carried on to the next day also. This is an extraordinary situation which has arisen because of the farewell of the President. He has hosted a tea party for the hon'ble Members, therefore, the House should be adjourned. The Speaker has got certain inherent powers in this regard. . . (Interruptions) You hail from Hyderabad and do not know the meaning of Hindi in 'Barkhast'. You might be knowing many meanings of an

English word but you do not know the meaning of 'Barkhast'. The word 'Barkhast' has got several meanings to convey . . . (Interruptions) O.K., use the English word 'Adjourn' and adjourn the House, please. Adjourn the House for today and continue the debate tomorrow. This is my suggestion.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your suggestion, Mr. Minister ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, I agree with the suggestion made by the Leader of the Opposition and even by the hon. Prime Minister that we all want that this debate should be postponed till tomorrow. But, Sir, I fully agree with you that it cannot be done because the Motion is for adjournment of today's business.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : . . . it is happening for the first time.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Therefore, once the debate starts, if there is any adjournment, then the Motion is carried. That means the Motion is passed. Therefore, that is a stricture on the Government. How can I agree to this? I can never agree. Therefore, we have to complete this debate by 6.30 PM and we can also have a discussion tomorrow under rule 184 or 193, as suggested by Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Tomorrow is Friday, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : This is my request to the movers of the Motion that this debate be held under rule 193.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir the Leader of the Opposition has made his point. He has got the

Adjournment Motion consented to by the hon. Speaker. He has moved it as an Adjournment Motion. After all, the hon. *Rashtrapatiji*, for whom all of us have the highest respect, has invited us. It is his last official function.

We would like to be there. Therefore, you convert it to 193. Let it be done by the consent of the Members. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : My difficulty is that we have a list of 21 Members who want to participate.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, just a minute please.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If not tomorrow, it can continue on Monday, You can continue it provided it is converted or you break all the rules. . . .*(Interruptions)* He will not like to break all the rules, since he was talking today of protecting the rules. You follow this rule. *(Interruptions)* Let Article 356 be not applied to our rules.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, my submission is that . . .*(Interruptions)* The objection could be to the word 'conversion'. Let us put it this way that this Adjournment Motion is over today and then a fresh notice has been given . . .*(Interruptions)* Just a minute . . .*(Interruptions)* And then we take it up under Rule 184 or Rule 193. It may not be taken up tomorrow as tomorrow is Friday. It can be taken up on Monday.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : How can it be ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : But this Motion has to end today. There cannot be any conversion . . .*(Interruptions)* There is no rule provided for it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Chairman, please allow me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I appeal to all of you ? I have with me names of 21 Members who want to participate in this debate.

*[Translation]*

Atalji would you like to say something in this regional?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it seems or if we have to take some extraordinary decisions. If it is placed under 184 . . .*(Interruptions)* If I will be empowered to reply to debate then I will be having no

objection at all.

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : But, it cannot be treated as a precedent. . . .*(Interruptions)* You will get another opportunity to speak.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, we all agree to it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Chairman, I may be heard on this particular point . . .*(Interruptions)* It is a fraud upon the House.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Chairman, you adjourn the House now. With your permission, I am going out of the House.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : We are ready to accept the suggestion made by Shri Atal ji but it's reply and discussion, both, should end tomorrow before the beginning of Private Member's Business.

*[English]*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, this conversion, at this juncture, will be a fraud upon this House. . . .*(Interruptions)* I will explain it in one minute . . .*(Interruptions)* The Adjournment Motion got precedence over Shri Sharad Pawar's Motion Under Rule 184. Had this been under Rule 184, then the priority might have gone to Shri Sharad Pawar's Motion under Rule 184, Now today, having given the precedence to the Adjournment Motion on the point that it is an Adjournment Motion and, therefore, it has the priority over the Motion under Rule 184 on Maharashtra issue, this was given. Now, in midstream, you want to change over your priorities. You want to retract. The House cannot be taken for a ride like that. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is a fraud upon the House. I, therefore, take a strong objection to such a method. . . .*(Interruptions)* There is no rule here for the House to withdraw like that.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, the House is supreme. You put the proposal of Shri Vajpayee to the House. Let the House decide upon the issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There is no authority or rule here.

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla, you had your say. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Our purpose has been served and I am happy to see that the leader of Opposition, Vajpayee ji and Sharad Pawar ji and all others from each side are unanimous and have expressed their views that the debate be placed under rule 184 and should be replied, voted and should conclude tomorrow before beginning of the Private Members' Business. Now we have reached a consensus. You may express your views on this issue but be mindfull of the limited time which is almost over now. Let us not remain in a fix.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me put it to the consideration of the House. As per the procedure, this Motion has to be voted first.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What is that Motion?

MR. CHAIRMAN : For a Motion under Rule 184 also, the consent has to be given by the House. Otherwise, how can we do it ?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You may seek the consent of the House . . . (Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : The opinion of the House is that the debate be placed under Rule 184 and the House be adjourned for today because everybody has to reach the President's House. . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I make a submission ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I fail to understand as to which rule we are discussing about ? Many things have been told regarding Adjournment Motion which have made

the matter vague. So, let us make it clear by referring to rule 61 and Rule 62 which provides that.

[English]

"The motion 'that the House do now adjourn' shall be taken up at 16.00 hours or at an earlier hour if the Speaker, after considering the state of business in the House, so directs."

[Translation]

Please listen Rule 62.

[English]

"The Speaker may, if he is satisfied that there has been adequate debate, put the question at 18.30 hours or at such other hour not being less than two hours and thirty minutes from the time of commencement of the debate."

[Translation]

Nowhere it has been mentioned that it should conclude today itself. There is no time limit fixed for this debate or it is upto the Speaker as to how much time is to be given to a Motion. The Speaker has got inherent power to continue the debate even upto the tomorrow night. This is a fact. If you want to adhere to rules then this is the rule.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, with all respect to my hon. friend, I would like to say that if this Motion is not disposed to today it will mean that every day's business will have to be adjourned. If the motion is not disposed of on the same day, then this Adjournment Motion will be continued on the next day.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will be setting up a bad precedent.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If it continues on the next day, then that day's business will have to be adjourned, because it has a censure element in it. In that case, every day the House would be adjourned not by the Speaker's decision, but because of a motion which is being brought by a Member of the House. It will be a recurring thing and every day there will be an Adjournment Motion. So, it has to be disposed of today itself and it is well established.



SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, a minimum of two-and-a-half hours discussion should be there and the Speaker must decide this point.

[Translation]

You have just now said that you have got the names of 21 members and if you give them 10 minutes each then in total it will be three hours and thirty minutes. So if House sits till late night, say till 12 o'clock, then we do not favour it. This can not be the interpretation of this rule.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have to bring in some Motion to waive this rule.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You may ask the hour in this regard. If the House as well as the mover of the Motion is ready, we have no objection thereto.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think the discussion on the Adjournment Motion has concluded. This subject matter can be converted to a Motion under Rule 184 and that can be taken up tomorrow . . . .  
(Interruptions).

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say something. Shri George Fernandes has already read the relevant rule. When we had a meeting in the Speaker's chamber where all leaders were present, the Speaker also had said that it would be postponed to tomorrow. When he had said so and when we know the mind of the Speaker, I think, we are prolonging it unnecessarily.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If that is the inherent power, then we can continue this tomorrow also.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is what is to be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, why should we mingle with all these things ?

18.00 hrs.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Unnecessary debate is going on. Sir, you have your own powers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are unnecessarily wasting the time of the House.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, if you adjourn the House, the matter would be over.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, the position is very clear . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Prime Minister will have to act tonight so that the debate might become infructuous tomorrow.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, according to 'Kaul and Shakdhar' :

"The Speaker cannot postpone the voting to the next sitting even if a request is made to that effect. The House may, however, adjourn for lunch as usual for a brief interval. But the motion has to be disposed of before the House is adjourned for the day."

Therefore, Sir, I am requesting you to keep the motion alive and also allow us to attend to our almost near constitutional duty or propriety of paying our respects to the hon. President. Let the matter be converted into a discussion under Rule 184.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me put it to the vote the House. Is it the pleasure of the House of convert this Adjournment Motion into a Motion under Rule 184 to be taken up tomorrow ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : If it is a Motion under Rule 184, then the Motion with regard to Maharashtra should be taken up first. Otherwise, it is a fraud upon the House. Let it be clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is there anybody else opposing this?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, it cannot be converted into a Motion under Rule 184.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will have this discussion tomorrow.

18.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 25, 1997/Shravana 3, 1919 (Saka).*